

TWO BIG FIGHTS ON FOURTH

Light and Heavyweight Championships to Be Decided That Day.

WOLGAST AND RIVERS TO MEET

Flynn Admirers Bank on Deterioration of Johnson and Rivers' Friends Take Wolgast's Operation in Consideration.

BY W. W. NAUGHTON.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 29.—The coming fourth of July will see two world's championship pugilistic events. One will be for the heavyweight championship of the world. The scene of strife will be Las Vegas, N. M. and the principals will be Jack Johnson and Jim Flynn. The other affair will take place at Vernon, outside of Los Angeles. It will be for the lightweight championship and will be between Ad Wolgast and Joe Rivers.

Candidly, neither of these events is attracting the attention that usually attaches to world's championship pugilistic events and one does not have to look far for the reason. In neither instance is the contest regarded as a tilt between a pair of evenly matched men.

The suspicion that Jack Johnson may have slumped up during a couple of years of inactivity and high living is the one peg on which the admirers of Jim Flynn hang their hopes. The thought that an operation for appendicitis may have robbed Wolgast of his snap and speed is the one thing that makes Rivers' chances of success appear the least bit rosy.

It is easy enough to verify this view of things. If Wolgast had not been taken down with appendicitis and forced to lay off several months, Rivers' chances in a match with the champion would be considered so small that the idea of the men signing would have been generally ridiculed; probably the old lightweights would have risen on their hind legs and joined in the one concerted roar of protests, for Rivers was knocked out by Featherweight Johnny Kilbane not so very long ago. Moreover this meeting with Wolgast will signalize Rivers' entry into the lightweight division, and to have a green lightweight striving for the world's championship the first time out does not seem by any means to be in accordance with the eternal fitness of things.

Fears Held for Wolgast. But Wolgast was under the knife and the suspicion existed that Wolgast as a champion had passed away. To put the thing to the test it was necessary for someone to be sent against Wolgast—it mattered little who and Rivers was the handiest.

The men who consider themselves best fitted for a crack at Wolgast—Lewit, Packey McFarland, Freddie Welsh and maybe Knockout Brown, would have objected strongly to this Wolgast-Rivers affair if there had been no appendicitis, but as matters stand all Ad's most formidable rivals are viewing things complacently.

They regard the match as a test case. If Wolgast shows he is the Wolgast of old, he will be more harried and challenged in the next few months than he has been during all the years he has held the title.

Meanwhile down in Los Angeles they think so well of Rivers that they are willing to accept odds of 10 to 7 against the Mexican boy and it is the popular belief that even money wagering will be the rule before the lightweights enter the ring. This means that while a reverse for Wolgast might appear something sensational away from Los Angeles, the sports of the southern town are speculating largely on such a possibility.

A Sunday or two ago, in discussing the Flynn-Johnson outlook, I took occasion to refer to the fact that there was not a great deal of difference in the men's ages, the record books showing that Johnson was 34 while Flynn had passed his thirty-second birthday. The publication of the articles brought me a note of protest from one who is certainly in a position to acquire inside information on such matters.

How Much Has Johnson Aged? Said the note: "For your own guidance I want to tell you that the record book does not state facts. Johnson is fully 36 years old, while Flynn is only 33." If this is so, Flynn's chances are somewhat better than I figured. But whether Johnson is 34 or 36, the question is a nutshell is, "How much has Johnson aged during the last two years?"

If the negro is still in the heyday of his fighting force—if he is as good as when he boxed Jeffries—it seems to me it is not possible for Flynn to have improved enough to relieve the colored man of the championship. But if indulgence and excesses have left their mark on Johnson to an appreciable extent, he is likely to encounter a full-sized mountain of trouble.

Flynn, all reports to the contrary, is trained to the proper notch and is brimming over with pluck and confidence. If he goes down he will go down fighting, as he did before.

As to calling the winner, I think anyone would be foolhardy to attempt it. Everything depends on the chances that have taken place in Johnson—if any have taken place—during his lay-off.

I know an old colored man back here in San Francisco—he is an ardent admirer of Johnson—and this is his philosophy: "Johnson is like a mighty hunter. He is sitting on a mountain trail with his Winchester across the hollow of his arm and the magazine is full of cartridges. There is a bear coming up the track. Well, sir, it looks bad for that bear. But if a cartridge catches in the breach and the rifle won't work—then it looks bad for Johnson."

As near as I can figure, the old man means that if Johnson's fighting gear is not in as good order as it was two years ago Flynn may prove a bear.

REFRESHING BOXERS WITH TOWELS IS TO BE STOPPED

NEW YORK, June 29.—Refreshing a boxer by flapping a towel, a method that has long been associated with globe-bouts, will soon be a thing of the past in this city if Commissioner O'Neil puts through a rule he is contemplating. While attending a bout the other night the commissioner observed that clouds of rosin dust were being wafted out to settle upon the ringfighters, much to their annoyance, as a result of this antiquated method. In the opposite corner where he was sitting seconds were using fans. In this way they were able to concentrate the air set in motion on their principal instead of on the floor of the ring.

Leonard is Suspended. Hubert Leonard, who was secured from the Boston Red Sox by Denver, has been suspended and has drawn a suspension. Denver critics say a "cup of coffee" in the big league gave him a swelled head.

Moore Has a Winner. Manhattan, always a chronic tail-end in the Central Kansas circuit, has been enjoying the delight of first place, thanks to the able management of Fred Moore, the old Omaha player.

Heine Zimmerman, Child of the Bronx

BY W. J. MACBETH.

NEW YORK, June 29.—New York has Johnny Evers to thank for an affliction of the Giants. One of the Trojan's pet curses has developed only this year—Heine Zimmerman, of the Bronx.

Evers is responsible for him. Evers discovered, developed, propagated and otherwise groomed him into a holy terror. And the big giant of the Bronx is likely to show his appreciation by diving home runs off such redoubtable performers as "Rube" Marquard and Christy Mathewson before this present season rolls into oblivion. Zimmerman has just found himself in the big show for the first time this season. He looked like a million dollars to Gotham fadom on his recent tour with the Cubs. In our fair city he worked in one full game and par. of another. In the first he cracked out two home runs into the bleachers. In the second one he laced another over the wall. No telling what he might have accomplished had he not aken the count from a verbal tilt with the Empire Plinneran. Heine got the gate for three days and couldn't play any more against the champions.

In many respects Zimmerman is a real marvel of the rear. Scarcely a day goes by that he does not belt out a few triplets and loubies, and he has more home runs to his credit than any other player in proportion of games indulged in. He is of the old fashioned school; the type of slugger that predominated ten years ago. He uses a big, long bat, and takes a regular "Moriarity," the professional vernacular for full swing. He's a strapping big fellow and gets about as much energy into his thrust as Chief Meyers or Hans Wagner. These three are undoubtedly the most powerful hitters in the league.

Zimmerman is more or less a child of fortune like the great majority of the best pastimers. He is one of the few great lights of the profession who developed in old New York. For, like Jack Warner, the old Giant catcher, and Tim Jordan, the former Dodger first baseman, Heine Zimmerman was reared in the Bronx. It was at school he first got the "bug." He was considered "some pitcher" by the kids of public school No. 61.

"Zimmy" also went to Fordham for a spell. But he didn't take a full college course. His performance as a schoolboy had attracted the attention of the semi-pro and independent promoters. They paid him from \$10 to \$20 a week for Saturdays and Sundays, and these pickups came in mighty handy to the big family of fourteen. Heine was taken out of college at a tender age because he was a big, raw-boned youth and apprenticed to a plumber. He drew \$2 a day, with occasional extras. With the week-end

graft he began to consider himself an embryo blotted capitalist. About that time Jim Robinson, manager of the Wilkesbarre club of the New York State league, got wind of Zimmerman's promise. He came to New York one Sunday, looked Heine over and signed him up at \$100 a month. Zimmerman went out to the Miners as a pitcher, but as a pitcher he was a first-class plumber. There wasn't much class to him any way Robinson looked at him. But Robby liked big men and that saved Heine's bacon. The youngster was always ready to listen and willing to learn.

They put him up in a pinch one day and Zimmerman fairly knocked the ball out of the cover. The further he went the better he looked as a pinch hitter. He pinched so often and so scientifically that Robinson decided he needed his big bat in the works every day. So Heine was converted into an infielder. They tried him at first, second, short and third. He looked best at second and that position he played when Evers uncovered him.

Heine was playing with Wilkesbarre against Troy one Sunday when the little Trojan had gone home on a visit. He was at his best and won the game by his great and terrific hitting. On Evers' recommendation Franck Chance immediately purchased the Bronx lad for the sum of \$2,000.

Zimmerman went to the Cubs at a time

when it was mighty hard for him to get a thorough trial. The old, marvelous aggregation that had won three pennants and two world's championships in a row was still intact. There was as much chance of anybody breaking in as there is for a cripple to break Sing Sing. Besides, Zimmy got in rather bad in the world's series of 1910. That was the year the Athletics made the Cubs look like a bunch of selling platers. Zimmerman was assigned to second base because Johnny Evers was out with a broken leg. There has been just one Johnny Evers, and when Zimmy booted a few it was all off.

Chance had his nerve to keep Heine after the panning he got. But he stuck to him, and now comes his reward. Maybe Zimmerman never would have found his proper sphere but for the unfortunate death of little Jimmy Doyle. Chance had no one for third. That was the bag which Heine was made to order. As soon as he got confidence in himself this spring he began to show the game of his life. He's a good third baseman; one of the best the Cubs ever had.

CLUBS PREPARE FOR FOURTH

Pleasure Seekers Will Assemble at Lakes and Grounds.

VARIED PROGRAMS ARRANGED

All Forms of Sports Will Be Indulged In, from Golf and Tennis to Pretentious Aquatic Events.

July 4 will be a day of many sport features in Omaha and local athletic clubs are planning to celebrate with plenty of stunts during the day.

Seymour Lake Country club will hold its 1912 opening with a program of golf, tennis and aquatic events. Dinner will be served any time after noon and dancing will hold the attention of the members in the evening.

At the Country club a blind bogey golf contest will be held with a dinner, dance and display of fireworks in the evening. The Field club will have a card of golf and tennis features in addition to a dinner dance. A bogey flag contest will hold the boards at Happy Hollow, prizes for which have been offered by F. M. Cox and W. R. Mulvihill. An approaching and putting contest, in charge of Charlie Johnston, club professional, will also be held.

Miller Park Golf club will hold special golf stunts and an afternoon picnic "spread" followed by an evening social hour. The Omaha Cricket club has arranged a team cricket match for the afternoon at Miller park. Diets club will decorate cottages at Carter lake with flags and pennants and

will have a card of boating and swimming events for visitors in the morning.

Annual Water Regatta. The annual water regatta and athletic carnival of Carter lake clubs will also be an interesting sport feature of the day. The afternoon's program includes canoe races, yacht races, motor boat races, canoe tilting contests and swimming stunts. The Rod and Gun club, "Y" association and Diets club will take part.

Prairie park will devote part of its celebration to a display of Roman candles and skyrockets in the evening and firecracker salutes during the day. Tennis matches and foot races will also be included in the day's program.

Across the river the Omaha Gun club will hold a 100-target shoot with a "jack rabbit" division of money. About fifty will compete.

Bachant Released. Catcher Louis Bachant, secured by St. Joseph from Des Moines some weeks ago to help out in a pinch, has been given his unconditional release.

Wagner at Muscatine. Muscatine in the Central Association has secured Pitcher Wagner from Lincoln Western league.

Murray Has a Snap Finding Phenoms

PITTSBURGH, June 29.—"It's easier scouting for ball players than managing a big league team," says William J. Murray, who is drawing pay from the Pittsburgh club for discovering phenoms. Murray was well known up in New England back in '36 as a player of the popular winter game called roller polo. He was center on the crack New Bedford team, with Rogers and M. Peck, rushers; Canavan, half back, and Curley at goal. He played base ball in summer and was the right fielder and manager of the Providence Eastern league team ten years later. Murray won a pennant with the Jersey City team, developing Mike Doolan, now shortstop of the Philadelphia, and other stars, and soon he took hold of the Quakers, signing for a total salary of \$15,000 for three years. When Horace Fogel got hold of the club Murray was shelved. He had a struggle for his money and the matter was compromised. But he made up his mind right there to quit managing and when Barney Dreyfus offered him a job as scout Murray leaped at it. Last fall he recommended to the Pirates the \$22,500 O'Toole, and his clever catcher, Kelly.

BOURKES LEAD IN FIELDING

Are Now Choice of the League, with an Average of .957.

BORTON IS HEAVIEST SLUGGER

St. Joseph First Sacker is Still Heading the League in Batting and Also in Fielding—Figurer for a Week.

The Omaha base ball team is now heading the Western league in fielding and in base running. Denver is a close second to the Bourkes for fielding honors with a team average of .956, while the Bourkes are fielding .967. Including last Tuesday's game the Omaha players have stolen a total of 116 bases, as against 113 for the St. Joseph team. The Bourkes are fourth in team batting and second in sacrifice hits.

Borton, the St. Joseph first-sacker, continues to lead the league in batting and fielding. He is hitting at a clip of .387, while Watson, an outfielder on the same team, is in second place in batting with .375. Thomson is the Bourkes' best slugger, with an average of .351, while Coyie is pressing hard with .356. Following are the figures:

Table with columns: Batting Averages, AB, R, H, Per. Lists players from Borton, St. Joseph to various other teams and their statistics.

Pitchers' Records.

Table with columns: Name, Won, Loss, etc. Lists pitchers like Hicks, Omaha; Johnson, St. Joseph; etc.

Team Averages.

Table with columns: Team, Batting, Fielding, etc. Lists teams like Burt, St. Joseph; etc.

Individual Records.

Table with columns: Player, Team, Record. Lists individual achievements like Burt, St. Joseph; etc.

Fielding Averages.

Table with columns: Player, Team, Average. Lists fielding statistics for players like Harnby, Topeka; etc.



Large table on the right side of the page containing various statistics and player names.

Advertisement for 'S.S.S.' (Swif's Sure Specific) medicine, including text about its benefits for various ailments and a list of ailments it treats.

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