

WOLGAST-RIVERS "COMBINE"

New Wrinkle in Holding of the Lightweight Honors.

NO CHANGE IN BATTLING NELSON

Holder and Challenger Arrange for Fight and Then for Return Match and May Continue the Game.

By W. W. NAUGHTON. SAN FRANCISCO, May 4.—When Battling Nelson hears it he will foam at the mouth.

A Los Angeles dispatch says that Ad Wolgast and Joe Rivers have formed a lightweight championship trust. It will be a waste of breath for any aspirant pugilist to challenge the winner of the Fourth of July contest, for Ad and Joe have arranged to meet a second time in McCarey's arena on Labor day, no matter how their first engagement turns out.

But why should Nelson be brought up, does someone ask? Let me explain. No man on God's green footstool ever valued his championship laurels as Nelson did. If he hadn't been such a tough-fibered individual, both mentally and physically, the chances are the loss of his title to Wolgast would have broken the Norseman's heart.

Nelson took his medicine, though, without making a wry face. He said that Wolgast had proved himself the better man that day—or at least up to the moment when Eddie Smith interfered and gave the victory to the Michigan wild cat.

"I was in bad shape, all right, but I had been in just as bad a fix in other contests," said the Battering Ram. "I had no idea there was going to be any interference, least ways from the referee. I had a suspicion that my seconds might begin to think my chances of winning had gone and I kept warning them against towel-tossing. I certainly did not feel at all that the fight was knocked out of me and I will always think that the tide of the thing might have taken a sudden switch if the referee had held aloof a little while longer. But Smith, I suppose, considers he did the right thing at the right time and that's the end of it so far as that particular fight is concerned."

"I believe the world will back me up in saying there is another chance coming to me. If I thought Wolgast was my master you would never hear a whisper out of me, but I do not think anything of the kind. I am sure, I can retrieve my laurels and just as soon as he has had his fling at theatrical tours and that kind of thing, I will be ready and waiting for him. I am gratified to know that Wolgast recognizes there is another fling coming to me. He manager, Tom Jones, says he would as soon fight me as any one else if the inducements look right and he only has to keep his ears open to find out that there is a demand for a record-breaking crowd. It is only right that I should get another chance with Wolgast for the public knows that through all my career I never defied a better opponent a second match."

But Nelson never got his return fight with Wolgast. It may have been in a measure that arose from the discussion that took place between the rivals, harsh words were used and Nelson abandoned all diplomacy and abused the new champion roundly. In his chagrin the Dane coined such terms as "Cheese Champion," and "Squirrel-Headed Boob" when thinking up epithets to apply to the victor. Such expressions, while no doubt extremely relieving to over-wrought feelings, are not by any means conducive to match-making. As a consequence Wolgast turned his back coldly upon the Durable Dane and has kept it turned ever since.

Now, what will Nelson say when the man who turned him down so unceremoniously is lessening his own risk of relinquishing the championship by arranging for a return match before the first one is fought? No matter what Nelson or anybody else has to say about it, the Wolgast-Rivers double steal has a weird look. By tight actions Rivers and Wolgast have yielded the championship out of the open market and are making it their private property. Who can say but that before the Labor day encounter comes along they may agree to meet again on some of the holidays beyond that again and make their little game of freeso-out personal? In such case it will be in order for lightweighters generally, who don't believe in such close corporations where free-for-all titles are concerned, to hold indignation meetings, appeal to the public and denounce the Wolgast-Rivers evicting championship null and void.

Seriously, the contract does not look right. Ad and Joe may see no harm in what they are doing—may consider, in fact, that they are not offending against the ethics of the sport in any way, but without intending it, they are casting a star on their July bout. Since they have had an understanding in regard to a return match it is not natural that suspicion should arise and that sports generally should begin to wonder if there are any other understandings which have not been made public.

Of the two men, Wolgast appears in the worse light in the connection. As champion, of course, he is the dictator and it stands to reason the suggestion of a brace of fights came from him. For that matter, it was probably one of the cast-iron conditions under which he agreed to give Rivers and Joe the title that he would not be asked to fight a second time. It is an analysis of Wolgast's motives is easy to make. He feels that by agreeing to box so early as July he will not be giving himself time to recover properly from his operation for appendicitis and he wants to make sure of a chance to redeem himself later if things go wrong on the Fourth.

But this explanation, if it is the right one, will be odd comfort to the lightweighters who are compelled to stand idly by until Ad and Joe have finished their series.

DEFEAT OF GRIZZLIES NIGHT REMOVE CONCERN

The Wichita players affirm the story going to rounds to the effect that the Grizzlies are pretty well puffed up this year and it may be necessary to send a card on a silver salver when one wishes to approach such a chesty aggregation. Perhaps there has been a sudden reduction of that bump of conceit. Two defeats in three games at Topeka might produce that result.

High School to Play Golf.

The annual spring golf tourney for the Omaha High school will be held about the middle of this month. The play will be held at Happy Hollow and at the Country club. Harold Johnson, a junior at the school, winner of last year's tourney, will take part again this year and defend his title.

Connie Mack, Maker of Base Ball Champions

By W. J. MACHETH. NEW YORK, May 4.—The public sits in admiration and awe of Connie Mack's world's champion Athletics. The team which humbled the Giants in the world's series last fall is universally conceded to be one of the very best aggregations produced in the history of the national pastime. Yet, in its veneration of the capability of that wonderful machine, the public is prone to overlook the genius of the man who fashioned it.

Connie Mack did not fall heir to any such collection of stars. He had to dig up each and every one of them. His ultimate success is but a tribute to his foresight and rare judgment. For in his own unassuming, quiet way Mack has changed the business politics of the great sporting profession. The leader of the Athletics was a pioneer in his way. He foresaw ten years ago the great development to which this sport would attain in a decade. He realized that each year it would become more difficult to secure desired talent through purchase and trade. Before the rival managers ever dreamed of paying serious attention to the scouting end of the business, Connie Mack had raked the minor organizations and colleges with a fine-tooth comb.

No club in organized base ball has such a perfect scouting system as that of Connie Mack. He himself is the great chief of the scouting department and his is the final judgment. He is tipped off to more good green players than any other three managers, simply because his great network of espionage was established before rivals woke up to his wonderful advantage. The Athletics were in on the ground floor, and so long as Mack remains in the game Philadelphia's Americans will continue to have first call.

Until Connie Mack entered the major league field, managers looked little further ahead than the tips of their noses. They were content to dwell upon the present so far as results were concerned. Mack studied the future. He planned fully five years ahead. He looked the situation squarely in the face. He saw in a star not his present capability, but the day when he must begin to pale and fade. He figured to have by that day some newcomer to step into the declining veteran's shoes; and he always planned on having in his substitute a man far more capable in every department of the game.

Connie Mack was caught napping just once. That was in 1906. He was fooled by his champion aggregation of 1906, the bunch that was so badly shown up by the Giants. Mack over-estimated the period of usefulness of many of his veterans. The series with the Giants opened his eyes to his mistake. There was a general house-cleaning the following year. Then it was that the wily Quaker set out in earnest to develop almost single-handed the great machine he now controls.

His case was similar to that of McGraw. The gallant leader of the Polo grounders was in identically the same fix as Mack, though he did not know it. Half the old champions of 1906 had cracked on McGraw's hands during the hot pennant race. The world's series of that year gave McGraw no warning. A disastrous



Connie Mack, the uncommunicative, the progressive he is the most energetic.

campaign followed the next season. The New York leader immediately began the weeding out process which eventually resulted in the wonderful team now at home in Brush Stadium. The 1911 Giants appear to outclass the National league as far as the 1912 Athletics outclassed the American league. Eliminating unusual misfortune cases should have a strangle hold on its pennant long before fall. In many respects the rival aggregations are very similar. McGraw specializes on speed, Mack on hitting ability. Each, of course, attempts to combine all possible of the one with

OLYMPIAD TRYOUTS NEAR

Athletes Have Already Settled Down to Systematic Training.

EXPENSE FUND GROWS RAPIDLY

First Tryouts Will Be in the Pacific Coast Elimination Contests to Be Held at Leland Stanford University.

With the approach of the dates upon which will be selected the athletes who are to represent this country at the coming Olympic games, public interest in the event is growing rapidly. This is evidenced by the steady growth of the fund which will defray the expenses of sending the team to Stockholm. It was also evidenced by the widespread interest in the Boston Marathon, the event by which the American Olympic committee will judge who shall represent the United States in that classic event at the Olympiad.

The athletes who hope to make the trip to Stockholm have already settled down to active training for the tryouts, which are now but a few weeks off. The first will be the Pacific coast eliminations, which will be held at Leland Stanford university, California, May 18. On June 3 the central and eastern tryouts will be held at Evanston, Ill., and the Harvard stadium, Cambridge, Mass., respectively. Shortly thereafter the American committee will select the men who will compete under the American colors.

Rod and Gun Club to Open on May 30

Everything is in readiness for a busy season at the Rod and Gun club and a program of activities for the year has been mapped out which will furnish plenty of recreation for every member.

The opening date has been set for Thursday, May 30, when a card of aquatic events, a base ball game, several tennis matches and a social program will be carried out. The board of directors will hold a meeting next week to arrange the numerous details of the opening.

Byron Hart, the chief booster of the club, reports a total membership of one for the season. Many of this number enjoyed the privileges of the club last summer, but there is also a large quota of new members included on the roster.

Although thirty families have already moved into their bungalows along the lake front where the cool breezes are beginning to waft signs of a peaceful season. Many members of the club who shun the bungalow idea have banded together for the purpose of having a regular "tent" city with all the flattering incidents of life under the awnings. Thirty-five tents are now stored at the club grounds and will be put up within the next two weeks.

Walker Released. Lincoln has released Scotty Walker because he made errors. He was for a couple of years considered the clearest short basemen in the Southern league, but was hit by a pitched ball and put out of the game for several months. His work indicated that he has not yet recovered from the blow and it may be he will not attempt to play ball again.

DETERMINATION WINS GOLF

Player Who Has Confidence Will Defeat Less Resolute One.

COURAGE DEVELOPED BY GAME

Best One Can Hope for Himself is to Accept His Own Weakness in a Chastened Spirit of Resignation.

NEW YORK, May 4.—Some one had said that the missing of short putts in golf is a disease almost incurable in its acute form. It is suggestive, of fact, that the victim is free from its influence for the greater part of the time, but inevitably they will arrive a day when it will recur, however, much he may do himself with wholesome practice. This failure to hole the little putts is one of the queerest things in all the queer side of golf. It is not carelessness, not over-confidence, not the difficulty of the spot which causes golfers to fall in getting their short putts down. In the vast majority of cases, it is simply "funk."

One will often hear a man who has missed a putt of about a foot mumble something to the effect that he didn't take enough trouble over it; but in his heart that man knows that he is not telling the truth. What really happened was this: As he bent over the stroke, the thought came upon him, "suppose I miss it." Fatal reflection! With that idea uppermost in his mind, instead of a wholehearted determination to sink the ball, he makes his shot with the almost inevitable result. And that momentary mental faltering on the player's part is the whole secret of the missing of very short putts.

How Championships Are Lost. It is ridiculous, to suppose that, on a level green, a golfer can, merely through lack of skill, fall to tap anything so small as a golf ball into a receptacle as large as the hole at a range of from six inches to a couple of feet. Yet championships are lost through this very thing, and men whose names are household words throw away golden chances by missing putts which any baby could send down.

A man will casually knock a short shot into the tin with the back of his putter. When nothing depends on the stroke, and by the simple reason that he does not give his brain the chance of telegraphing to his nerves the doleful reflection mentioned above will never make. But with something vital to the match or medal round hanging on the success of a similar shot he will squat down to it, realizing the gravity of the situation, and will very likely miss.

Disgusted with his own failure, on this occasion, he will take out half a dozen balls on a subsequent evening and will waste a good half hour in practicing very short putts, with a view to strengthening what he considers to be this flaw in his skill as a golfer. To his surprise, he finds that he holes them every time he can't miss. Of course not. He isn't bothered with his previous trouble, the idea that he is going to fail, and as before mentioned he would have to be a record defier to miss at a distance of twelve inches or so. Yet, put him in a similarly critical position in his next big match and ten to one the old fault will reassert itself for all his industrious practice.

Flag Golf Contest for Links Opening

Feature event of the country club opening Saturday of this week will be a "flag" contest for the golf enthusiasts, which will be held in the afternoon. The contest will be a handicap affair and will include about sixty entrants. A. V. Kinser, chairman of the golf committee, will have charge of the event.

Just at present the golf course at the club grounds is in excellent condition and yesterday's rain gave the green a new touch of life. Dave Kennedy, professional at the club, kept a squad of helpers busy all last week chipping out the annual spring crop of dandelions.

WRAY WANTS TO COMPETE IN DUAL ROWING MATCH

BOSTON, Mass., May 4.—James Wray, the Harvard university rowing coach, is anxious to get in the coming duel between William Haines of the Union club at Boston and Eddie Durnan of Toronto, making it a three-cornered affair or row the winner afterward.

Wray's backer, George Lee, has posted \$100 in Boston as a forfeit to back a challenge to both of these men. Lee says that Wray is willing to enter the match already arranged between Haines and Durnan, and will put up \$1,000 and make it a three-cornered affair, suggesting that the winner go to England and row the winner of the Arnet-Barry match to be rowed next July. He also asserts his willingness to row the winner of the Haines-Durnan match, to be rowed at Toronto, July 11.

Game Develops Courage.

Golf, as we are told by its followers, is a game which develops courage, resource-

SAFETY FACTOR IN FLIGHTS GOLFERS SWARM FIELD CLUB

Skillful Management is the Most Necessary of All. Games Scheduled for Every Saturday During the Summer.

LIMIT TO DEGREE OF SPEED

Many Aviators Fly Without the Use of Speed Indicators—Depend Too Much on the Sense of Hearing.

NEW YORK, May 4.—According to an article by Captain W. Irving Chambers, U. S. N., in charge of the development of aviation in the navy, the principal factors upon which safety in aeroplane flight depends may be found in these broad groups—reliable and effective motive power, good architecture and careful workmanship, and good airmanship and skillful management. He says that the first two factors may be regarded as sufficiently advanced to insure safety now, although they require further advancement to assure the desired degree of success.

But, as with automobiles, there is a limit to the degree of speed that can be controlled so as to insure the desired degree of safety. The discovery of this limit and the keeping of it within the bounds of safety depends absolutely upon the skill of the aviator. Regarding the third factor, Captain Chambers says: "It is possible for a pilot to eliminate the principal elements of uncertainty in the behavior of his machine and to avoid overtaxing his physical powers by halfhearted methods. For such a man stalled motors and holes in the air will have no terrors. He will carefully avoid overstraining any part, and will have confidence in his ability to conduct the machine in safety at all times when flight is possible. The kind of confidence required, however, is that based on positive information gained through experience which, it seems to me, can be imparted in the quickest and most satisfactory manner by a more general use of such suitable instruments and mechanical aids as will dispel all uncertainty concerning the speed and the progress. Many aviators are flying without the use of speed indicators, or any other efficient scientific instrument, to warn them when they are in danger, and it is probable that many skilful aviators who now depend entirely upon the sense of hearing and touch to warn them of danger, would be able to fly in safety in weather that they are now too prudent to fly in, if it were common practice to use practical and dependable navigating instruments to guide them."

Aviators Prejudiced. "I can readily understand the prejudice that exists among experienced aviators to the use of automatic stabilizers, especially if such devices required adding a considerable weight to the machine. They realize that mechanism is apt to get out of order or to fall at a critical moment, and that at such times the real bird instinct is necessary to secure safety. Glenn H. Curtiss is quoted as concerning that semi-automatic controlling device, especially to beginners, and this indicates a fear in his mind that licensed pilots might get to relying upon mechanical aids, exclusively. I agree with Mr. Curtiss, but I wish to urge that it is a mistake to suppose that any indifferent aviator could navigate the air by means of an automatic stabilizer. An authorized pilot should be required to obtain a license without the use of such devices, and, once proficient in his steps, there are many more things for him to learn before he can be classed as an aerial navigator, but to ignore the advantages of an efficient assisted or automatic control, which can be cut out or used ad libitum, impresses me much the same as ignoring the advantages of mechanical seamanship, and other aids to practical seamanship, for by its use important military flights might be accomplished in time of war under circumstances that would otherwise be flights impossible. One who readily imagine also that a wounded pilot might be totally incapacitated without such assistance."

Effort Will Be Made TO RETAIN AERO TROPHY. NEW YORK, May 4.—In its effort to secure the retention of the James Gordon Bennett cup by America, the cup defense committee of the Aero Club of America have sent a letter to all aeroplane manufacturers in the United States inviting proposals from them of machines to be used in defense of the cup, now held by America by virtue of Charles T. Wraymann's victory in the international meet at Eastchurch, England, last July.

The committee lays down rules for tests and stipulates that the matches shall be ready for trial by August 1, each aeroplane to be accompanied by an American pilot, who shall drive the machine during the trials and who shall have agreed to pilot the aeroplane in any race if nominated. The sum of \$10,000 is offered for each machine accepted. The committee will be open to proposals until June 1, it announces. Each machine must be of American design and manufacture.

The contest for the international trophy will be held at Chicago on September 9, next, under the management of the Aero Club of Illinois. The committee in charge of prizes expects to raise \$200,000.

HEAVY WISCONSIN CREW WILL GO TO POUHKEEPSIE

MADISON, Wis., May 4.—Unless something unusual happens Wisconsin this year will send one of the heaviest crews to Poughkeepsie in the history of the university. The Badgers to date average 175 pounds, as against 167 last year. In 1909 they averaged 168 pounds. On the day of the race, it is thought, Wisconsin's varsity eight will average close to 175 pounds. Pennsylvania last year was the heaviest crew at Poughkeepsie, averaging 165 pounds. Four veterans will row in this year's Wisconsin eight, these being Captain Pollock at No. 6, Sjöblom at No. 5, Mackmillan at No. 5 and Tasher at No. 2.

Western League Strong. Ball players who have come into the Western from the Southern league say the southern is the weaker and that the quality of ball played in Tip O'Neil's circuit is superior to that played in the south.

Other States Like Laws of New York

NEW YORK, May 4.—Since Senator Frawley drew up the present law in this state which provides for a commission to supervise boxing other states and cities all over the country have been demanding a similar measure. Cincinnati is the first to actually follow suit, and that city now has a set of regulations that in some respects is an improvement on those in force here. On the whole, the rules laid down by the New York commission are followed, but there are a few additions which are worthy of note.

One of these is that each club must post the amount guaranteed the boxers before the commissioners three days before the fight and each contestant in the main event must post a forfeit to guarantee that he fulfills his part of the contract. This rule does away with one source of trouble that has been most prevalent here. Fully 90 per cent of the complaints lodged with the local commission have to do with either the club or the boxers failing to carry out their contracts. The board of withholding club licenses, the commission can do little save discontinue the offenders, and it is rare that the case is serious enough to warrant such a drastic measure.

Another Cincinnati rule reads: "No speechmaking, introducing of boxers, coaching of boxers in an audible manner, or remarks of any kind will be tolerated." The local clubs are gradually doing away with the long list of treacherous introductions, but the noisy second remains untouched.