

TIME HAS COME TO SING PRAISES OF WALT HOLKE

Giant First Sacker Proves That Chase, Daubert, Merkle Et Al., Have Nothing on Him at Initial Sack.

By JACK VEIOCK. New York, Sept. 15.—With due respect to Hal Chase, Jack Daubert, Fred Merkle, Fritz Luder and any other first sacker who has ever stood out in the front rank of National league stars, it's about time to doff the lid to Walter Holke, guardian of the initial sacker for John J. McGraw.

This Holke person is the junior of National league first basemen, but as an all-around and useful player he has something of an edge on the rest of the initial bagmen in his circuit, and if you have any doubts on the question the records will set them at ease.

Last fall, when Holke stuck his toes into the capacious shoes left behind by Fred Merkle and took the job of holding down the first stop for the Giants, he shouldered a big task. It was up to him to fill a vacancy that few youngsters are capable of filling at first call, but he buckled into it with a will and he still there.

When the batting averages for 1916 were published Holke's name led the list. He wasn't the league's champion batsman, because he had taken part in but thirty-five games, but he was up there, just the same, and when the final batting averages for 1917 are published the name of this same youngster will in all probability be found leading that of any other first basemen in the mother circuit, for he has formed a habit of slugging the ball about the lot, and the best part of it is that his hits are, for the most part, very timely.

Has Ten-Point Margin. Recent batting averages showed Holke hitting around .280. That was better than any of the other National league first basemen could boast of.

Ranking Holke with Hal Chase as a fielder is out of the question. They don't make first basemen these days with the gift of fielding that Chase possesses, or at least there are none extant. But Holke's all-around ability entitles him to a lot of consideration as the most useful first sacker in the National league, for he is hitting better than any of his rivals and his fielding has improved wonderfully.

The average base ball fan in the National league will tell you Holke is a clumsy fielder. He does look awkward out there at times, but he does take in the high, wide and indifferent throws and he makes the stops. Beauty doesn't count in fielding when compared with results, and Holke has been getting results for the Giants.

You've simply got to hand it to him. Weary Willie Stands Aghast. The genial tourist of the variety who composes Coxey's famous army is an adept at hooping it when there is a famine in side-country Pullmans. He can shamble across country about as niftily as the next one, you'll admit, but what he doesn't know about walking would fill a young library.

Any of the wafery who may doubt this statement will do well to get into communication with one George Goulding of Canada, who knows more about the art of heel-and-toe locomotion than anybody else in the world.

At the recent Amateur Athletic union championships in St. Louis this Goulding person opened the eyes of a big crowd by knocking the props from beneath the existing records for the three-mile walk.

The world's record holder and Olympic champion shattered George D. Braid's twenty-four-year record of 22:8 3-5 over the three-mile route, walking the distance in 21:15-1.5, which was putting considerable crimp in a mark that had stood for so many seasons. And remember, Goulding is no youngster, for he has been an exponent of the art of walking for more than ten years and is still the best of the bunch.

National Soccer Series Will Start October 21

Entries for the annual blue ribbon association foot ball competition, the national cup series held under auspices of the United States Foot Ball association, will close October 6. The trophy is held by the Fall River, Mass., Rovers, who beat Bethlehem Steel company team in the final last year. The series will include the best teams of the entire country. Each state will have charge of the matches in its territory. The preliminary round is set for October 21, the first round November 18, second round December 23, third round February 10, fourth round March 3, semi-finals March 31 and finals April 21. In each round the losing teams drop out and the winners clash in subsequent rounds until only two remain.

FULTON AT LAST EARNS RIGHT TO MEET CHAMPION

Victory Over Carl Morris Makes Nebraska Lad Logical Contender for Crown Now Worn by Willard.

By RINGSIDE. Chicago, Sept. 15.—The Fulton-Morris fight is over. The big fellows got together at Canton, O., on Labor day, and in the sixth round Morris was disqualified by Referee Matt Hinkel for repeatedly butting Fulton with his head.

Technically, Fulton was the winner over the big man from Oklahoma, and because of the technical victory he is today the logical man to meet Jess Willard for a crack at the heavyweight championship.

After the fight at Canton, Willard wired that he would meet Fulton if the proper sized purse was offered, and, if not, it is a question as to how long a time will pass before there will be another battle for the heavyweight crown.

The fight of heavyweight title aspirants is so small that it can be counted on the fingers of one hand, and one might not have to count five. Aside from Fulton and Morris there are Frank Moran, Jim Coffey and Gunboat Smith. But as Morris has been counted out technically he is no longer considered, or, at least, his claims will get but little attention.

Consensus of opinion which points to Fulton as the top-notch of the crowd lays but little stress on his chances against the giant cowboy.

Can't Make Fight. Big as he is, and long as he has been out of the ring, Willard still ranks head and shoulders above every heavyweight in the business. Some critics express doubts as to Willard's ability to get into condition again for a grueling fight. But can Fulton make a grueling fight against Willard?

This question has caused a majority of the boxing fans throughout the country to nurse the hunch that he can not, for, though he won from Morris, he wanted to leave the ring even before Morris was disqualified, and if a man of Morris' size, with little or no ability to put up a real fight, can cause Fulton to lose heart, what would the giant Willard be able to do?

It is said by those favoring Fulton that Willard has never beaten anyone but a worn-out champion—Jack Johnson. Yet Johnson was clever, even in his dotage, and unless Willard has been able to deal out terrific punishment and through sheer strength break down the negro's guard, he might have been held off by the former champion.

There is no reason for underestimating Jess Willard, even though he has been idle for several years. Recent statements from men who are capable of sizing up a fighting machine indicate that Willard is not in the poor condition that many would have us believe.

Praise for Leonard. Johnny Tillman, the Minnesota lightweight, has nothing but praise for Benny Leonard, the king of the lightweight domain. Johnny recently passed through Chicago, and while here he took time to express his opinion of the little Gothamite.

"I've boxed Leonard twice," said Tillman, "and have a pretty good idea of what he's got. My, my, but that boy's a regular fighter!"

"I've boxed all of them and just got through a short time back with Charley White and Johnny Griffiths. But I must say that Leonard is the best finisher I ever saw. When he hits you he takes it all out of you and I never have seen a man so fast in following up an advantage. He is knocking me on the chin with a short left that didn't travel six inches, I'll swear to it. I went down, you can bet."

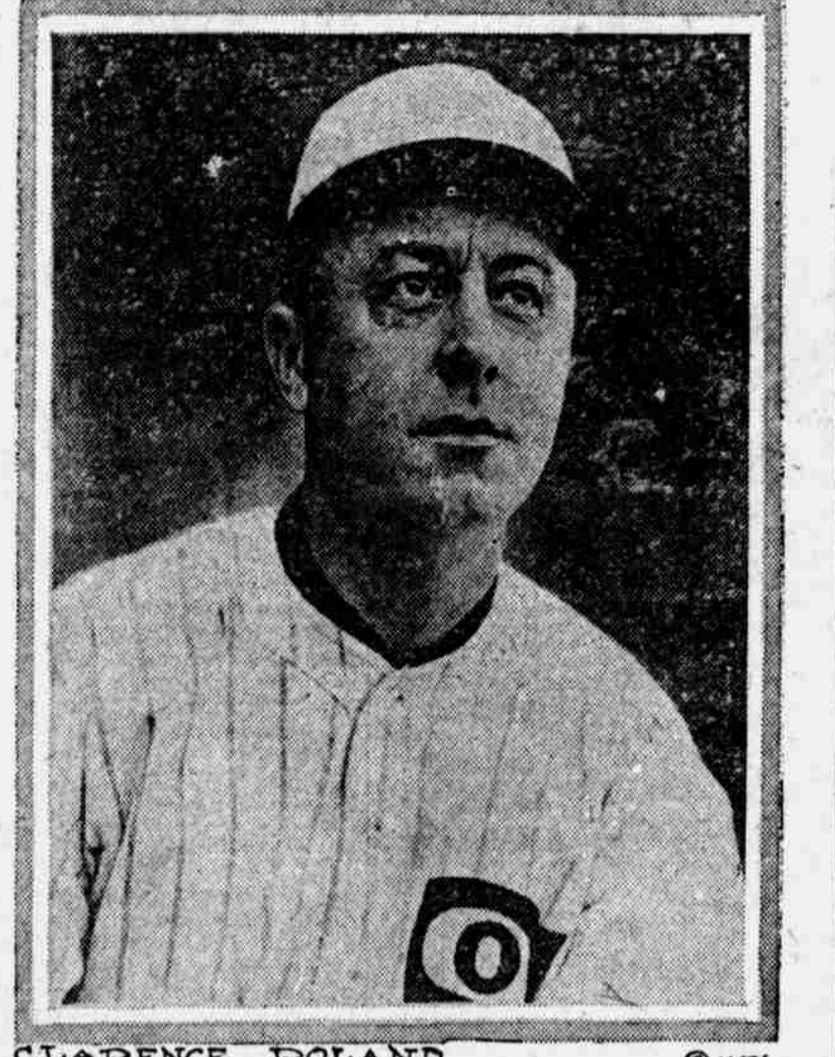
"It so happened that it was near the end of a round, otherwise I don't know what would have come of it. I was pretty silly when I got to my feet."

New Heavyweight. Jake Kearns, the youthful Pacific coast promoter and manager, has a new heavyweight aspirant in Jack Dempsey. "Submarine Destroyer" Dempsey they call him on the coast, that according to Kearns he is more dangerous than the best of the subchasers.

Dempsey won his last ten fights via the knockout route. He has beaten Al Norton in one round and disposed of Willie Meehan and many others. He is not a mauling, bruising fighter, but rather a spectacular boxer who is clever with his mitts, shifty on his feet and can hit hard with both hands.

The best thing about Dempsey, however, is the fact that he is not clamoring for a battle with Jess Willard right away. He wants to take on Fulton, Moran or some of the would-be champions first. Then it will be time to talk of meeting Willard, says the coast brawler.

Chicago American Scruppy Manager Has Made Good



CLARENCE ROWLAND

Clarence Rowland, the scruppy manager of Chicago White Sox, has made good the predictions of Owner Charley Comiskey after three years' hard work. Most of the base ball critics said that Comiskey had made a big mistake in digging a manager out of the minors, but Rowland has more than made good by landing the pennant for the Sox. Rowland is a driving manager, but does not allow his players to ride the umpires or the players of the opposing team.

Gossip Heard Among the Amateur Warriors

Hits were conspicuous by their absence during the Armour-Melady row. Again Ralph Tuttle has driven into the line. He bobs up every once in a while.

Next Sunday Billiam Fox, Eckhardt and McAndrews will handle the indicator during the Armour-Melady fight.

Under the supervision of Abner Kalman the Greater Omaha league crawled under the wire without much trouble.

Next Sunday Andy Graves will hurt the first among the Meladys and Ed Stillmuck will work the second.

Well, the Polish Merchants succeeded in going through the Greater Omaha league season without winning a game.

Last Sunday the Central Furniture Store and the National Cash Registers had a swell spread at the Carter Lake club.

Many of the class B followers look for Peter McCoy, Murphy Did it pitcher, to hand the Armour a sleep talk.

Sam Feltman and J. Mirasay spanked the pill hard last Sunday. Each of them carried four hits against the Meladys.

Assistant Manager Delaware accompanied the Armour to Minneapolis, Minn. His compensation for his hard work this season.

On corner one Eddie Adams is playing remarkably well for the Holmer White Sox. He is a developer of sensational put outs.

Edward Mitnik spanked the pill hard for the Meladys against the Ramblers. He secured four hits out of five attempts.

WHITE SOX SET FOR BIG DRIVE IN EAST

Sabbath Clash With Laugh- Provoking Browns and Then East to Wind Up the Season.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 15.—Following tomorrow's game with the laugh-provoking Browns, the Chicago White Sox will depart for the east to wind up the regular season of 1917.

In the minds of the Rowland outfit an American league pennant and a world's championship emblem will be harvested and stored in the Sox home lot before the first heavy frost. Every member of the Sox family, from Owner Comiskey to the bat boy, is ready to admit that the white-hosed warriors are the greatest pastimers on earth. And what's more, they're going to prove it.

Philadelphia is to be the first stopping place for the Sox, who evidently are figuring on a soft getaway in the three-game series which is to start next Tuesday. But great expectations are not always realized. In their own yard the Mackmen may show their teeth when the Sox appear. It is remembered that during the last sojourn of the Chicagoans in Philly they were treated to a full-grown surprise. The Mackmen went right after the Sox and came very near making a grand slam.

From the Quaker City the Sox will move on to Boston, where considerable fireworks is supposed to be all set up and ready for the torch. The three games to be played between the pair of Sox will most likely prove to be the grand finale of the season.

Should the Rowlands hold a commanding lead at this time, or if the distance between the two teams has been up to the Red Sox to cut loose and perform their best. No matter what the relative standing, the Barrys will have to put up a real battle in order to make a better showing in the games they are to play during the season with the White Sox.

Three in Capital. When the gay doings in the Hub are over the Comiskey battalion will hit the trail for Washington. In the national capital the White Sox confidently expect to partake of whipped cream pie. If they haven't whipped matters before their arrival in Washington they expect to finish matters there by devouring the Senators for three games. And then on to New York for the windup of the season.

Should Clark Griffith's charges refuse to play dead at the command of the Sox, there will still be left the Yankees for the Comiskey men to upon upon. Like the Browns, the Yankees are especially loved by the White Sox. The Sox have patiently trained the Yank all season, the former "Wild Bills" having become so tame that the Sox have little trouble in making them take the leaps.

Credit to Clarence. The brilliant pastiming of the Sox this season will stand as a tribute to the guiding hand of Manager Clarence Rowland. Incidentally, the team's marvelous success crosses the many big league critics who have persisted in calling Rowland "a bush league pilot" ever since he took charge of the Sox in 1915.

The White Sox leader has demonstrated that a minor league manager as well as minor league players can make good in the big show. Before taking charge of the Chicago outfit Rowland was manager of the Peoria Three-E league team. As a minor league pilot he was particularly successful in developing young players, several of whom have since become big league stars.

Up to the time he signed his contract with Comiskey Rowland was totally without experience in big league pastiming. The average fan in a major league town has probably attended more major league games than Rowland had seen in his whole life.

Comiskey picked Rowland to lead the Sox and felt sure he had made the right choice. The results show what his hard to fool "old Roman" is in anything pertaining to base ball.

National League

Table with columns for TEAM BATTING, G. A. B. R. H. SB. SH. PO. A. E. Pct. and rows for Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Cleveland, St. Paul, Detroit, Washington, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Cleveland, St. Paul, Detroit, Washington.

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WOMEN PIN CRACKS START WEDNESDAY

Six-Team League to Get Under Way at Omaha Alleys, With an Elaborate Opening Program.

The Women's City Bowling league will start its third season next Wednesday evening at the Omaha alleys, Nineteenth and Harney streets.

As in the past, the league is comprised of six teams, including the best feminine bowlers in this region. The teams this season are the A. B. Sweet Shops, last year's champions; the Omaha Towel Supply, American State Bank, Herzberg Toggery, Marsh-Oakland Autos and a team, headed by Mrs. A. P. Thompson, which as yet has obtained no bowlers.

Dad Huntington, manager of the Omaha alleys, and President Isaacson of the Women's league, are preparing a grand opening for Wednesday night that is expected to eclipse all former attempts. Neither Dad nor Isaacson will announce their plans as yet.

Each team will play five matches with every other team in the league, the schedule to last twenty-five weeks. Following are the individual members of the teams:

Marsh-Oakland—Miss Anna Nelson, Mrs. Eunice Davidson, Miss Evalena Belsley, Miss Nora Collins, Miss Nina Getty (captain).

Omaha Towel Supply—Miss Anna Verdigren, (captain); Miss Hannah Jensen, Mrs. Ted Neale, Mrs. Andrew Murphy, Miss Lillian Bushy, Miss Lillian Hanson.

Herzberg Toggery—Mrs. T. R. Jameson (captain); Mrs. Edward Beeson, Miss Verda Pilling, Miss Mabel Housman, Mrs. Ray Sperry, Mrs. American State Bank—Miss Irene Heine (captain); Buelah Byrd, Olive Schupp, Mabel Nelson, Jessie Karle, Ruby Siple.

A. B. Sweet Shop—Miss Lois Neubit (captain); Mayme Goerne, Laura Bruch, Lillian Hughes, Cassie Bierman, Lucretia Miller.

Mrs. Thompson's team—Mrs. A. R. Thompson (captain); Mrs. H. W. Huff, Mrs. C. C. Kehm, Miss Sophie Rauber, Elizabeth Crowe, Nadine Thompson.

One of the new rules passed by the league this season is that every member who comes late shall be fined 5 cents, the money to go into the league treasury. The rule against crossing the foul line will be strictly enforced this season.

Instead of deciding all matters at general meetings, as in the past, it was decided to create a board of directors, consisting of the captains of the six teams and the officers of the league. This board will decide any protests and generally administer over the affairs of the league.

St. Louis Fans Compare Hornsby With G. Sisler

In St. Louis they are eternally divided the question of whether Roger Hornsby of the Cards or George Sisler, the wonderful first basemen of the Browns, is the better ball player. Sisler can pitch, play a fine first base or a fine outfield and is fast on bases. At present Sisler is leading Hornsby in the batting averages.

As to being the greater ball player, Sisler, a first-class pitcher, first basemen, a better ball player than Hornsby, who can play either infield and that not so well. Sisler is faster than Hornsby too, and can go farther on a hit. Yet Hornsby has one great advantage over Sisler—he can hit the ball much farther. So Hornsby, batting .330, must be rated as useful a hitter to his team as Sisler, batting .350. Not that Sisler cannot hit a long ball. He can, but not so long or so frequently as Hornsby.

Cicotte at Pitching-Three Is Thirty-Three

Eddie Cicotte at 33 is pitching better ball than he ever did. Eddie owes much of his success to a new ball he has mastered, known as the "shine ball." He also has wonderful control over his famous "knuckle ball." He uses his head with each batsman. He can throw a spitter and with this assortment and a slow ball he gets many a game.

American League

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EVERS WANTS TO OUTLAST WAGNER

Johnny's One Desire Is to Stay in the Game Longer Than the Pittsburgh Veteran Shortstop.

On Honus Wagner rests the chance of Johnny Evers' ambition being realized. Evers has had about all the honors it is possible for a base ball player to get.

Three times he was with clubs that won world's series and twice was at the losing end of the world series games.

He held down the keystone sack with the Cubs, one of the greatest machines in base ball, and played in the same capacity with the Braves during their record-breaking drive for a pennant in 1914.

There is little in the line of base ball achievement that Evers can wish for. For many years he was regarded as the greatest second baseman in the game.

Now Evers wants to retire from base ball as the oldest player in point of service in the major leagues.

British Tommies Profit From Boxing Instruction

The introduction of the many art of self-defense into the training work of the various military camps throughout this country will be in good thing for the young soldiers. In England boxing has for a long time been encouraged in the army and navy. Many of the British professionals are men who learned to box while serving in the ranks or on shipboard in the royal service. It is a certainty that from now on the same ideas will be carried out in this country and it is sure to follow that boxing gloves will be part of the equipment of every encampment of the American soldiers and of every American army or navy.