

FIVE YEARS FOR WILLARD

Champion Says He Will Retire at the End of This Period if Undefeated.

HE EXPECTS TO FIGHT OFTEN

By RINGSIDE. NEW YORK, April 24.—Jess Willard, the new plutocrat of the heavyweights, expects to be world's champion for five years and then retire undefeated.

Though undisputed champion, Willard lacks the fighting instinct. He is not like the proverbial pugilist, who would "rather fight than eat." Jess admits this. But as titleholder he desires to elevate himself as the most popular fighter to hold a championship, and for that reason alone Willard wants to fight often, so as to endear himself to the boxing fraternity.

It has been said by Willard's many sponsors that the newly crowned king of the heavyweight element will not participate in a ring battle for at least a year. But already the captious public is hankering to see Willard in action as a champion, and he must accede to public demand or suffer his popularity to wane.

Best of White Fighters. And it would be well for Jess to hearken to the call of the ring after a year or two of passiveness. At present there is no white heavyweight that can cope with Willard. The dusky heavies are not given consideration, as the new champion is unwary in his resolve not to give a negro a chance at his title.

But if Willard acquiesces in the request of his managers and does not fight until a year or more hence, he may regret it, for then the budding heavyweights will have added experience of a year and might be able to put up a front that the rusty Willard would have trouble in beating down.

So it behooves Willard to curtail his theatrical bookings about midsummer and start training for a stage in defense of his coveted title.

Willard's uncollected declaration that he will hold the heavy weight division for five years is probably actuated by events at Havana three weeks ago, when he relieved Johnson of his title. And we here divulge an interesting fact.

Johnson was at least 41 years of age when he fell before Willard's onslaught. The former champion made this admission himself, and said it in such a manner as to indicate that he was probably two or three years older.

Johnson's wife said she knew her husband to be at least 39. And Johnson's nature makes it possible that he would withhold anything of an important character from even his wife.

The record books showed Johnson to be 37 years, 5 days, when he lost his championship. Bob Fitzsimmons also had passed his thirty-seventh birthday five days when he relinquished his laurels to Jeffries. So if Johnson really is beyond the 40-year mark, he beat Fitz's longevity record for holding the championship by several years.

Willard Thirty-Three. Another interesting sidelight is that Willard is actually 33 years old, not 37, as claimed for him. Willard has been strangely mute on the question of his age. Now if Willard is really 33 years old, we can readily understand why he doesn't expect to remain in the game for more than five years. Even the great Fitz witted at 37, and Willard has at least four years of hard fighting ahead of him to equal the freckled beauty's record.

The Willard syndicate has made it known that before Jess next partakes in a ring battle with his championship at stake, his palm will have to be crossed with \$25,000, as the guaranteed sum for his services. If they intend to adhere to this plan it will probably be two years before Willard will be called on to defend his title. But we believe that when the stage demands that Willard's champion service peters out, those in control of his fate will compromise for a much decreased amount.

Meanwhile, Willard is gathering in his just rewards, more power to him; but he should not overlook the supporting public when it gets ready to ask him to become active and show his real worth as a champion.

Gibbons Awails McFarland. Mike Gibbons is still waiting for Packey McFarland to come out of his seclusion and clinch the match the stock rousers champion broached several weeks ago.

Michael has posted a forfeit of \$500 for weight and appearance, but Packey is yet to be heard from. Gibbons has agreed to do 10 rounds at 3 o'clock, which is at present an extremely low poundage for the St. Paul Shroud, but Mike wants to show the public that he does not fear the wizardry of McFarland.

PRETTY SOON IT WILL BE "THIRTY" FOR OLD DUCKY. Ducky Holmes, manager of the Butte club last season, has surely hit the toboggan. Ducky's services as a manager in the minors was not in demand and now he is playing the small towns in the semi-pro and independent class. He will manage the Garfield (Utah) independent team the coming season. A Utah team will play one or two games a week.

M'INNIS HAS BROTHER WHO WOULD BE FEDERAL. Albert McInnis, brother of the famous stuff of the Athletics, has aspirations to become a big fellow in base ball. The youngster is already in the minors with the Richmond club and trying to connect with some club of the Federal league.

CARTER LAKE SHOOTERS START OFF YEAR TODAY. Carter lake trapshooters are due to start the season today. Last Sunday was announced as the inaugural day, but the shooters failed to appear in large numbers, so the event was delayed until today.

SAND LOT SEASON OPENS

Eight Leagues Begin the Sunday Play that is to be Kept Up Until Next September.

MORE TEAMS COMING TODAY

By FRANK QUIGLEY. Eight amateur local base ball leagues commenced the season that will terminate about September 1. Harmony reigned during all the games and the losers took their dose of defeat like real men.

Another league will be added today when the Southern league will make its debut. About twelve other independent teams are figuring relative to the advisability of organizing two more leagues. If they organize there will be some fifteen leagues playing Saturdays and Sundays in and about Omaha.

The American league at its recent meeting decided to drop the Omaha Printing company team and reinstate the West Leavenworth Street Merchants. The proposition offered by the association was to do this or keep the Omaha Printing company and have a nine-team league, but the majority were not in favor of the latter.

Stors and Luxus Today. Today the Stors, the local semi-pro team, will open the season by playing with the Luxus. Neither team has had much practice to date, but as they are old heads at the business a battle royal for supremacy is anticipated.

Next Wednesday night at the council chamber the recently organized Omaha Outdoor Sports club will hold a joint meeting with the Omaha Amateur Base Ball association to talk over matters pertaining to outdoor sports. The officials of the club—Bill Blossie, treasurer; Hillard Morearty, secretary; and Frank Quigley, president—have been busy getting things arranged for the meetings. They will endeavor to have a speaker for every different line of outdoor sport, such as base ball, foot ball, golf, tennis, etc.

Letters have been sent to the different base ball managers and other leaders inviting them and their co-workers to be present. Persons interested in outdoor sports are invited to attend this meeting. One of the important matters that will be brought up will be the Sunday base ball question. May 4 the citizens of Omaha will decide whether or not the base ballists in this city can play ball on Sunday.

William Rourke and Hanlon, presidents of the Omaha and Sioux City base ball clubs, respectively, will be present. By next Sunday the Luxus ball park at Twenty-fourth and Vinton streets will be ready for use. The grandstand and bleachers will be completed and the grounds will be in perfect condition. If the Ancient Order of United Workmen combination lands the diamond at Diets park, the Greater Omaha league will be well supplied with parks. The latter is still a little doubtful. If the Ancient Order of United Workmen succeed there will be four parks to be utilized by the Greater Omaha league, namely, Chris Lyok park, Luxus park, Diets park and Fort Omaha.

Tips from the Diamonds. Edward Walasek is the new manager of the Masas. On first base Arthur Moran is playing with the Murphy Did It.

Sam Feitman, outfielder of the Stors, has been released by Manager Bradford. For games with the Joe Smiths call Al Storn at Douglas 561 or Council Bluffs 1-A.

Shulivan of the Armoura will endeavor to land with the State leaguers of Grand Island. The Brown Park Pharmacy team will be known as the Brown Park Merchants.

That game booked between the Luxus and the Greater Omaha league failed to materialize.

William Ryan will jump back into the harness today and hold down first base for the Armoura.

Although the Black Kats grabbed six runs in the initial game, the Alamitos beat them by a 7-6 score.

The Brandoles of the Mercantile league will lay off today, unless they secure an out of town battle.

On first base of the winning games with the South Omaha Wanderers call South 360 and Squawka for M. L. Hunter.

In the very immediate future the Little League of town teams will start out on their tour of Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa.

Last Sunday the Joe Smiths put a crimp in the aspirations of the South Omaha Wanderers by trimming them, 10 to 3.

George Gavin, the leader of the Electric Light team, says his boys will be to shine stronger or they will be buried in the cellar.

The Diets club is willing to rent its diamond, but they are a trifle high with the price. Anyway, the Ancient Order of United Workmen will probably use it today.

Some fast Class A team could probably nail Ralph Tuttle. He used to perform with the Armoura. He is a good second base artist and an excellent hitter.

Harry Welch will be back in the game today. His hitting ability has always and will in all probability continue to play a conspicuous part in the battles staged by the Stors.

Herewith the Joe Smith's lineup: Swinson, first; Collins, second; Collins, short; Phillips, third; Rice, left; Boyne, center; Guinness, right; Waterman, Hanson, pitchers; Wagner, catcher.

Four teams have changed their names in the booster league, namely, Monmouth Parks, Imperial, Miller Parks and Avery Frisco. They will henceforth be known as Tradesmen, Merchants Hotel, Central Parks and Auto Row.

Managers after your games are over today please be so kind as to notify Frank Quigley the score. You can catch him at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday he is busy or you are out, consequently copies of valuable time is wasted.

Gus Williams Cured Of Whiffing Habit. "Gus Williams won't strike out as often this season as he did last. If I were a betting man I'd lay a wager to that effect." So says Branch Rickey, boss of the St. Louis Browns. He's been coaching Gus all spring to break him of the strikeout habit. Last year Williams was the champion strikeout of the world. He whiffed 121 times.

BELLEVUE IS SEEKING AN ALL-YEAR ATHLETIC COACH. Prof. Edwin L. Pule of the department of education is touring the state again this week, speaking at high schools. He delivered addresses at Oakdale, Stanton, West Point, Wisner, Norfolk and Madison. This week he is to speak at the Schuyler and Central City high schools, besides other high schools with whom dates have not yet been agreed upon. Prof. Pule is booked to deliver addresses before high schools for six weeks ahead. President W. E. Nichol and the teachers' committee of the board of trustees are now at work attempting to secure a suitable athletic coach for next year. Since the new gymnasium will be completed by next September it has been decided to hire an all-year coach.

What Willard Fought For. Family as Well as Title



Jess Willard fought for his wife and four kiddies just as much as for the title when he met Jack Johnson and won the world heavyweight championship from him in Havana, Cuba. The Kansas cowpuncher's first thought after knocking the negro out was for his wife, and he sent her a cable immediately. Ever since then they have been bombarding each other with telegrams because now the family bankroll is fat. Promoters of the bout say Willard transferred the entire amount of the check he received as his end of the purse for the title bout to his wife, and that the proceeds went to make a final payment on the Willard home in Los Angeles.

Beside Mrs. Willard there are four little Willards, young Jess being 16 months old. "No, sir, he'll never be a fighter when he grows up. He'll be a farmer," said the champion in telling of his ambition for his son.

"My marriage was a real romance," said Willard. "I knew Hattie Evans all my life and worked on her father's ranch in Kansas for a while. We were married in 1907."

Willard is a great home body and suffers greatly from loneliness and homesickness when away from his family. His manager asserts that the only fear he had was that the big white hoo would get homesick before the bout took place and thus not be at his best against the negro.

Mrs. Willard's letter to Jess at Havana, telling him that an International News Service photographer had just taken a picture of her and the children was received by the white hope the night he defeated Johnson.

"That photographer must have had a hunch I was going to win," said Willard, in commenting on the matter in New York. "Otherwise he would never have taken that picture. It only goes with a champion."

Omaha Lads to Play on Teams in State Circuit This Year

Before the end of the week practice in the Nebraska State league will be in full swing in each of the eight cities. Beatrice is already at work, with Manager Johnny Fillman instructing a squad of nearly twenty athletes. Grand Island starts Monday and the other clubs will start shortly after.

Quite a number of Omaha lads will be found playing in the state loop this year. Clink Claire is manager of Grand Island and Bert Shaner is also boss of a club. Frank Woodruff, Horace Ericson, Matt McGrath, Pete Lyck, Frank Synck, Eddie Roben, Cox, Russell Hoyt, Jake Kranger, Jack Lacey, Eddie Duress and several others are lined up with state teams.

American League Averages

Table with columns for Club, P.O., A.B., R.H., Pct. and other statistics for American League teams.

National League Averages

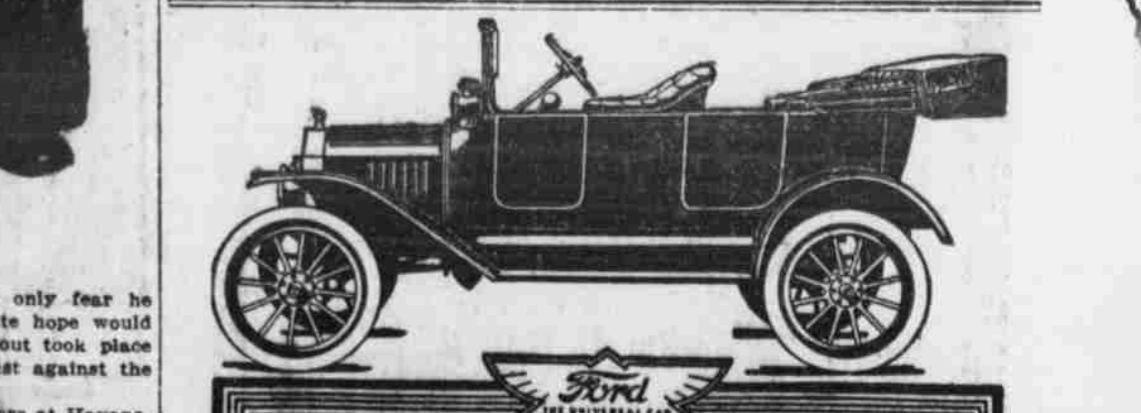
Table with columns for Club, P.O., A.B., R.H., Pct. and other statistics for National League teams.

Individual Batting

Table with columns for Player, G.A.B., R.H., S.B., Pct. and other statistics for individual players.

The Hypodermic Needle

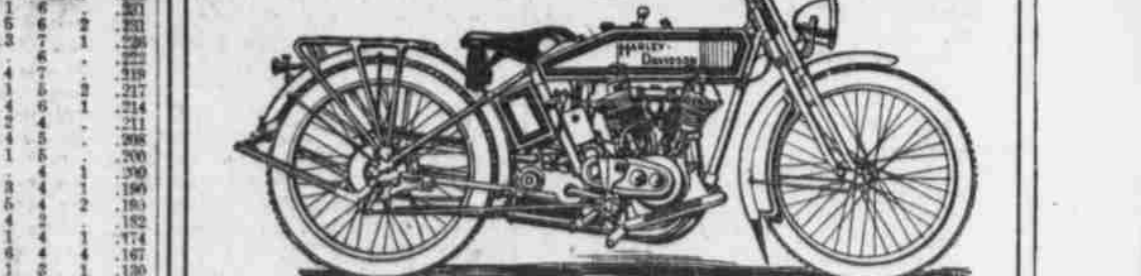
By F. R. HURTER. In view of the fact that sundry newspapers about our land are publishing sundry biographies of the life of Jess Willard, we wish to disabuse the public regarding these heinous tales and therefore do herewith relate the original, authoritative and authentic life story of the great pugilist. CHAPTER I. Jess Willard was born in the last hall room on the third floor back. If he is not over 30 years of age he is less than 30 years of age. CHAPTER II. As for his early education, he attended schools, if he didn't attend school and if he didn't get his lessons, he did get his lessons. CHAPTER III. Jess Willard learned to fight by fighting. This is one of the remarkable instances in his career, as most champions learn to fight by taking tango lessons. He was discovered by Theodore Roosevelt, Kaiser Wilhelm and Napoleon Bonaparte. CHAPTER IV. Jess was confident of the result of the fight at Havana. He knew that if he did win he wouldn't lose. CHAPTER V. Jess is either a married man or he is single. CHAPTER VI. Jess intends to make a lot of money now playing the theaters, providing the people stand for it. CHAPTER VII. He will defend his title against anybody, providing the purse offered is not less than ten million. He would just as soon fight Kid Williams, Johnny Kilbane, Freddie Welsh or any other pug. CHAPTER VIII. Jess intends eventually to either retire to a farm or live the rest of his life in the city. CHAPTER IX. He will either retire from the ring game with his title or he will lose it to some blacksmith before retiring. In order to provide readers of the Needle with exclusive predictions regarding sports of 1915 we have commissioned our staff of experts to write a series of articles explaining whether or not sports will prosper this year. These articles are by the greatest authorities in the world and can be depended upon as accurate. GOLF. BY OMAR KHAYYAM. The golf season will be the greatest in the history of Omaha. Extensive realism have been made at the nineteenth hole in each course in the city. They will be in good condition to stand the heaviest possible rush. Fresh greens have been put in and if a man misses a putt at the nineteenth hole it will be his own fault. As it is against the rule to stymie an opponent at the nineteenth hole some thrilling matches should be held. Trap Shooting. BY THE KAISER. Trap shooting should enjoy its greatest year this year. Europe will far surpass America and Mexico in this sport this year. We expect many more shooters, more shooting and more breaks than ever. Wrestling. BY CORKSCREW CURELY. Wrestling will reach its zenith before the passing of 1915. Due to the activity of the police department, a large number of con men, safe blowers and second story workers have entered this profession, and this unusual array of talent assures a most successful season. Auto Racing. BY THE GRAVE-DIGGER. That the automobile game will prosper is evidenced by the fact that all doctors and undertakers are making extensive preparations for an unusual rush of business. Extra ambulances have been ordered and I have been commissioned to put on an extra force of men. Tennis. BY THE HABERDASHER. The latest spring styles and the advance styles for summer prove that tennis will be played freely. Flannels will be worn extensively and the new silk shirts are just the thing for tennis. Base Ball. BY EVERYBODY. A big boom is expected in base ball and some exciting times should occur in the Western league all eight teams expect to win the pennant. All pitchers will leave no-hit games with regularity, all batters will hit 300, nobody will steal less than 100 bases and no fielding errors will be committed. If the Feds do not last the season they will blow up. Ben Johnson will make his frequent declarations that the Feds don't exist. Peanut vendors will be in unusual numbers this year to add to the pleasure of the pastime and the magnates will make lots of money if crowds attend the games.



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A HOME RUN!

Well, I Should Smile! Four of Them in One Inning!



THE HARLEY-DAVIDSON

1st and 2d in International 300-mile race at Venice, California, April 11, 1915, against thirty-seven starters. Won one hour race at Bakersfield, California, April 11, 1915. Won Individual Trophy in Birmingham-Atlanta, Georgia, Endurance Run, April 15, 1915. Won 1st, 2d, 4th and 5th in 150-mile race at Oklahoma City April 20, 1915. If Pa Rourke's bunch can show this speed they have the rag nailed to the pole already.

VICTOR H. ROOS

"The Motorcycle Man" 2703 Leavenworth St. Omaha, Nebraska.

MESSAGE

OMAHA NEAL INSTITUTE, 1502 South Tenth Street, Omaha, Neb. I heard you got two of my friends yesterday. That's all right, I have some more that you won't get. (Signed) JOHN BARLEYCORN.