

JOHNSON IS ON DOWN GRADE

This is Demonstrated in His Fight with Jim Flynn.

FIREMAN'S ACTIONS DISGUSTING Naughton Does Not Agree with the Critics that Jack Johnson Was in Danger of Losing Out in Recent Mill.

BY W. W. NAUGHTON.

EAST LAS VEGAS, N. M., July 13.—Jim Flynn did not bring back the flower of fistic supremacy to the white race, but he has caused the suspicion to arise that it will not be such a difficult task for the pale faces to regain the cherished emblem of supremacy.

That the contest at Las Vegas showed that World's Champion Jack Johnson is on the down grade physically was the opinion of the majority of the men with pretensions to knowledge of such matters that the writer spoke to and he conversed with quite a few. There are other staunch admirers of the colored champion—who think that over-confidence and under-training prevented Johnson from administering just such another beating to the fireman as was administered at San Francisco five years ago.

In this connection here is something from a man very close to Johnson, but who resolutely refused to stand sponsor for his views to the extent of allowing his name to be published.

"It's the same old story," said the man referred to, "while working up to the championship fight with Jim Flynn, the trainer never underestimated an adversary. When he whipped Jeffries and became the king of the ring, he acquired too big an opinion of himself altogether. So many sycophants told him there never was anybody like him in the history of pugilism that he believed it. As for Flynn, why Johnson held him so cheaply that he would not have trained at all, probably if it had not been for the sake of appearances. You'd be astonished if you knew of all the bets Johnson made as to the number of times he would knock Flynn down. He backed himself to knock the Puebloan down in the first round and then again in the second and in the third and fourth, and so on, and he never staggered. Flynn let alone knocked him down. Now I do not agree with those who think that Johnson was in serious danger of losing out when he began to hold Flynn so tightly in the sixth round; that he was fighting I admit, but he was simply taking a means of resting himself and if Flynn had not retaliated by butting—this causing the fight to be stopped—I think Johnson would have cut loose in spots and eventually scored a knockout punch. I'll bet Johnson will train more faithfully for the next man, no matter who it is. He will not drink so much beer, and he will go to bed early the night before the battle instead of attending a scrub fight in Las Vegas and drawing attention to himself by blowing a fish horn."

Flynn Disgusts Friends.

As for Flynn, he has disgusted the most of his well wishers by his infernally bad fighting manners. Those who had money up on him are particularly wrathful, as they feel that the fireman lost the battle through criminally foul tactics. It is proposed, in fact, that Pueblo Jim will always be held back by his rough-house temperament. He seems to entertain the idea that two wrongs constitute a right and that when Johnson violated the rule of fair play by constant holding it was perfectly legitimate to offset the champion's questionable tactics by using the head in catpulp fashion. It was astonishing the number of well meaning sporting men who moved over to Flynn's corner between rounds and besought him to keep his temper. They told him he would surely win out if he refrained from butting, as Johnson was trying perceptibly, but it was like trying to reason with a crazy person. In Flynn's case the championship and all that went with it was lost sight of for the time being. With him it was simply a fight—a grudge fight, I might say, and he was bent upon coming out on top by hook or by crook. What will be the outcome of the affair so far as other matches are concerned remains to be seen. Flynn, even though he is flouted for a rabble-rousing ring man, will be a card from this time forward, but it is doubtful if he will see another match with Johnson. The latter, instead of going to Australia to box Langford, but the vertical setback he received at Las Vegas may cause him to alter his plans. Johnson evidently thinks very poorly of Al Palmer. "He is not right yet," said the champion when Palmer's name was mentioned, the inference being that he considers a couple of years will have to elapse before Palmer can be regarded as a championship candidate.

For that matter Johnson candidly states his opinion that the "Big Four" among the heavyweights is composed of colored men, to wit: Johnson, Jeannette, Langford and McVea.

Columbus Driving Club Has Prepared Classy Racing Card

Many Omaha motorists and lovers of horse racing are preparing to attend the big race to be presented at Columbus July 17, 18 and 19 by the Columbus Driving Club, of which H. B. Robinson is president and C. H. Spate is secretary. The club is offering a \$600 purse for each of the eight events, which include the 5 1/4 mile, 2 1/2 mile, 2 1/4 mile, 1 3/4 mile, 1 1/2 mile, 1 1/4 mile, 1 1/2 mile and 1 1/4 mile free-for-all race.

The list of entries is large and includes some of the best horses now campaigning in the west. The track is in excellent condition and the local association is preparing to handle large crowds, which it feels sure will attend because of the classy race card which is offered.

YACHT RACE AT THE GUN CLUB THIS AFTERNOON

The regular weekly yacht race of the Red and Gun club, for the Edholm trophy cup will be held this afternoon at Carver lake, beginning at 2:30 o'clock. A total of six boats will be used up at the starting line.

Hughie Jennings on Ban Johnson's Bad List

BY W. H. MURPHY. NEW YORK, July 14.—The more or less brilliant career of Hughie Jennings with the once terrible Detroit Tigers furnishes a fitting illustration of the vicissitudes of fickle fandom, as well as the fleeting breath of fame. The man who for three years while he delivered American league pennants to the City of the Straits—was hailed unthinkingly as one of baseball's greatest managers and idolized by the supporters of the "Rural-Bennals," appears in line for Byron Bancroft Johnson's official guillotine. In other words, Hugh Jennings is slated to pass out of the young major organization if reports are to be credited.

Jennings is in very bad favor with Frank Navin, president of the Detroit club, and the whole American league in general. He is blamed for the unprecedented strike of the rank and file of the Fellers, following the indefinite suspension of Ty Cobb for striking and assaulting a spectator at the grounds in this city during Detroit's first visit of the year to Gotham. Hugh Jennings took no active part in the rebellion; indeed, at least to those on the outside he gave every evidence of loyalty to the league and his employers. If he was in with the athletes, as most American league managers-in-waiting, then indeed is Hugh an adroit cuss whose diplomacy should be commended rather than frowned upon. Of itself the base ball strike of Detroit was but a sputter, and the malcontents were forced to swallow a bitter dose. Yet it is the future rather than the past over which the moguls are apprehensive. Following fast upon the heels of Tiger unobedience, most recently that of Hub Purdie, of the Boston Nationals. When this great pitcher tore off his uniform and declared he would never play again for the City of Culture as long as Johnny Kling remained at the head of the Braves, he but reflected the general sentiment of his fraternity that it is due time for the profession to strike for certain due rights heretofore denied.

Wherefore the American league has found a reasonable excuse of open battle to Jennings. He is to be made the "goat." And if Ban Johnson had his way Hughie would doubtless be driven out to the barren wastes beyond the pale of organization. Certain it is that the big Pooh-Bah of the American league has been lying in wait for Hughie's scalp ever since the world's series of 1911.

Ban Johnson converted his henchmen to the belief that Jennings was guilty of heresy against the circuit he served because he had the nerve to express an opinion that the Giants had a chance to take the measure of the Athletics. Doubtless the wish was father to the thought and the subsequent utterance. For Hugh is a bosom friend of John McGraw, while an avowed enemy of Cornelius McGillicuddy. Some American league "progressives" went far as to charge the fiery-tongued leader of the Jungles with treason. They said he tipped off McGraw to the weaknesses of the Athletics. Personally I believe such an assertion a bald-faced lie. And it would go if the humblest player rather than a man of Jennings' proved integrity were under suspicion. For in the belief of the writer base ball is honest and straight, simply because the players are, above treachery.



HUGHIE ("EE-YAH") JENNINGS, THREE-TIME PENNANT WINNER FOR THE DETROIT AMERICAN LEAGUE TEAM, IS REPORTED DUE TO RESIGNE WALKING PAPERS.

In all the history of national commission investigations not once has an instance been recorded where an athlete even fished. And in the history of the squabbles, turmoil and strife which has characterized government and organization, few indeed are the occasions when some magnate has not bid or resorted to trickery.

But getting back to Hugh Jennings.

He is to be congratulated if he gets out of the American league. There is plenty of room for him in the National, and it is not likely that Tom Lynch will stand in his way. Johnson drove George Stallings out of New York after the "Big Chief" had but a joke taller into a real contender. The joke base ball that has characterized the local American league past-time ever since proves conclusively that B. B. Johnson is no oracle. Lynch has said that Stallings is welcome to put his feet under the National league table any time he so desires.

And so may Jennings, you may be sure. He is one of the greatest drawing cards in organized base ball today. More New Yorkers go to see him coach than to see Ty Cobb play. To question his ability as a manager is ludicrous. Didn't he win three pennants in a row with a club that was a hopeless second division proposition when he assumed control? He would undoubtedly have beaten the Athletics last year had not Gairner been put out by a broken wrist when the Tigers were spread-eagling the field. And he would have done it with a team far, far inferior to the Athletics in playing strength.

Frank Navin is quoted as saying that Hugh Jennings had no qualifications for leadership except the personality to maintain harmony and fellowships that develop full playing power. This personality, Navin further infers, has been lost and as a consequence the grand machine, to which Jennings fell heir and into the creative genius of Navin and Bill Armour has consequently fallen into bad days. Maybe Mr. Navin does not look upon his kindly ministrations as a pure case of hand-icapping his manager through direct interference. One does not have to go as far as Detroit to lay his finger on similar conditions when American league franchises are discussed.

To a man up a tree such a winless personality as that of Jennings must cover a multitude of sins. After all it seems about three-quarters of genius. Hugh Jennings will have no difficulty finding a berth in the National if the American league anks waiver on him. That goes whether or not there is truth in the report that Hugh is to succeed Johnny Kling as leader of the Boston Nationals. Surely Navin's reported antagonism toward Hugh seems the height of ingratitude toward a man who, no matter what his faults, has done wonders both for Detroit and the American league. No matter where he may go, Jennings will carry the respect, esteem and good will of the sport lovers of the United States, Frank Navin, Ban Johnson and the entire caboodle of American league club owners, notwithstanding.

MID-WEST TENNIS IN AUGUST BOXING SCALE SUGGESTED

Premier Event of the West to Be Held at Field Club.

MANY CRACKS ARE COMING Hayes Will Be on Hand to Defend His Title—Drawings to Be Made August 13, When the Tourney Starts.

Omaha's big tennis event of the 1912 season will be the Mid-West tournament which will be held at the Field club courts the week of August 19 to 24. Ralph Rainey, Harry Koch and Will Wood of the Field club are boosting the tourney and have already sent out preliminary invitations to tennis players in Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado.

A total of 12 entries is expected, of which number about fifty will be local. Arrangements will be made to have the preliminary and first round singles and doubles finished by Tuesday evening of the tourney week. Drawings will be made Monday morning, August 13.

"Gravy" Hayes of Chicago, singles champ of the mid-west, will be on hand to defend his title. Drummond Jones and Roland Hoer, the St. Louis doubles whirlwinds, will also take part.

Other premier racketeers who are expected to take part are: Ray Drayton, Mitchell S. D. Berrion Hughes, Denver; Hugh G. Whitehead, Norfolk, Va.; J. H. Winston, Chicago; Herbert V. Jones and Jack Cannon, Kansas City; Joe Armstrong, St. Paul; John Barton, Sioux Falls; Olin Sweet and Fred Bradley, Des Moines; Al Dickinson, Wichita; J. B. Adon and H. P. Shilton, Dallas; J. T. Bailey, Albion, Okl.

OMAHA YOUTHS TO GO TO ST. LOUIS BY GAS LAUNCH

Four Omaha men, Kenneth Bierman, Farrell and Ed and George Hether, will leave Omaha August 13 on a gas-powered launch trip down the Missouri river to St. Louis.

The launch they will use is a twenty-five footer and will be stocked with provisions and camping equipment for the cruise.

It is planned to make the trip in ten days and the quartet will camp along the river on the way down. The launch will be shipped back from St. Louis.

Rube Waddell Sleaz.

Rube Waddell is reported seriously ill at Minneapolis, with indignation and gallows. He was taken ill on July 4 following the game he pitched against St. Paul. He fell in a faint and was taken home, where his physician ordered him to take a rest.

IDEA IS TO PUT STOP TO FALSE CLAIMS OF MANY FIGHTERS.

ACTION IS TAKEN IN ENGLAND Many Are Divided as to Where the Referee Should Be Stationed So as Not to Obstruct View of Spectators.

NEW YORK, July 13.—Much discussion has arisen lately in boxing circles upon two subjects which seem of paramount importance to the sport, the one dealing with the promulgation of an international scale of weights and the other with the more advanced position for the referee, in or outside the ring. In regard to the first, opinion seems to favor the adoption of some generally recognized scale, in order that all articles may be on a more even basis and also to put a stop to the false claims of so many fighters for the championship of classes to which they do not belong.

In England and also in France a scale of weights has been adopted in which the margin widths as the men get bigger, while the customary scale in this country and in Australia is in the reverse gradation. For instance, in Australia it is customary to regard fourteen pounds as the margin between bantam and lightweight men, and only nine pounds as the difference between the light and welter classes. An international scale of weights, it is claimed, would put the sport on a firmer basis and facilitate the making of international matches which are in themselves a great factor in arousing public interest.

On the question of the position of the referee, sentiment is more divided, it being a question to which there are two debatable sides. England is by no means satisfied with the exclusion of the referee from the ring, and yet, unwilling to again place him where he may interfere with the spectators' view of the bout. That and the referee's interference with the fighters are the objections to his presence within the ropes.

Australia and this country are better satisfied to have him in the ring, that he may prevent stalling methods and unfair play. It would take four men outside the ring to see all the fouls, since the backs of the fighters might at any moment cut off the view of any one judge, and four men deciding upon a foul blow would materially hinder the progress of the bout. Besides, in New York state, where the fighters are not dependent upon the referee for the decision of the fight, they would indulge in much more stalling than boxing, since there would be no one capable of forcing them to do otherwise. Often also there is need of immediate action on the part of the referee, which would be impossible were it necessary for him first to crawl through the ropes.

GENERAL SLUMP IN BATTING

Western League Sluggers Falling Off with the Club.

TENNANT LEADS IN FIELDING

Sioux City First Sacker in Fielding Ball in Great Shape and is Also Hitting the Pill Hard and Often.

Very little changes appear in the batting averages of the various sluggers in the Western league aside from a general slump in clouting. Borton is still leading the Western league with an average of .40, a drop of five points over last week. Coyle is Omaha's best clouter, with Thomson second, but a large slump is noticeable in both.

Tom Tennant, the Sioux City, fast first sacker, is now in the lead of Baker Borton of St. Joseph for fielding honors. This particular star has handled 68 chances, and has been chalked up with but seven boots. His average is .90.

The Rockies still lead in team fielding and stolen bases and have jumped into first place in sacrifice hits. Harry Hicks and White of Sioux City lead the hurters, having won seven games each and lost but one. Following are the averages, including last Tuesday's game:

Table with columns for Player Name, Team, AB, R, H, Pct. Includes players like Borton, Price, Tennant, etc.

Western League Sluggers Falling Off with the Club.

Table with columns for Player Name, Team, AB, R, H, Pct. Includes players like Coyle, Thomson, etc.

Table with columns for Player Name, Team, AB, R, H, Pct. Includes players like Thomas, Jackson, Justice, etc.

Table with columns for Player Name, Team, PO, A, E, Pct. Includes players like Ryan, Woldring, Sage, etc.

Table with columns for Player Name, Team, Won, Lost, Pct. Includes players like White, Hicks, etc.



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