

# 'CHAMP CONSENTS TO DEFEND TITLE AGAINST FULTON

### After Three Years of Watchful Waiting, Big Jess Finally Agrees to Enter a Ring.

BY RINGSIDER.

Chicago, March 17.—Jess Willard is going to defend his title after more than three years of jaunting around the country with a circus and carefully avoiding everything that looked like a fight.

Willard's financial astuteness has never been questioned, and the fact that he has piled up a fortune since he knocked out Jack Johnson at Havana while engaging in only one fight speaks well for his ability to accumulate and guard the kale. There is little doubt but that Jess' motives in wanting to fight now are not inspired by a thirst for battle so much as a desire to garner to himself wads of wealth, duly large and attractive.

There is more activity in the heavyweight ranks than there has been in months, if not years. The result of this activity has set the promoters bidding, and heavyweights are now holding the spotlight.

Talk of big money penetrated the solitude with which Jess surrounded himself and caused him to cast a speculative eye upon the heavyweights most entitled to consideration as championship contenders.

The field of men eligible to meet Jess in a title bout narrowed down to two. Elimination bouts left Fred Fulton, the Minnesota plasterer, who has been knocking at the door of the heavyweight throne room for months, and Jack Dempsey, recently from the far west, who is a big noise in the heavyweight ranks.

Fulton and Dempsey. The logical procedure would be a match between these two and let the winner take on Jess. Attempts to make this match have been made and Dempsey has stood willing to go through.

Dempsey has been wading through the lesser lights of the heavyweight field with exceeding ruthlessness. His victories have been knockouts, most of them in short order. He has shown that he has a punch capable of toppling over any man who fails to keep out of his reach.

Fulton, since he knocked out Frank Moran, believes that he is in a position to meet Willard without going further, and he evidently has the situation sized up pretty well. Realizing that any man who gets in the ring with Dempsey is liable to be rocked to sleep by his wallop, Fulton can hardly be blamed for wishing to avoid Dempsey until he has taken his crack at the champion.

There has been some pressure put on Willard by Dempsey's friends and backers to persuade him to insist that Fulton meet Dempsey before either of them get a crack at the title. Jess has listened to this talk, but has not come forth with a definite statement of his attitude. He has intimated, however, that he thinks Fulton the logical contender.

Greb Declares War.

There is going to be a new middleweight champion of the world—one with a clear title to his crown—before the present year is over. Take it from Harry Greb, the Pittsburgh bizz buzz.

Greb is supremely confident that nothing in the world outside of the army or sudden death can keep him away from the title. He expects to clean up every middleweight championship contender as fast as they come, and to stand out as the undisputed champion before 1918 closes.

One of the things that Greb intends to do to prove that he is championship material is to take on Eddie McGoorty, the Oshkosh brawler, who is preparing to enter the ring after a year or two of inactivity. Negotiations for the match are in progress, and the bout probably will take place within the next 60 days.

As to McGoorty.

McGoorty, before he went to Australia, was the toughest middleweight in the works. He fought some of the best and came through with a first class record. Whether he has gone back far cannot be forecast until he steps into the ring against a good opponent, but Eddie is confident he is as good as ever.

Greb also believes a bout with McGoorty will give him a real test. If he can beat the Oshkosh wonder he believes he will be recognized as a formidable opponent for any man in the middleweight ranks.

Greb and his manager, "Red" Mason, disagree with newspaper reports that Mike O'Dowd had the better of their recent fight at St. Paul. Greb thinks he won, but blames decisions of the "home town" variety for the reports that he was beaten by O'Dowd.

Greb is in great fighting shape and can make 155 pounds with ease. He says, and is not getting bigger—only better.

Welsh Hears Call.

Guess who is thinking of doing a comeback. None other than Freddy Welsh, who lost the lightweight championship under the smothering attack of Benny Leonard.

Welsh is desirous of regaining the lightweight championship and thinks he can do it. He declares he has a promise from Benny Leonard that his first 20-round battle after winning the title would be with Welsh, and that he expects Leonard to keep the promise.

"I gave up three chances at the championship and you finally landed it," Welsh told Benny after the fight in which the title changed hands. "I've been fair, now what are you going to do for me?"

"You certainly were good to me," Welsh claims Leonard replied, "and you want to fight again you may have the first 20-round fight I take part in."

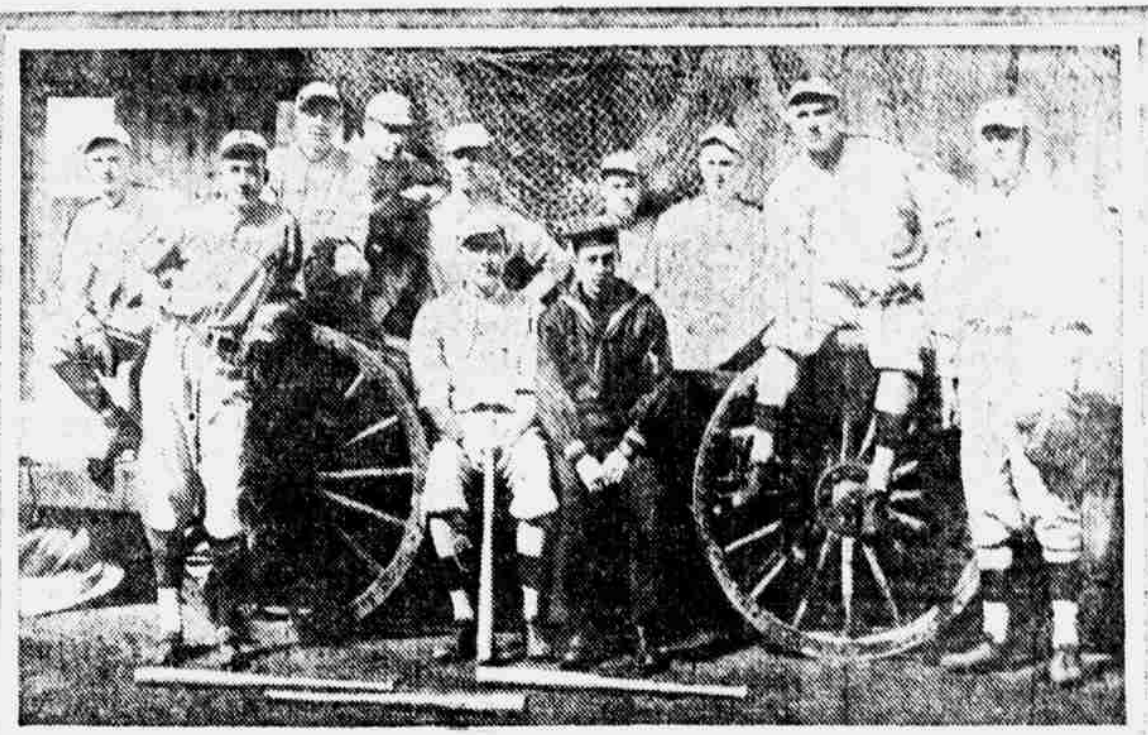
Now Welsh is feeling an urge to hold Benny to his promise and has asked Harry Pollock, his manager, to see what he can do about getting a match with Leonard.

Pollock declares Welsh is in fine shape and able to enter the ring on short notice.

Practice at Notre Dame.

Notre Dame has started spring football training. Forty candidates reported for the first practice.

# Jack Barry's All-Star Navy Nine



ALL STAR NAVY TEAM

Shot by 1917.

The picture shows a group of former big league stars who enlisted in the navy and will play on Jack Barry's all-star team this season. The picture was made on the Harvard base ball field, where the men practice. Left to right—Herb Pennock, of the Red Sox; Chippie Gaw, of Buffalo Internationals; Lawton Witt, of the Athletics; L. V. Bader,

## SANDLOT BOYS LIMBER UP FOR COMING SEASON

### Managers Issue Call for Practice for Next Sunday; Two Early Birds to Start Today.

By FRANK QUIGLEY.

Next Sunday if Mr. Winter decides to take his annual vacation the local municipal lots will be decorated with stars, spays and youthful timber limbering up for the ensuing season. Most of all the teams have mustered together at least twenty gents, a dozen of which the Omaha Amateur Base Ball association will allow to be retained for service when the bell tings. During the few Sundays allotted for preliminary work the managers of the various contingents will brand a dozen with the stamp of approval and take a chance on these dudes glomming the grapes.

If the largest shell ever manufactured exploded under Frank Jacobs, president of the City league, the job would have been more welcome than the news that greeted him when he presided at the meeting of the City league last week. It wasn't enough for the Greater Omaha league to cut the wire entanglements and capture the Murphy Did Its, so for good measure it walked away with the Stags, leaving the City league in a sadly depleted condition. But before the meeting was over the league was bolstered and the following teams, with one franchise on the market, comprise this class B organization: Central Furniture store, Walter G. Clarks, National Cash Registers, Morris & Co., and Woodman of the World. Any team wishing a franchise in this league should commune with Frank Jacobs over Colfax 1126. At the next meeting, one week from Thursday, officers will be elected.

Higgins Leads Class A.

A surprise was sprung on the local fans when the magnates of the greater Omaha league elected Earl Higgins, president and Abner Kairman, formerly the president, secretary. Both officers were unanimously elected. The following teams will compose the Greater Omaha league this year: C. B. Longways, C. B. Imperials, Holmes White Sox, Armour's, Murphy Did Its, Kravicks and Stags. The reason for seven teams is to allow each team a Sunday off every six weeks to combat with neighboring country town aggregations.

Again the Inter-City league goes over the top with eight clubs, namely Athletics, Daily News, Social Settlement Juniors, Montclaires, Phillips department store, K. & M., Kravick juniors and Dresher Bros. Patrick Boyle was re-elected president of this league and Lewis Reinsick was elected secretary. It was agreed that each team should deposit \$5.00 as a forfeit and play two times a round. At the next meeting, Friday, March 22, a schedule will be adopted.

Six Teams in Booster.

To date the Booster league can only boast of six teams, namely: Trimble Bros., Hamsteads, Victor Roos, Ramblers, Townsends and T. M. Rozalls. Two franchises are still open. At their next meeting, Friday, March 22, officers will be elected.

So far five leagues have been organized, and it is a safe plunge that another will be in the harness soon. Six leagues comprised the association last term and it will unquestionably start on the same footing this year.

Early Birds Today.

If climatic conditions are such that the robins can chirp this afternoon, a pair of early bird aggregations will unlock the gates and spill out their wares at thirty-second and Dewey avenues. Every day that Jack Frost has been in seclusion during the last month the members of these two bands have been getting into condition for their initial bout. It is not expected that a debate of the championship caliber will be on the menu, but it is a lead pipe that a battle with muscled and boneheads and rivalry of the keenest sort will be dished up. This argument will be between two recently organized teams. One is known as the Willards, backed by the Nebraska Storage Battery company, and the other utilizes the monicker of Victor Roos. If the battery kids are well charged the Roos recruits ought to have their mouths open on the job.

Grits and Gossip.

Roy Stacey says to watch his coits step over the high places this season. If all the old timers could stage come backs like George Kennedy, class A would not have to scout the woods for timber. It seems as though the To Be Co's were snuffed out of the Greater Omaha league. The Melody Mavericks and the managerial ability of James Donnan will be missed by the fans.

Billyam Sherkoff would like to sign up with some speedy aggregation. For further information he will be happy to be traveling salesman this year Harry Wright will not be able to toss his lid into the arena.

Dr. Willard H. Quigley, formerly a star at sack one for the Farrell Syrians, is now in Chicago taking a post graduate course in surgery, preparatory to going to work for Uncle Sam.

This season Albert Newton will endeavor to lighten the pill for some fast class B organization.

Madam Rumor has it that Abe Sampson, who used to be a demon fence demolisher, is going to break back into the game. Yep, both of the Morans, Arthur and Joseph, will answer the roll call for the Murphy Did Its.

Louis Vinquist, chief supervisor of the Walter G. Clarks is looking for a few classy horse-shoe last season. He willing to sign a Guy Holland is going to stage a come back. Some class A magnate should hook him. He used to be the star slasher for the Lutes congregation.

A cake of yeast might help John Dynamite Donnan to raise a base ball team for the ensuing season.

Recently when Marty Planagan was hit with an automobile he didn't get hurt. He must have landed on something soft, but he didn't land on his head.

According to Council Bluffs fans the Countess Bluffs Longways will step feet in the Greater Omaha league this season.

James O'Neil, local pill pusher and dentist, is billed for the trenches. He ought to be used to drill holes for the government.

With the Brandeis Stores Mattie McGrath and Edward Rubin will perform until the government may have need for their services.

Somewhere over there Walter Spellman, formerly crack backstopper for the Holmes White Sox, is shouldering a hill "em quick for the good of humanity.

Earl Hanson, who performed with the Barnaboo last season, is willing to sign a Greater Omaha league contract this season.

This season the Maxwell Motor company will be represented on the diamond by a fast bunch of gladiators.

Foster Jacobs, formerly captain of the champion Stags, is still at Deming awaiting orders to cross the waves.

Beet Chuck will handle the reins for the Maxwell Motor company. Harney 4227 will run him.

Acorn Mr. Delaware of the champion Armour's says the pacifist warriors are going to outnumber the grognos.

Next Thursday the American league will convene at the City hall. The amount of forfeits and schedule will be arranged.

At last the Ramblers have rammed out of base ball. Euelo Sam capped most of this team, consequently a Mercantile league could not be organized. Their last splash was in 1916.

If the underlinter, might back a team this season. He was on the shelf last year, but in 1916 he pitched a shut out in the City league and the other in the Inter-City League.

A new team to enter the field is the McCaffrey Motor company team, which has joined the American league. Cliff Bogus is manager and Max Tafford is captain.

No Curtailment. Arguments pro and con have been made in a few instances for curtailing sports, but the sentiment which rules the majority is a sentiment which impels the solons of sport to go ahead as far as they can; to conduct athletic events on the largest possible scale and make no provisions for war-time restriction until they are met.

Perhaps the most unexpected, and one of the most welcome moves and by a college organization, was that of the American Rowing association, which is planning to conduct a great American Henley at Annapolis. In order to make it more democratic, the rowing solons invited schools in the middle west and far west which foster rowing to enter crews. It goes without saying that the interest in rowing is booming, just as interest in college sports of all kinds will boom with the restoration of championships.

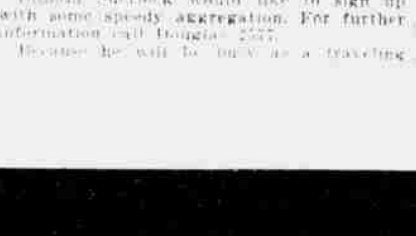
Buck O'Neill Will Coach Syracuse Eleven Again. Frank J. O'Neill, known in the college foot ball world as "Buck," has been reappointed head coach at Syracuse for next season, which assures the Salt City institution of another high class eleven. Last year with a limited amount of material, O'Neill developed a strong team at Syracuse which had a record that commanded much attention.

Next season Syracuse plans to go through with its regular schedule, by attempting any policy of informal teams. O'Neill will again be assisted by C. W. F. Reynolds, as field coach; Bill Horst, as line coach; Dr. A. H. Kallett, as coach of the ends, and Harvey Henderson will again coach the freshmen.

More Than One Hundred Ball Teams at Camp Pike. Little Rock, Ark., March 16.—One hundred and twenty-two base ball teams, comprising 17 regimental leagues, today has been organized at Camp Pike here. The leagues were formed at the suggestion of Major General Samuel D. Sturgis, commanding Camp Pike.

POLITICAL. POLITICAL.

Present City Commissioner A. C. KUGEL Superintendent of Police and Public Safety. Candidate for Re-election Primaries, April 9th, 1918.



# Feud of Fourteen Years Ends When Kelley and Donlin Shake

When Ban Johnson and George Stallings shook hands at the American league meeting in New York one year ago they dissolved a bitter feud that had lasted nearly 20 years. Following the adjournment of the American league schedule meeting at the Hotel Waldorf in New York recently there was another declaration of peace that ended a bitterness between two "good fellows."

Joe Kelley and Mike Donlin buried a hatchet that had been upraised for nearly 14 years at a breakfast dinner given by Colonel James Knickerbocker and a score of their mutual friends celebrated the occasion.

The "get together" party was an impromptu affair, held at Ed Lett's new place on Twentieth street. It was a base ball gathering that included such notables as Ban Johnson, president of the American league; John E. Bruce, secretary of the National commission; Jacob Ruppert, president of the New York club; Harry Frazee, president of the Boston Americans; Miller Huggins, manager of the Yankees; Ed Barrow, manager of the

Red Sox; Wilbert Robinson, manager of the Brooklyn club; Judge Frank X. McQuade, the champion of Sunday base ball; Joe Kelley, scout for the Yankees; Tommy McCarthy another veteran player and scout; Jack Slatery, former big league catcher, and a number of base ball scribes.

For a mixture of base ball executives, club owners, managers, scouts, writers and fans, it was a most intimate affair. The spirit of good fellowship prompted Ed Barrow to introduce Kelley to Donlin.

"You fellows haven't known each other for 14 years," said Barrow, "and it's time you get acquainted. Life is too short to carry a base ball grievance to the end."

So Kelley and Donlin shook hands and then collaborated in the story.

"Back in 1904, when I managed the Cincinnati Reds," said Kelley, "Donlin was the hardest hitter in the league, but he was a temperamental cuss. We had a good team that year, and I have always believed that if Donlin had not been suspended we would have won the pennant. That was the year

that McGraw won his first championship for New York. We could lick the Giants, but they outfinished us. "We were in St. Louis when Donlin and I went to the mat. Owing to hotel conditions—it was world's fair year—my players were sleeping four in a room, and some of them never wanted to go to bed."

"Let me have a word, Joe," interrupted Donlin. "I am not trying to excuse myself, for I know I was a hard guy to handle in those days, but I still maintain that you had me wrong the day we split. I went to bed early the night before, but about 3 in the morning two of the boys came in feeling very jolly, and insisted that two of us who had been asleep get up and join them in a card game. We did so, and none of us went to bed after that."

"The next morning Kel made some inquiries, and the result was that I was suspended and sent home. I never played for the Reds after that and was eventually traded to the Giants."

"We were both to blame, Mike," said Kelley. "I was too hasty, and you were so sure that you never ever attempted to explain the situation. "That's right, Joe," replied Mike "let's forget it."

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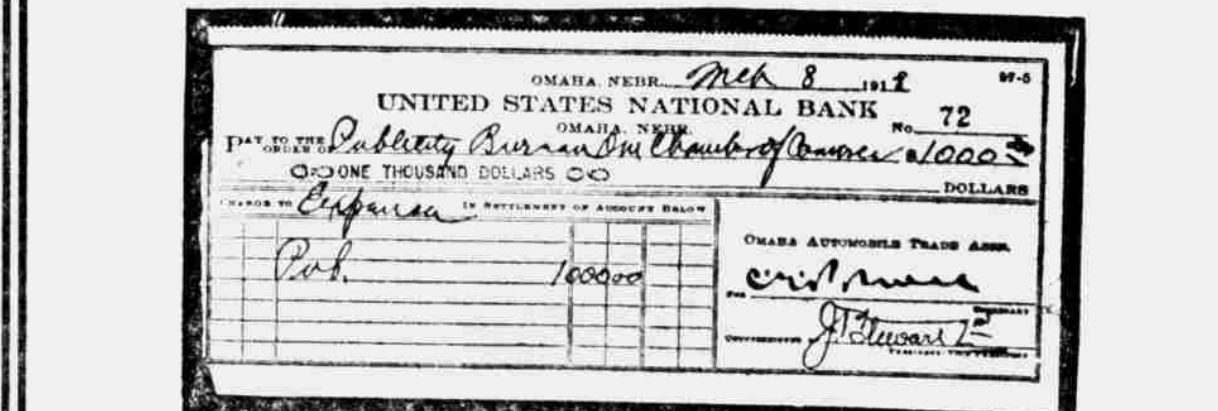
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