

MILLER THE BIG RING JOKE

San Francisco Motorman Who Furnishes Fight Fans Fun.

KNOWS NOTHING OF THE GAME

Just a Punching Bag that No Beat-ing Can Stop and Who Has Never Been Known to Have Had Enough.

When Miller first became enamored of prize ring pastimes he was employed as a motorman on the street cars.

In time Miller became a standby with promoters of four-round bouts in San Francisco and he continued to be the heavyweight comedian of the Queens-

bury ring. He loved the stress of fierce fighting and he has an utter disregard for punishment.

But he did not catch on to the technique of things somehow. Of the ordinary leads and counters of boxing he did not seem able to obtain a grasp.

One night at Dreamland they brought a German from one of the street corners to serenade Miller when he entered the ring.

Miller's most brilliant achievement was the spoiling of Al Kaufman's comeback dream. The two heavies met at Dream-

land on the evening of June 11 and Miller gained the decision after four rounds of furious work. Miller's great bulk strength and assimilative qualities stood him in good stead.

Miller probably was the more surprised of the two men, but Kaufman was the one who was hurt. When Al arose, Miller went after him.

From being a joke Miller has merged into a conundrum. It is felt that he will never acquire any kind of ring polish,

He is as noisy and awkward as an elephant crashing through underbrush, and he has a capacity for punches that is actually discouraging to a fighter who is plying himself on his hitting power.

Miller is elated with his success. He is still modest, but he is ambitious. He claims the right to rank with Luther Mc-

Carthy and Al Palmer, and it really seems as though he is to be reckoned with. It is his negative qualities that count, for "He can't hit you and you can't hurt him."

Cooley Has Hitters. The Union association batting averages show that Dick Cooley of Salt Lake, if he chose to, could put an entire team of .360 hitters in the field.

Fred Merkle---He Has Made Good

By W. J. MACBETH. NEW YORK, July 6.--A strange world, indeed, this little sphere of ours, and stranger still that portion of its inhabitants which ramps and raves six months of the year over our national pastime.

Say no word, cruel word against "Rube" Marquard and then get ready for a punch in the eye. Whisper a scandal against the fair name of Fred Merkle if you are contemplating suicide. Yet a brief spell back the enthusiasts who now worship at the shrine of this grand paragon were denying them with oaths and curses.

"Merkle," said Lynch, "I consider one of the most wonderful men that ever broke into base ball. He is an every sense of the word. His heart is as big as that of an ox. Otherwise he wouldn't be in major league company today. How many professional base ball players do you think could have stood the panning and the roasting and the abuse heaped upon the head of this young gentleman after he failed to touch second base in that memorable game of 1908?"

"You cannot find many better first basemen today than Merkle. Why? Simply because he realized his mistake and decided to live it down by deeds of worth. He didn't sulk. He didn't slouch. He held a high head and kept a stiff upper lip. And instead of worshipping over that one mistake, as most fellows would have done, he profited by his experience and let it stand as a warning. His game improved. He was a far better first baseman in 1909 than in 1908; far better still in 1910. This year he is among the best in the game. I take my hat off to Merkle. He's the proper stuff. He'll be better still in 1912."

Tom Lynch comes pretty near to knowing what he's talking about before he ever expresses himself. It is very doubtful if there is a first baseman in the game more valuable than Fred Merkle. There are flashier players, Hal Chase and Jake Daubert, possessing more natural advantages in that they throw left-handed, appear a bit more graceful, perhaps. Yet it is doubtful if either has anything on the Giant as a fielder. Merkle is not showy. But he is wonderfully sure and as expert in making picks-up off mean bouncers as even the great Chase. He covers as much ground as Hal, is as skillful a base runner and a more dangerous hitter. He is a trifle less agile and cannot go so high for strong arm pegs, nor is he so dexterous with the bat, yet Merkle is the only right-handed first baseman who can break up a sacrifice hit play almost as cunningly as either Chase or Daubert.

No one versed in base ball will deny that Merkle ranks among the first three base ballers of our generation. That is an honor indeed for a youngster that the fans were trying to hound back to the brush four short summers ago. But then he was unfortunate; simply the victim of circumstances. Had Mike Donlin, Arthur Devlin or the great Matty been on first when Al Bridwell knocked out the clean single that should have won the game, little would have been thought of the veteran's oversight. The fact that it was a recruit gave the knoekers a chance. Or if New York had won the play off with



more to blame than Merkle. He was a raw recruit, in the big show for the first time. He had come to one of the craftiest managers and one of the best teams in the profession from the then obscure Southern Michigan league. Most of the season he had spent on the bench, studying Fred Tenny's every play. When Tenny's underpinning went to the bad the "Kid" was called upon. Now, when Merkle pulled his oversight, Matty was coaching at first base and McGraw at third. When Bridwell went to bat with two out, Merkle on first and McCormick on third, there was identically the same situation as the one at Pittsburgh ten days previously when Johnny Evers and the Cubs tried to win over the Pirates on the same sort of technicality. Indeed, if the subsequent play had been rehearsed it could not have been better played into Chicago's hands. Chicago lost its protest over Pittsburgh's victory because Hank O'Day, who was umpire-in-chief that day, had failed to note whether or not the runner did touch second. Now, Chicago had certainly tipped its mitt by the suction it raised over Pittsburgh's triumph. What excuse, then, could New York offer for not being on the alert? Is it not reasonable to suppose that the coaches, McGraw and Mathewson, were caught

Two of the season's diamond sensations whose playing the fans held in contempt only a short time ago. The large figure is that of PITCHER RUBE MARQUARD of the Giants, whose historic record of consecutive victories has made his name permanent. The other is FRED MERKLE, National league. President Lynch's idea of the greatest player in the game today.

By good enough to encounter on equal terms all but three or four of the best players. Williams has the physique, the brains, the knowledge, the strokes and apparently the temperament to make a champion. No Uniform for Chance. Manager Chance no longer wears the uniform, having found it impossible for him to keep off the coaching lines when he is dressed for the part, and the hot summer sun plays hob with the contents of his much-battered bean. A month ago Chance was in such poor condition that he seriously thought of leaving the club and going home to his ranch in California for a long rest, but he has felt better lately, and will probably stick out the season. Frank's contract expires this fall, and it is almost certain that he will give up baseball at the end of the year and retire to live a peaceful life among his orange trees.

Stanton High School's Fast Team



The Stanton High school base ball team but one, this game being played with the one of the fastest, if not the fastest, high school team in North Nebraska. Out of nine games played the team has lost

COYLE BEST OMAHA BATTER

Young Outfielder Has Taken Lead Away from Thomason.

BORTON STILL HEADS LEAGUE

St. Joseph First Sacker is Hitting Ball at 401 Clip and is the Also Pick of the League in Fielding.

Norman Coyle, the Rourke's right fielder, has passed Arthur Thomason in the batting column and is now heading the Omaha batsmen with an average of .401. Thomason is batting .346. Baker Borton of St. Joseph is still the peer of the Western league sluggers with an average of .401 and is also the pick of the league in fielding with .962. Tom Tennant, first sacker for the Indians, is holding down second place in batting with .380. In other departments, the Rourke's are first in fielding and also in stolen bases and second in sacrifice hits. Niehoff is the best base stealer in the league, having stolen thirty-two bases. Coyle is leading the league in sacrifice hits, having made twenty-six. Following are the averages, including last Tuesday's game:

Batting Averages table with columns for Player, Team, and Average. Includes names like Borton, St. Joseph, and Coyle.

Fielding Averages table with columns for Player, Team, and Average. Includes names like Borton, St. Joseph, and Coyle.

Stolen Bases table with columns for Player, Team, and Total. Includes names like Niehoff and Coyle.

second. The pennant of 1908 is of little concern to the champions of 1912. And you may bet that Merkle nor any of McGraw's disciples will repeat such neglect in the world's series battles this fall.

Pennsylvania Will Have Strong Nucleus

PHILADELPHIA, July 6.--Pennsylvania will have a strong nucleus of this year's champion track team in the intercollegiate next year. The winning of the college classic at Philadelphia this year bolstered up the red and blue after a poor foot ball and basket ball showing. Five of the eight men who won the twenty-eight points in the intercollegiate will represent the Quakers next year. They represent seventeen points. Merced, winner of the broad jump and second in the 220-yard dash; McCurdy, second in the two-mile; Edwards, second in the hurdles, will be eligible in 1913.

Besides this freshmen team of this year will bolster up the veterans with Patterson and Lippincott, the embryonic sprinters, while Craig, the quarter-miler, is expected to be a factor in the grueling race. One cloud darkens the sky, and that is the doubt as to whether Trainer Mike Murphy will be able to handle the track team next spring. Last fall while training the foot ball he has suffered a collapse from which he has never fully recovered. He will make no attempt to aid the gridiron squad this fall and the long rest after the Olympic games may condition him to resume active work in the spring.

Donovan a Scout. Wild Bill Donovan is scouting for the Tigers, which is but preliminary, if reports are to be believed, to being assigned to the job of building up and bossing a new bunch of Tigers for 1913. Schreiber in Form. Barney Schreiber, after a slow start, is going fast for Denver, and he should regain the reputation he had last year as the premier southpaw of the Western league.

Team Averages table with columns for Team, Batting, and Fielding. Includes teams like St. Joseph, Omaha, and Lincoln.

Individual Records table with columns for Player, Team, and Record. Includes names like Niehoff and Coyle.

Pitchers' Records table with columns for Player, Team, and Record. Includes names like Borton and Coyle.

KANSAS CITY WILL HAVE TWO BALLOON ENTRIES

KANSAS CITY, July 6.--Kansas City expects to have two entries in the national elimination balloon race to start from here July 27. Arrangements have been made by the Kansas City Aero Club for a new bear to fly as a companion of the Kansas City II, purchased and used last summer.

The old balloon is to be piloted by Captain H. E. Honeywell of St. Louis, while John Watts, the club's aide, will start as pilot with the new one, the Kansas City III, if he is able to make the balance of his qualification flights before the starting date. Watts already has made three of the seven flights required by the Aero Club of America for a pilot's license.

Advertisement for S.S.S. Purely Vegetable, The Oldest Blood Disease medicine. Includes text: 'The most ancient history furnishes evidence that mankind suffered with Contagious Blood Poison. The disease has come down through all the ages and is to-day, as it has ever been, a scourge and blight upon humanity.' and a logo for S.S.S. PURELY VEGETABLE.