

### FREDDIE WELSH GOING BACK

While a Champion, His Star is Dimming and All Recent Matches Have Been Poor.

### FIGHTS NO-DECISION BOUTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Freddie Welsh, lightweight champion of the world, is the anomaly of the modern day prize ring. Here we have an undisputed titleholder whose performances since he succeeded to the lightweight championship have been mediocre. Yet his exhibitions before he attained the 135-pound preponderance were of the superlative order, seen good enough for a champion.

Which prompts the question, has Welsh seen his best days in the ring? One is inclined to answer in the affirmative after witnessing Freddie in his recent bouts. And the strength of Welsh's argument is his own words, uttered the other day, when he said he expects to retire from the ring within two years.

If Welsh is really the author of these words, they are a frank admission that the lightweight champion does not think he is capable of defending his title with that vigor which has been his in the past. Who ever hopes of a new, crowned pugilistic king flinging only two years ahead, planning only such a short time in which to capitalize his championship? It has never been done before and Freddie Welsh is not an inventive genius to start this innovation unless he can find his conviction that he cannot endure an exemption for longer than the period he has stated.

**Failed in Every Bout.** It is worthy of note that Welsh has not put up one truly good battle since he came into possession of the championship. It is nothing extraordinary, yet he managed to shear Ritchie of his title. It was Ritchie's poor fighting, rather than Welsh's superior boxing ability, that cost the American the championship.

Let us review some of Welsh's bouts, since that fateful day in July of last year. Freddie's first bout as a champion occurred against Matt Baldwin. Poor old Matt Baldwin, a marvel in his day, was able to hold Welsh on even terms for most of the twenty rounds, and lost the decision only when Freddie came through with two good last rounds.

A few weeks later Jimmy Duffy clearly outpointed Welsh in a ten-round bout, but as the referee was not empowered to render a decision, Freddie clung to his title. Some little time after that Charley White hooked up with the Briton for ten rounds in Milwaukee, and a majority of the so-called experts said that White was undisputedly the victor.

Then Welsh came to the metropolis and permitted himself to be shown up by Young Shugrue, who lacks Welsh's experience by something like ten years. The other day Willie Beecher, untrained, long-hair, gipsy on a few hours' notice in place of Charley White, held Welsh even for the best. Then Beecher "blowed" in the last few rounds, but it was Welsh's demoralizing fighting that allowed White to explode, rather than Beecher's poor condition that was responsible for his state bordering on collapse.

**Shows None of Old Form.** In several other bouts since he became champion, Welsh has failed to show his old brand of fighting. He has shown his ultra-clever boxing only sporadically. Most of the time he has spent in keeping his opponent from piling up too much of a lead.

For a time it appeared as if Welsh would be nicknamed "The outpointed Champion," for no less than three adversaries in a row gained the popular decision over him.

Now to harken back to go olden days, when Welsh was not a champion, yet was fighting like one. It was only one of those days that Welsh fought the then great Packer McFarland two terrific bouts. The first, a ten-round affair in Milwaukee, was awarded to Packer, but the second, fought at Vernon, Cal., resulted in a draw after twenty-five brilliant rounds. That same year Welsh gained a fifteen-round decision over Abe Attell, then featherweight champion. The bout, however, was fought at catchweights, with no title in the stake.

In 1905 Welsh trounced Johnny Sammers, who was at the zenith of his power at the time. The year following the present lightweight bout fought Packer McFarland another hard draw, which went twenty rounds, before a London club. Several months later Welsh won over Jim Driscoll on a foul in nine rounds. At the time Driscoll was considered the greatest boxer in his class.

**Heavily Beat Ritchie.** It is well to recall that Welsh first confronted Ritchie in the ring July 11, 1911, at the age of 27. He was then a challenger for the title, and he had to do to outbox the unknown Ritchie. Just previous to the meeting, Welsh gained a twenty-round decision over Matt Baldwin, who was then fighting in his best form.

Just a year after the Ritchie affair, in 1912, Welsh regained what Welsh of the lightweight championship of England. Freddie spent the following ten months in outpointing inferior fighters; and then he hunted into Millburn Taylor. The exact date was October 25, 1912, a date Welsh will long remember. The fight ended in a technical in the sixth round, with Taylor claiming a knockout, and Welsh's manager producing a counter claim that Freddie was fouled.

It got into the record books as a victory on-foul for Welsh. Strange as it may seem, Welsh seemed to have lost all his effectiveness in that fight, for since that day he has not put up one really good fight, a battle up to his old standard. Yet he is champion of the world, even after virtually admitting that as champion he will not last long.

Two Orleans, the new boxing scene, will be the scene of an interesting twenty-round bout between lightweights, the New York "umping Jack" and Joe Mandot, the New Orleans "baker boy," as he is known, and the winner has been promised a match with Champion Welsh. To-morrow's match was originally scheduled between Mandot and Ad Wolcott, but the former was withdrawn and Mandot substituted.

**Glavenick to Spokane.** If Nick Williams succeeds in landing the Spokane management next year, his Glasgow, formerly of Cleveland and New Orleans, likes to show in an Idaho costume. Glavenick is a California pugilist, and he is said to have more smello than a Philadelphia hound. At New Orleans last year his witness team in his own defense, but Glavenick says he has witnesses that fight.

**Blanchard to East.** Blanche Clark is now in an eastern tour after his recent fight with Willie Johnson. He is expected to visit Philadelphia, Washington and New York to talk with major league managers. Clark is a genuine pugilistic material for his class. Clark is said to have been offered a contract by the New York Yankees, but Glavenick says he has witnesses that fight.

### MAJOR CLUBS CUT EXPENSES

All Teams Except Boston Braves Will Operate This Year with Trimmed Payrolls.

### SURPLUS PLAYERS RELEASED

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—The magnates of the two organized major leagues have wielded the axe to such an extent that they have whittled a total of over \$100,000 from the 1914 payrolls. And the axe swinging hasn't ceased.

The magnates must retrench. They lost money in 1914, and they don't want to duplicate it in 1915. There was not one way open—the trimming down of the payrolls. The Boston Braves alone will operate with an increased salary list.

The Athletics' payroll in 1915 will be smaller, proportionately, than any other club in either the American or National leagues. The Athletics have turned loose Eddie Plank, Jack Coombs, Chief Bender and Eddie Collins. Collins, it was reported, got \$5,000, and Bender and Plank averaged no less than \$6,000 each. Coombs was drawing down something like \$4,000, if not more.

The release and sale of that quartet has reduced the Athletics' payroll by \$35,000. Other releases or sales of high-salaried Athletic stars may be made before the season opens.

**Pay Not Half of Salary.** Of course, the Athletics have gathered in Lajoie and his \$9,000 contract, but the story is that Connie Mack and his crowd will pay only half of the great Frenchman's salary. The other half will be paid by Lajoie's former boss—Charles Rogers.

The Cleveland Naps hope to operate with a payroll that will be about \$20,000 less than it was in 1914. The first move was the sale of Lajoie. Some of the other Nap players, who were charged with attempting to disrupt the team in 1914, are slated to go. Most of them are high-priced players. Furthermore, the Naps intend to operate during the 1915 season with the minimum number of men—a figure around twenty-one or twenty-two. In other years the Naps carried about thirty men.

Steve Yerkes, a high-priced asset who used to play second base for Red Sox, has gone. "Tiepie" Wagner, the shortstop, with his \$5,000 salary, is slated for the discard. The Red Sox owners plan to cut salary at least two other high-priced veterans. Last year the Red Sox carried about thirty men. This season they will operate with less than twenty-five.

The Phillies will affect a big saving in 1915. Charles Doolin, one-time manager, who shook down the Phillies for \$5,000, has gone. Hans Lobert, whose salary was around \$3,000, and Sherwood Magee, drawing about the same amount, have fitted out. Pitcher Marshall, with his \$3,000 salary, is with the Phillies. Several youngsters, whose salaries totalled around \$5,000, have gone.

**Phillies Save Money.** The Phillies, through the sale or release of their 1914 stars and youngsters, will affect a gross saving of \$30,000. Through trades they have acquired Milton Stock, a third baseman, Al Demaree, pitcher, and a catcher named Adams. The total salaries for these men will not go over \$10,000, make the net saving about \$19,000.

The Braves in the only team in either league that will operate in 1915 on a salary schedule higher than that of 1914. The Boston players deserved a boost for their 1914 showing—and Owner Griffith gave it to them. Salary boosts will add about \$20,000 to the payroll.

The Chicago White Sox expect to operate at a cost of about \$15,000 less than they did in 1914. "Kid" Gleason, coach of the club, "Fing" Rodd, has gone back to the minors and Berger, Slight and Blackburn, have been let out. The White Sox payroll slumps about \$15,000 thereby.

The Brooklyn Dodgers released Ed Beaubach, who got about \$3,000 during 1914. The Dodgers are figuring on letting two or three other veterans loose, in addition to a bunch of youngsters. The total Dodgers' saving ought to be around \$15,000.

**Cost Tiger Lots.** The Detroit Tigers will not let any of their high-priced men go, but they will operate with a few men as possible. Against an average between twenty-five and thirty men last year, the Tigers will operate in 1915 with about twenty-two. That means a saving of from \$7,000 to \$10,000.

The St. Louis plan is not one or two of the fading stars, but they will let out a lot of their surplus youngsters. Kopschy and his high salary having gone out to the Fed's. The Pirates, all in all, ought to save about \$15,000 at the least. Leo Magee, with a salary of \$7,200, is being released. "Fog" Ferrit, who got about \$4,000, has departed from the Cardinals. That means a saving of \$11,200. Of course, several of the Cardinals will get boosts in pay because of their great work in 1914, but the boosts won't average more than \$2,000 each. Therefore, the net saving of the Cardinals will be around \$13,000.

**Giants Save a Little.** The Giants' payroll will be less than it was in 1914. The Giants acquired Lobert, who was getting about \$5,000. They got rid of Demaree, Stock and Adams, whose total contracts called for about \$16,000. That means a net saving of \$11,000. If Starbuck doesn't come back, it means a saving of about \$7,000 more.

The Senators turned "Germany" Rehder adrift. That saves about \$3,000. The Cincinnati Reds will reduce their payroll by about \$20,000 through sales, trades, releases and dismissals, even though they have acquired Charlie Doolin and his \$3,000 salary, and Ivy Wingo, with a salary of about \$1,000.

The Cubs are planning to turn loose a half dozen veterans and at least nine youngsters. They expect to operate with twenty-one men during 1915. If they do, that means a saving of at least \$15,000.

The few changes that will be made in the salary schedule of the Browns will be toward reductions.

The Yankees will operate at a lower cost than in 1914 because they won't have Frank Chance and his \$12,000 salary; to boot. Some of the Yankee players have been given boosts in their 1915 salaries, but this will be offset by the lowering off of at least six or seven surplus players.

**Feed Schedule Last.** The Federal league intends to have the last word in this year's wage war. Its schedule until the National and American leagues have made public their list of figures. Insofar as possible, the Federals will endeavor to avoid conflicts.

**Courtney Disfills Terms.** Shortstop Courtney Disfills returned his signed contract to Manager Walter Meade the other day without so much as a murmur over Wall's salary action.

### Quartet Whose Release Saves the Athletics \$25,000



(From left to right) Eddie Plank, Jack Coombs and Eddie Collins, and (below) "Chief" Bender. The Braves of Boston are the only team in either of the two

### WILL BULK BEAT J. JOHNSON?

Yes, Declare Willard Men, Who Declare Jack's Defense Is Useless Before Weight.

### NOT GOOD AT BODY MIXING

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Measuring a fighter's chances for success by a comparison of pounds and ounces is not a very satisfactory proceeding as a general thing, especially when the men being weighed are in the heavyweight class. But that is what Jess Willard's backers are doing.

"Willard now weighs 235 pounds and plans to get down to 230 before stepping into the ring with Johnson," reads a dispatch from the big white hope's training quarters. It seems that, besides growing another inch taller, Willard has packed on a lot of weight since he last stalked across the canvas. As his trainer, and a colorist named Adams, who has the best asset in the increase in weight of his opponent, provided it is good firm flesh.

Nere bulk as a rule does not offer a serious handicap to a scientific boxer, but it may in Johnson's case. The big black is not a nimble dancer who avoids his opponent's blows by fitting here and there about the ring. Johnson's defensive tactics consist of holding his opponent's arms to the chest, and the use of force to prevent his opponent from getting any length of time successfully requires superior strength, and naturally the heavier and stronger his opponent the happier it is for Johnson.

**Jim Johnson Thwarted Jack.** This was shown in his bout with Battling Jim Johnson, who knows less of scientific boxing than the cruelest white hope. In point of skill there is an immeasurable gulf between the two Johnsons, but in size and strength Battling Jim is at least the equal of the champion. And Battling Jim's great bulk enabled him to get a draw. According to several ring-side critics, he could have won had he shown the least intelligence.

That Willard's great height may render the Johnson uppercut less harmful is another point worth considering. This advantage might be offset by the fact that his long drawn-out form leaves a larger target for body blows. But Johnson is not a "body fighter." He seldom lands on a point below the chin. It is said that this is because he fears to give the referee an excuse to call a foul on him. However, this is rather an unsatisfactory and far-fetched explanation.

More than likely the real reason is that longings for the body leaves his own law. Johnson, and Johnson hates to be hit. Body fighting is simply not his style, and it will be surprising to see him change his methods at this late date.

### Navy Lads Plan for Spring Boat Races

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 12.—The Naval Academy oarsmen are looking forward to the best schedule of races this spring, which has been offered for many years. All of the local races will take place on three consecutive Saturdays, but at least three crews of midshipmen, first and second class, and a fourth-class eight, will go to Philadelphia in May to take part in the Schuylkill regatta, coach Richard Olmsted, who has handled equitation at the Naval academy for more than a dozen years, has coached Annapolis and now has his charges at work in the gymnasium. They will get on the water as soon as the weather permits.

An Saturday, April 7, the midshipmen will row against first, second and freshman crews of Princeton. They may send a crew to Princeton last year, but this will be the first time the New Jersey varsity has sent members to compete here. On April 24, Harvard will have its first crew at Annapolis, while the Annapolis crew of Washington and Baltimore City college will have eight to oppose the navy second crew and fourth-class eight. The season of local races will close on the following Saturday, May 1, with the crews from the University of Pennsylvania, consisting against corresponding crews of the naval academy.

### Hugh Jennings Says that New Princeton Coach Has the Kick

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Hugh Jennings on John Willard, the new Princeton coach, and foot ball coaching in general.

"I've never met Willard, but I have heard a lot about him, and I guess he has got the right sort of stuff. I heard at first that Willard had never played foot ball, but I understand that he has; that he has played in 'prep' school and on scrub teams at college. Foot ball and base ball are alike in some ways. I don't think a man could teach foot ball very well if he had never played the game at all, but I doubt if it is necessary for him to have played on a college varsity team. If he has the right kind of brains in his head and is a good leader, he ought to do well. Where a lot of these colleges make a mistake, it strikes me, is in choosing men without fitting up their mental ability. They look for a star who played last season or fifteen years ago, perhaps, and think just because he could get over the ground or could throw all his opponents out of the way, he ought to be a good coach. A base ball manager and a foot ball coach have got to know the game from top to bottom and must have the knack of inspiring that knowledge in others, and in the bargain, must understand a whole lot about human nature. And he has got to have a sort of personality that will convince the boys that he knows what he is doing and talking about. You can't get away from that. Willard is that type, I hear, and if that is so, he certainly ought to make things go at Princeton. The college boys, however, have got to let him alone. They're a big trouble with lots of these foot ball systems. The boys never give a coach a show to make good. If he can produce a winning team he is all right; if not, he's down and out. A coach, if he is the right sort, should get a good lengthy contract with the college he is going to coach. He will have to make good. If Willard sticks to his job Princeton ought to get out of its bad rut. That is, if Willard is the type they say he is."

### Havana and Frisco Golf Interest Now

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—Southern golf has reached the height of its season, and there are thousands of players from all parts of the country taking a try at the various links. Of course, Frisco with its four courses, is one of the chief centers, and there are events enough scheduled for that North Carolina resort to keep things humming for the next few weeks.

The annual invitation tournament of the Country Club of Havana, which was founded largely through the efforts of Frederick B. Chase of Englewood, will be held February 16 to 18. This carries with it the Cuban championship, at present held by Walter J. Travis, and as the metropolitan holder of the national and metropolitan titles is now in Florida, it is to be assumed he will cross over to Cuba for the Havana tournament.

As at present arranged the calendar is for the maritimer golfer, for there is practically no connection between the northern and southern seasons. California also has some to life stronger than ever and has arranged for getting events clear on through the summer.

The men's amateur championship in connection with the Panama-Pacific exposition will begin on April 15 over the links of the San Francisco Golf and Country club, and will last six days. Dates for this and the other tournaments were announced the other day. The interclub championship, 180 men on a team, will begin April 25, while the open tournament at twenty-seven holes medal play, is slated for May 1 and 2 at Annapolis. On May 3 the women's championship will begin over the same course.

### EDDIE RICKENBACHER JOINS MAXWELL TEAM

With but a few days remaining before the practice work that will precede the Vanderbilt cup race on the exposition course, a new twist was given the probabilities by the announcement that Eddie Rickenbacher had made a change of base, leaving the Ponceon camp in Los Angeles to join the Maxwell team which he established headquarters at that point.

Rickenbacher arrived in San Francisco Tuesday, after an exchange of telegrams with Contest Manager Paul Hale Brushy of the Maxwell team. Terms were readily agreed upon and a formal agreement signed on Wednesday.

**Manda Released.** Victor Manda has been released by the Chicago Athletics to the Oakland club of the Pacific league.

### The Hypodermic Needle

By F. S. HUSTON

**THE MODERN CHAMPION.** They say—his name is Freddie Welsh. His name is all carved in He looks as if a ton of bricks had landed on his chin. He's finished up a battle. And as he spoke, "Oh, my poor head, and stepping from the bloody ring. He was an awful sight."

But 'twas a no-decision bout. One of those modern feuds. And as he spoke, "Oh, my poor head, 'But oh, you gate receipts."

**THE FARTHER THE BETTER.** Nate Lewis, Chicago fight manager, will take fifteen fighters to Cuba. If Nate wants to take a hit with us he should take 'em to Cape Town.

Regarding these fight bills coming up before various state legislatures, we believe a more fitting term would be fight Williams instead of fight bill.

The twilight sleep may be the greatest of modern scientific discoveries, but we won't believe it until it is demonstrated effective with these base ball magistrates.

**How Did He Escape?** Harry Sinclair, latest Federal league angel, is said to have made \$10,000,000 in the oil business. John D., John D., where art thou?

A month is passed upon its way, And despite the flowing year, Our wondrous Walter Johnson, Has failed to j ump a sin.

We are against the agitation in Nebraska to stop the sale of narcotic drugs. For without them what would those Lincoln sport writers do?

Far be it from us to knock, but the Feds have lost their kick. Sinclair is only worth \$10,000,000.

If Freddie Welsh isn't careful he will get a match with somebody he can lick one of these days.

Not bringing up the lurid past, but for some reason or other the same fragrant scent is attached to the Willard-Johnson affair as to the Gotch-Hackenschmidt thing a few years ago.

**You say for black Jack Johnson** The sailing will be fair, But Jack may lose at Jones, By failing to get there.

We wish to congratulate the High School Register. We note it has twelve editors and three reporters.

We find that the announcement of the National league schedule created about as much interest as did the announcement of the American league schedule.

Cincinnati will sell Marston to the Yanks for \$10,000. How much are we offered for the court house?

**Apropos E. Collins.** I'd like to give some money. For that Fritz Meisel has, That's Handed, master Brownie, Who quoth quoth merrily.

But through his wisdom we can't see. That he should spend such real money. Who do you think he thinks he is, A guy like Charles Comiskey?

On the eve of the Johnson-Willard match will be a twenty-round box between Ad Wolcott and Gene Delmont. Which is another reason we are glad we don't live in Juarez.

We take it, in view of Leslie's jump to the Feds, Boston has given up trying to uplift Mankin.

Judge Landis is to be criticised for holding off his base ball decision so long. Probably the judge does not realize how vitally concerned is the public with his decision.

In nine more weeks base ball will begin again. That is, perhaps it will begin again.

### Amateur Can't Pawn Prizes He Wins, Says A. A. U. Regulation

NEW YORK, Feb. 12.—The charges against Platt Adams, if they served no other purpose, disclosed to the athletic set the fact that there is a rule on the books of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States that prohibits a winner of a prize in an amateur contest from trading it back for something more useful. In using the term "more useful" in this instance we do not mean money, but something in the prize line to which the successful athlete takes a fancy.

The Adams case out of the way, it is understood how that any amateur athlete trading his prizes, even though he may take articles regarded as prizes in return, is in danger of losing his amateur standing. If this rule is interpreted correctly, there are few amateurs in the United States, or in any other country for that matter.

The list of prizes won by the average club champion contains generally from a dozen to fifty watches. Harry Hillman won fifty; Billy Frank, the hike rider, fifty-five; A. O. Lake has not less than thirty; and Hannes Kolehmainen must have three dozen. Now what do these fellows want with any such number of "tickers"? Three at the most is all that any man needs, and according to the American Athletic union rules, the rest must lie in idleness as long as the amateur retains his amateur standing.

The natural instinct of the champion who has fifty watches in his kick is to trade some of them off for articles that he fancies more than four dozen watches. It's violating no confidence to state, this practice has been common, and also to add that the athletes who have swapped their stuff in have had no intention of breaking the amateur rules, nor know that they were doing so.

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