

JACK JOHNSON LETTING UP

Big Smoke is Going In for Easy Game Hereafter.

TEN-ROUND MATCHES THE LIMIT

Champion Figures the Long Distance Route is Too Hard a Way to Hold His Laurels or Get Coils.

BY W. W. NAUGHTON.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., July 27.—If as report has it, Jack Johnson is to be permitted to break into the ten-round game in New York, it means, probably, that Johnson will round out his career over the short bout route and will lay down his laurels practically unharmed when he elects to retire.

That the New York prospect appealed to Johnson is evident to any thinking man. A day or two before he boxed Jim Flynn the champion virtually decided on a trip to Australia. He had offered matches with Langford and McVea in that far land and told some of the correspondents at Las Vegas that all the details had been agreed upon and that he would leave for the Antipodes in September.

Something in the Flynn match caused Johnson to pause. Possibly he discovered that long distance fights had become more irksome than formerly. Anyhow, the talk about the Australian matches was quietly shelved and the announcement made that Johnson was looking forward to a series of ten-round bouts in New York.

Even though the champion may be ring sore and travel worn, it will take an exceptionally good man to get the better of him in a ten-round contest. Jack is not so far gone but that he can track to go the distance mentioned at a fast clip, and with his vast knowledge of all that pertains to ringmanship and the fact that strenuous work at close quarters is debared by the clean break rules at present in vogue in New York, the champion should be able to maintain his prestige and dignity without appearing to turn a hair.

Joe Jeannette is spoken of as the first opponent for Johnson. The champion has been in the habit lately of referring to Jeannette as the best of the heavyweight bunch; but there is room for doubt as to whether Jack really respected Jeannette's fighting qualifications or is just doing his share toward boosting a Johnson-Jeannette match.

Jeannette's interests have been assiduously promoted by Dan McKetrick, who in behalf of his man has been flinging challenges at Johnson and Langford for the last couple of years. It is at ways to be noted, however, that McKetrick, when directing his defiance at Langford, expresses preference for a contest of twenty rounds or even longer.

"I want to show the world that Jeannette is Langford's master over distance," is a favorite boast with McKetrick, and such being the case the inference to be drawn is that Jeannette prefers a long bout to a short one, no matter who his opponent may be.

Under the circumstances it is not easy to figure that Jeannette stands a brilliant chance of subduing that clever ring man, champion Johnson, in ten rounds. But beggars must not cry and cannot be choosers, and as Jeannette has been begging for a match with Johnson for a long time, he must abide by New York conditions and do the best he can.

If the program has been outlined correctly to readers of sporting news in the far west, Johnson is expected to meet Sam Langford in New York after he is through with Jeannette. This cannot very well be, however, as Langford recently signed a new contract which will keep him in Australia until the end of the present year.

In the absence of Langford it is likely that Al Palmer will be sent against Johnson and here is a bout that will excite more interest than any the champion could be party to.

Not that there is prospect of Palmer handling Johnson to great advantage than any of the others under New York boxing conditions, but because Palmer is undoubtedly the best white heavyweight in sight at present.

Come to think of it, it might be as well to qualify this, by the remark that Al's work so far entitles him to more credit than any of the other "hopes." His victories over Kaufman and Bombardier Wells eclipse the performance of the other white heavies, but it is just possible, of course, that with equal opportunities, Luther McCarthy, or even big Charley Miller may do as well.

When one remembers how Palmer was battered around by Bombardier Wells in the early stages of his bout, it does not appear as though Palmer will have much of a look in with such a past master of glove work as the champion, especially as New York frowns on clinch fighting.

"But you can never tell what is going to happen in a boxing match."

CALIFORNIA PREPARES TO PLAY RUGBY FOOT BALL

SAN FRANCISCO, July 27.—An important meeting of delegates to the California Rugby union was held recently at the Olympic club, in which details preliminary to the visit of Australia's crick foot ball team on the Pacific coast during October were arranged. The financial factors in connection with the enterprise were the occasion of considerable discussion, expenses for twenty-five players having been guaranteed the team, which will leave Sydney about September 1.

Stanford and the University of California are bearing a part of the burden of the subscription fund, while the Berkeley club has also added to the fund. The University of Southern California has given some encouragement, as have St. Mary's and Santa Clara colleges. The Olympic club is expected to assist in the financing of the tour. Unless the University of Nevada offers more than the expenses of taking the touring players from San Francisco to Reno it is not likely that the Nevadans will be on the schedule.

The Australians will arrive about October 2. A schedule committee was appointed at the meeting to arrange the list of games.

FIX STANDARD FOR BOXING

Present Scale of Weights Said to Be Too Elastic.

TO CREATE MORE CLASSES

For the Last Thirty Years the Boxers and Their Managers Have Arranged Weights to Suit Themselves.

NEW YORK, July 27.—When the boxing season begins next winter and the State Athletic commission gets down to work to revise its rules and regulations it is more than probable that a standard scale of weights will be arranged that will be recognized all over the world.

It is a well-known fact that the present scale of weights in the different classes, which are supposed to govern the championship divisions, is too elastic and that matches are made with provisions that are frequently out of reason and unnecessary. It has been suggested to the commission that a change be made so as to limit the championships to weights that will bring men together at a nearer poundage and the poundage mean a title.

The scale of championship weights that has been suggested to the commission is believed would be advantageous to both boxer and the patrons of boxing. The old scale of featherweights, lightweights and the like has been in vogue for years. Long ago there were fewer boxers.

The increase in the popularity of the sport has brought forth hundreds of participants and it is thought that a change should be made so as to create a uniformity of weights and classes which will give a boxer an opportunity to win additional honors as he grows older and heavier.

Draw a Finer Limit. The proposition is to grade the classes by poundage instead of titles and by creating more classes. For instance, the lightest weights to be recognized by the commission would be 105 pounds. From this low weight the rules will read so as to make the next class 120 pounds and from that point to range by an increase of ten pounds in every class up to 150 pounds, which would make divisions of 130, 140 and 150-pound classes and eliminate the existing conditions of featherweights, lightweights and so on. The titles would then read: The 120-pound champion and the 130-pound champion and so on up the line.

By this means there would be honors to earn that today are misnomers in many cases. For instance, "Mike" Gibbons is trailing along in the supposed welterweight division, when, according to weight scales, he is well into the middleweight class, and has been for some time.

Under the new rules he would be would be champion of the 150 pound class and when he could not scale that weight entering the ring he would have to look to the middleweight division, or, say for example, the 135 pound division for opponents, for that is the weight that has been proposed for the middleweight division.

In dealing with the weights above 135 pounds, it is suggested to make a class from 135 pounds up to 150 pounds, or a semi-heavyweight division. From that point there would be no limit, as a man weighing more than 135 pounds would be entitled to step into the ring at catch weight.

Give New Names. The idea is to grade the boxers into classes similar to the system now employed in the rules governing racing and arrange more championships. The present scale of weights under old rules is too wide. Names could be given the different weights, such as "midweight," "bantam," "feather," "light weight," "welter," "middle," and so on if believed necessary. That is of little importance, but the better classification of the boxers is important.

By this means closer matches could be made and greater distinctions and more honors earned by boxers without their being trained to almost impossible weights which has many times been detrimental to the health of athletes.

It would also do away with the subterfuge manager employ of matching men to weigh in several hours before a bout. All contestants should be compelled to weigh in at the ringside and in public. The habit of weighing men hours before the contest has never been necessary except when a backer of a boxer is resorting to sharp practice. There is no reason why boxers should not weigh at the ringside and be sent into the ring at a natural weight instead of being trained to a certain weight at three o'clock in the afternoon, with the knowledge that they will be several pounds heavier at ten o'clock at night.

For the last thirty years the boxers and their managers have been arranging weights to suit themselves. They have claimed all kinds of titles to which they were not entitled. Wolgast insists upon the lightweight limit being 133 pounds, because it suits Wolgast, and "Batting" Nelson urged the same thing. Gibbons claims the welterweight title, yet cannot step into the ring less than 148 pounds. McAniff, Lavigne and Wolcott were all supposed to be lightweights, yet not one of them could be considered in his best condition at less than 125 pounds. Rules should be made to draw finer lines and more pronounced classes now that the sport of boxing has become so very popular.

WEST POINT PREPARES TO ENTERTAIN HORSEMEN

WEST POINT, Neb., July 27.—(Special.)—The success of the third annual circuit race meet of the West Point speed association, which taken place at West Point, July 20-21 and August 1, has been assured as far as human energy and foresight can make it possible. Preparations are complete for the housing of the racing stock and ample accommodations for all are provided. A new barn 3x108 has been erected, numerous valuable improvements installed, the tracks placed in first-class condition and, last but not least, the famous Raceview Park, the beautiful plot of ground surrounding the entrance to the race tracks and which is the home of Anton Post, the well known horticulturist and florist, known as the "Corn King," has been still further beautified and embellished.

The president of the Nebraska State Speed association, Chris Schinck, resides here and is, together with his brother, the owner of the race grounds proper. During the last three months Mr. Schinck has been indefatigable in his labors to improve the property, to make the track and buildings the best in the circuit and has been unsparring in his personal means to that end. The leading idea of President Schinck, his brother and Mr. Post, who are the dominant forces behind this enterprise, has been to develop this portion of the

Old Fox Griffith Has the Spot Light

BY W. J. MACBETH.

NEW YORK, July 27.—According to the generally accepted opinion base ball always has been heretofore a law unto itself—a law full of unaccountable eccentricity and vagary that follows no set rule. Its creed was most tersely expressed in a modest proverb of Harry C. Pulliam, that still graces the wall of the National league headquarters: "Take nothing for granted in base ball."

The only exception to the capricious whims was Washington. This habitual tallender of the American league was a striking illustration of one instance that could always be taken for granted. The great joke of the national pastime was coined from its humility: "Washington, first in war, first in peace and last in the American league race."

Washington, hitherto the exception that proved the rule, is now proving it in fact. The capital city has evacuated the cyclone pit for a prominent position in the forefront of battle. "All things come to him who waits." They certainly came Washington's way as a blessing in disguise, in no less a personage than Clarke Griffith, generally regarded as a major league managerial failure. With the New York Americans and with the Cincinnati Nationals the old Fox had disappointed. His connection with Washington appeared to the long-suffering fans of the District of Columbia as the addition of insult to injury.

But in vindicating his managerial fame Griffith has fooled everybody, even the wisecracks of the capital city and a couple of major league magnates in New York and Cincinnati. For the first time in its career Griffith has charge of a club free to direct its destinies. He was handcuffed in New York and fettered in Cincinnati by club owners who always have been too ready for outside advice. Griffith is the heaviest stockholder of the Senators. He gambled his entire fortune on the purchase, and everyone is glad that he invested wisely.

If for no other reason than variety Washington's sensational sport this year proves decidedly refreshing. Still it embraces other interesting features. One of the most remarkable psychological studies of the age is this combination whipped into pennant speed by Foxey Griffith. Most promiscuous in the collection of oddities is that sterling centerfielder, Clyde Milan. Milan has given Ty Cobb a black eye such as the Georgian peach has never before suffered in fast company. Griffith's center section of the outer defense this year makes Ty Cobb look like a truck horse on the bags in comparison. Never in his palmy days did Cobb ever display the race running class that Milan has spilled, and this in spite of the fact that Cobb is slugging at a far more steady clip than his little rival. It is true that Milan's batting, which exceeds in the classic 300 notch, entitles him to a place in the firmament of great outfielders, but it is his wonderful base running that commands chief respect. Between Clyde and "shoeless Joe" Jackson, of the Naps, the modern Goliath has been shorn of his locks. Milan boasts the golden speed ringlets; Jackson the swatting curls.

For the past several seasons Milan has been good—far above the average value of outfielder. He did not shine as this year simply because he met with nothing like the same encouragement. Here's the difference—the difference between a hopeless tallender and real pennant possibility. That same difference lifted ten years from the stooped shoulders of Griffith; has made Walter Johnson take on a new lease of life and given Herman ("Dutch") Schaefer a new line of chin goods.

Washington stands out as a living example of that degree to which luck figures in the national pastime. No one will deny Griffith was lucky to get Washington and Washington likewise lucky to get Griff.

When the Old Fox took hold of the Nationals the Capitol City boasted just four players outside the pitchers—Milan, four gloriously referred to above, Catcher Almus, shortstop George McBride and comedian "Germany" Schaefer. Griffith may be considered lucky to have picked from the stooped shoulders of Griffith; has made Walter Johnson take on a new lease of life and given Herman ("Dutch") Schaefer a new line of chin goods.

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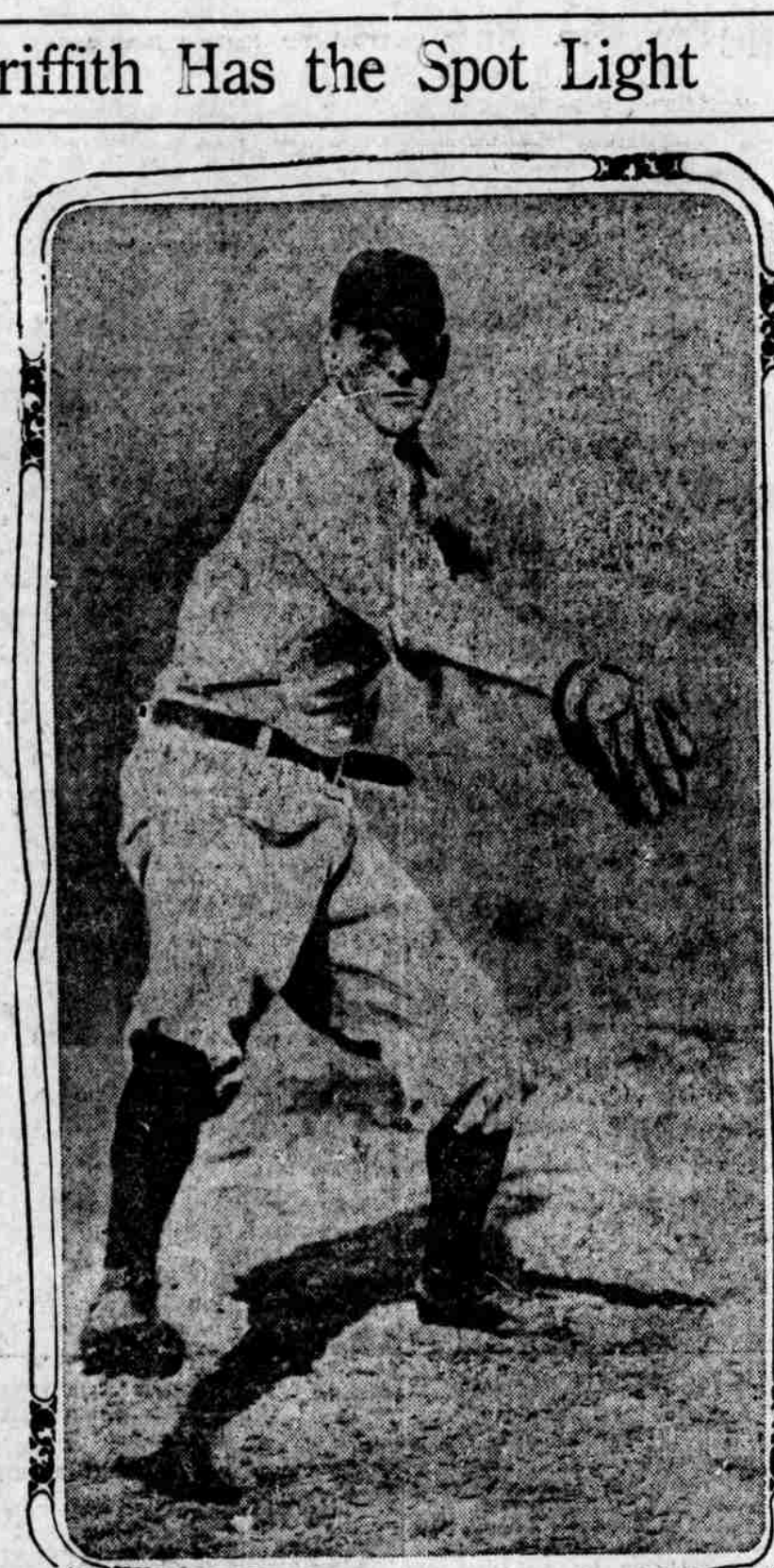
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WESTERN LEAGUE AVERAGES

Baker Borton is Still the Real Leader of the Sluggers.

FIVE ROURKES ON HONOR LIST

Thomson Leads the Local Team in Hitting, While Coyle is a Close Second—Coyle is the Best Run Getter.

Big Baker Norton, the Josie's first sacker, continues to tumble in the batting averages compiled this week for the Western league, having dropped a total of nine points in the last two weeks.

"Baldy" Isbell of Des Moines, tops the list with a percentage of .422, but Borton is the logical leader with .393 and Tennant of Sioux City and St. Joseph each have three sluggers among the first ten.

Artie Thomson leads the Rourkes' 300 roll of honor with a standing of 384 with Norman Coyle right behind him at 329. Eddie Allen, Kane and Johnson in the order named are the other Rourkes who cavort above the mark. Coyle is the best run getter in Pa's bunch with a total of 62.

Jack Ryan continues to hover at the top of the fielding column with a tab of 1,000 per cent. Jack has accepted forty-six chances so far this season without a bobble.

Christy Mathewson is the only big league pitcher with a record of over 300 victories. Starting his thirteenth season, he seems to be twirling the same brand of base ball that has done so much toward keeping the New York Giants either at the top or close to the top on the National league every year for over a decade.

When the marvelous Marquand and the rest of the Giant staff failed on the recent western trip and brought on the first Giant slump of the year, Mathewson was the only starter who could be depended upon. Starting his thirteenth year as a Giant, Mathewson, in Pittsburgh the other day, struck out Hans Wagner four times. And Honus is still regarded as a fairly dangerous citizen with the ash.

Table with columns for player name, team, and statistics. Includes names like Douglas, Des Moines, Berghammer, Lincoln, etc.

Pitchers' Records. Table listing pitchers and their records, including names like Hicks, Omaha, Ellis, Wichita, etc.

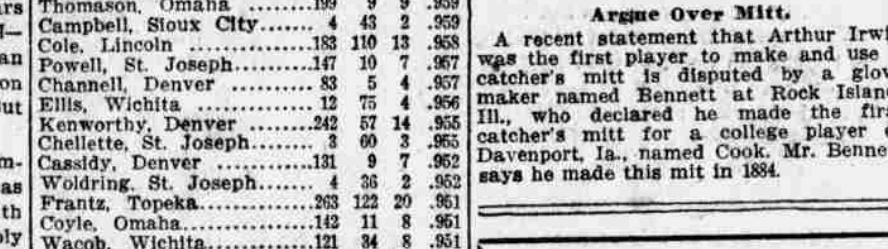
Fielding Averages. Table listing fielders and their averages, including names like Ryan, Omaha, Tuckey, Lincoln, etc.

Team Averages. Table listing team statistics, including batting, fielding, and pitching averages for various teams.

Individual Averages. Table listing individual player statistics, including names like Borton, St. Joseph, etc.

Argue Over Mitt. A recent statement that Arthur Irwin was the first player to make and use a catcher's mitt is disputed by a glove maker named Bennett at Rock Island, Ill., who declared he made the first catcher's mitt for a college player of Davenport, Ia., named Cook. Mr. Bennett says he made this mitt in 1884.

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TY COBB, THE KING OF BASE BALL PLAYERS.



Poor old Ty's hitting strength has gone back so far that in two days last week fourteen hits were all he could make off Friday's double-header; he connected for seven hits in his first seven times at bat. Among his seven hits were two home runs and a three-bagger. One of the circuit slumps came in the ninth and brought in the winning run for Detroit.