

# TENNIS IN

# PORTLAND AND SOME OF ITS EXPONENTS

Even the casual observer it is quite apparent that the game of tennis is becoming increasingly popular. While tennis in Portland has always been a favored game with a certain class, the interest manifested by its devotees has never been so intense as that shown this year. An inventory of the tennis courts discloses the fact that there are in the city, at the present time, over 20 in actual use. Of these eight are maintained by clubs whose primary object is not tennis, the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club having four courts; the Y. M. C. A., two, and the Waverly Golf Club, two. The remaining 12 courts are maintained by private individuals or by tennis clubs. The Irvington Tennis Club heads the list with two exceptionally good courts.

average ability of the players has been raised. There can be no question that there are more local players of ability now, and that the general average has been greatly raised, but it is a matter of some doubt whether the champions of today are better players than the champions of ten years ago. An attempt to determine the question last season left the matter still in doubt. "Joe" Smith was the singles champion ten years ago. W. A. Goss is the present champion. Two matches were played between them last year, Smith winning the first, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, and Goss the second, 6-4, 5-2, 4-6. Smith and Andrews were the doubles champions ten years ago, while Goss and Lewis are the present doubles champions. These two teams came together last year, in an unfinished match, and each won a set, Goss and Lewis the first, 9-7, and Smith and Andrews the second, 6-4.

## ON MULTNOMAH COURTS—BACK-HANDED VOLLEY.



WALTER A. GOSS, STATE SINGLES CHAMPION.

Portland shows that, previous to this year, the greatest popularity enjoyed by the game was over ten years ago. The most noticeable feature of the game of today, as contrasted with that of ten years ago, is its evolution from a social pastime and beneficial exercise to a competitive sport. The social possibilities of the game have not been ignored, nor have its benefits as an exercise been lost sight of, but its competitive features have been emphasized and developed. Men and women now play in competitive tournaments for handsome prizes and sounding titles, and men practice and train for a particular tournament with all the care and assiduity that characterizes the preparation of an athlete for the 100-yard dash. As a consequence of the incentive furnished by frequent tournaments, the

vival of tennis dates back to the Fall of 1880, when the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club held a club championship meeting. W. A. Goss and Major Flak contested for the championship, in the finals, the title going to Goss, 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3. E. E. Adams then challenged Goss and was defeated, in a five-set match, 6-3, 7-9, 10-12, 6-4 and 6-2. The doubles in this tournament were won by Flak and Goss, who defeated Adams and Ainsworth, after four hard sets, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 10-8.

and in September, 1890, the first official tournament for the championship of Oregon was held. The tournament was given by the Irvington Tennis Club on Multnomah courts, and secured one leg on the challenge cup, offered for competition by Major Flak. Bethel played a strong game, successfully defeating T. A. Fransioli, of Tacoma, 6-1, 6-4; Andrews, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4, and, in the finals, W. A. Goss, 6-4, 6-3, 7-5. The championship doubles went to Chesel and Fransioli, who defeated Bethel and La Parge, 10-8, 6-1, 6-4.

**Multnomah.** Last year the Multnomah Club, which, by reason of its new courts and new clubhouse, was best able to conserve the interests of the game, secured the sanction of the United States Association, and the second annual tournament for the Oregon championships was held on the club courts.

Goss won the singles and the Flak cup for one year. Goss and Lewis became champions in doubles, by defeating Smith, of Seattle, and Benham, of Spokane, 6-3, 6-2. Miss Halsted, of Astoria, won the ladies' singles championship, and Miss Elmore and Miss Halsted, of Astoria, took the ladies' doubles. The mixed doubles were won by Miss Carstens and R. R. Benham, of Spokane.

Last year was marked by the admission of women to the ranks of active competitors in tournaments, and by the unusual interest taken in the game by the non-playing public. The season of 1901 promises to be even more marked in the latter respect, and the rapid progress in playing already displayed by the women is as gratifying as it is surprising.

**Irvington Club Reorganization.** The reorganization of the Irvington Tennis Club, with a membership of more than 40 active players, is the most significant local tennis event of the year. The Irvington is the most prominent club in the city, existing for tennis only. Outside of private courts, membership tournaments will be held by the Multnomah Club, the Y. M. C. A. and the Irvington Club.

All of these events, however, will be satisfactory and incidental to the state championship tournament, commencing Wednesday next, and which is to be held under Multnomah auspices. It will be an open tournament, membership limited to be even more successful than last year's. Entries will be made from all over the state, as well as from Washington and British Columbia in the early event, the Flak cup is to be competed for. W. A. Bethel and W. A. Goss have each won the trophy once, and it becomes the permanent possession of the player first winning it three times. J. Wesley Ladd has placed up for competition two handsome doubles cups, which will be contested for this year for the first time.

Another indication of the growing popularity of tennis is the construction of good courts by various beach hotels. It is the intention of these hotels to hold invitation Summer tournaments for the pleasure of their guests.

**PORTLAND TENNIS EXPONENTS.** Characteristics Distinguishing the Play of the Leaders.

For several years Major Walter L. Flak held undisputed right to the championship of Oregon. Having played with men ranked among the best ten in the country, his game was well developed in every particular. While "volleying" was not a weak point with him, he was strongest in playing strokes off the ground from the rear of the court. Possessed of a good eye and an excellent "service," Flak was a most skillful player.

Portland sport lovers should feel gratified indebted to Major Flak for having shown so much tennis enthusiasm while residing in this city, for it is largely because of having watched his skillful play that many of our present players are commencing to show up good tennis form. Last Summer Flak won the championship of Portsmouth, N. H., in the men's singles, and, with his partner, won the championship in the men's doubles.

In Portland. He is quickest to get to the net, is harder to pass, and is by far the best volleyer. In smashing from the middle and back of the court, he is swift and sure, but he cannot "kill" the ball with the effectiveness of Chesel. In volleying, which is Goss' strong point, he is equally good with both fore and back hand. Oftentimes his return should be made with less prudence and greater speed, but his surety in making the return more than offsets this lack of speed and carelessness.

With the skill and steadiness of Goss, there is a good deal of inconsistency. He is too frequently caught at the net, when he should be back, and vice versa. Goss has the game under perfect control, but he should learn how to use his skill, if his game is to improve over its present standard. Serving is Goss' weakest point, there being scarcely a weaker service on the Portland courts.

**Carri D. Lewis.** Carri D. Lewis, Goss' double partner, is the most promising second-class player. He, alone has partially mastered the "twist service," used so effectively by Whitman, Ward and Davis against the English players last season. Lewis has improved greatly the past two years, but his one great fault is unsteadiness. Two years ago he played a pretty game, but one that nearly always lost. He always failed in his attempts at volleying and was loath to come to the net. He still has too many "off days," but he is improving in this respect.

At several critical times during the tournament play last season, Lewis showed himself better able to control his game, and a good hard season will probably do away with this element of unsteadiness. His "stop-volley" and "service" are among the best on the courts. He also bids fair to make one of the strongest players in driving. His drives are well played, but more attention should be given to placing them and to volleying with greater surety. Lewis should also use more speed in reaching the net and should play with greater assurance when attempting to stop his opponent's passings.

**Andrews and Letter.** F. H. V. Andrews' game has not been up to standard for two years. He is a hard hitter, smashes well, and has an enormous reach. His volleying is rather weak, but his greatest fault is carelessness. Andrews' first service is exceptionally good, and, if it could be relied upon, would be one of the best on the courts. Too frequently he tries difficult shots, which a more competent player would handle in a much safer manner.

**R. A. Letter** is a thoughtful, careful, slow to get started, but in crossing the court and in getting to the net. He should play all of his games faster and should finish a match much quicker than he now does. He is inclined to let a match take three sets, when, by a little greater exertion, he could win it in two. Nearly the only successful "cut" or "chop" stroke employed by the best players is used by Letter. He plays the ball high off the ground at the top of the bound, with a quick, short jerk, which makes a good clean return, with

very little bound. In overhead work he is very weak.

**The Wickershams.** Brandt Wickersham was new on the courts last year, but he has made the most surprising progress of any of the local players. His service is the most effective on the courts, particularly his reverse cut into the left court. His service, an excellent smash and a total inability to recognize defeat, have enabled him to win out against players of greater experience. He has much to learn about the points of the game and plays rather by instinct than from accurate knowledge.

**Gifford, Macleay and Others.** L. B. Wickersham needs to put more life and spirit into his game. His best stroke is a short, quick pass, placed very close to the side lines. His volleying and overhead work are comparatively weak.

The best local exponent of back-line play is P. B. Gifford, who plays a thoroughly consistent and well-developed game. He is particularly strong on the back hand, and were it not for the fact that he hesitates to take a strong position at the net, he would be classed among the best material for first-class tennis.

His doubles partner, R. L. Macleay, has not given sufficient time to the game to develop his play thoroughly. His strongest point is his service.

W. S. Gilbert is a player new to the Portland courts this year. He is stronger at driving than at the net, his best stroke being a straight pass to the left of his opponent. Gilbert will rank well toward the top at the close of the season.

Thielsen has shown great improvement over last year's form. He is manifesting strength at the net, and places well, but has been handicapped by a mediocre service. His team-mate, A. B. McAlpin, plays a good, steady game, which is constantly improving, but it lacks variety. He has cultivated but one stroke, which he uses at all times and in all places—a sort of "half Layford." He is very weak in "lobbing."

**Gomph's Unsteadiness.** Gomph is a promising player, his greatest fault being unsteadiness. At times he drives irresistibly, and at other times he is hopelessly wild. He understands well the efficacy of lobbing as an offensive tactic.

LaParge has a good service and a clever pass played close to the net. His driving is uncertain, and he is weak at smashing. J. Wesley Ladd plays a slow, steady, consistent game. His play at the net is poor, but his ground strokes from the back of the court are very steady and always played in good form.

Nunn is playing more steadily this season. He is slow to cover his court. Leo has a very aggravating cut for every ball. Lumgair and Graham are both ambidextrous and play well at the net. Lumgair's ground strokes are better than Graham's, but the latter lobs with more assurance. Oliphant would rank much higher were he not so unsteady. He hits the balls hard and never hesitates to take a risk. Cook has a strong service, but a weak back-hand. His playing should improve greatly this year.

**The Women Players.** Among the women players who appeared on the local courts last year, Miss Halsted, of Astoria, is unquestionably first. An excellent overhead service and back-hand stroke easily landed her winner in the state tournament last season. Miss Halsted was then a trifle slow, but she more than made up for this fault in other ways. Her volleying was excellent, and at all times she kept her game under perfect control. Miss Elmore, also of Astoria, has almost as much skill as Miss Halsted, her partner in doubles, but she plays with less assurance, and her game indicates a lack of experience.

Miss Booth and Mrs. Baldwin play the best game in Portland among the ladies. Each has an effective service, Mrs. Baldwin using an underhand twist, and Miss Booth a swift overhead stroke. Both are weak at volleying, and play almost entirely from the back court. Their best stroke is a long, swinging, underhand drive, swift and well-placed.

**May Develop a Champion.** Mrs. Cook, Miss Morse and Miss Crutten are in the same class. It is not probable that this year's woman champion will be one of these three, if they go into the game early in the season. They each play a strong, well-developed game. They are equally strong at serving, but Mrs. Cook and Miss Carstens excel in volleying. Miss Morse is the best in driving from the back court. The greatest weakness of these three players is their back-hand stroke.

Miss Amy Heitshu promises to be a skillful player. She has her game under perfect control, and her strokes have strength and are played with a fair degree of accuracy. Her back-hand is also very weak. Her doubles partner, Miss Rachel Joseph, plays a skillful, enthusiastic game. She should give more attention to her side strokes and underhand drives.

Miss Claire Senders has improved greatly since last year. She hits hard and is reasonably steady. Miss Tyler plays a good game, which will improve with practice.

Miss Helen Goss plays a fast, hard game, but because of her unsteadiness is beaten by her sister, Miss Mabel Goss, who is playing much better this year than last.

## ON MULTNOMAH TENNIS COURTS VOLLEYING.



GOSS AND LEWIS, STATE DOUBLES CHAMPIONS.

## ON MULTNOMAH COURTS—FINISH OF A DRIVE.



CARRI D. LEWIS, TENNIS CHAMPION.

# TALK WITH AGUINALDO



the very demon of battle, as he hurried himself against the foe. Aguinaldo never wavered. Once I thought he had fallen, but he was up and away again before I could gain his side. The battle surged around us. I saw Aguinaldo bravely grab a boiler-plate man sandwich and devour it, keeping back the crowd with his one free hand, and I endeavored to do likewise. He next attacked and partially destroyed a steel-clad pie, and engaged in what seemed to mortal combat with a dish of celluloid salad, with asphaltum dressing. The salad seemed to be getting the best of it, but the lady was fighting bravely against fearful odds.

"I suppose this will all be in the papers," said Aguinaldo, wearily, as we again took our seats in the smoker.

"Yes," I replied, "it is almost certain to

leak out and be written up by some of the sensation-seeking reporters, with all its horrible details intoned, and a sketch of the scene, which the artist will draw on his imagination for. Possibly, too, there will be a picture of you, Ag, but it won't look enough like you to do any harm. These things cannot be helped. The newspapers are not altogether to blame—the public demands that sort of stuff, and the papers simply cater to the popular demand."

"Thank heaven," muttered Aguinaldo, "the public in my country does not demand that sort of stuff."

We were now crossing a desert waste, the level stretches of white, glistening sand extending either side of the road as the eye could reach, with here and there a giant cactus or yucca palm to relieve the awful monotony of the landscape.

"What do you raise in this country?" asked Aguinaldo, gazing out of the car window at the unlovely prospect.

"Raise?" I echoed, "why, man, nothing at all around here. You couldn't raise an umbrella on this land."

Aguinaldo suddenly stopped looking out of the car window at the unlovely prospect and turned his gaze upon me. There was an earnest, intense look in his eyes, that startled me at first, but as I watched him, it gradually faded out and in its stead came a softer light. The joke had penetrated to the proper brain cell, evidently.

**Joke Receipts.** Doubtless many of my readers have often tried certain of the well-known and thoroughly established jokes on certain persons, and been greatly surprised when they failed to even produce a smile. But this was simply because the brain cell for that particular joke had dried up entirely in that particular person's head.

Each joke cell contains hundreds of other minute cells which hold a certain kind of fluid or juice which aids in the digestion of the joke. As soon as the joke has penetrated to the larger cell, these smaller cells empty out this secretion into the larger or main-joke cell, and digestion takes place immediately. But constant use deprives the minute cells of their supply of this secretion of fluid, and the cell begins to dry up, causing a form of dyspepsia—joke dyspepsia, as it were.

As I said before, the joke had gradually penetrated to its proper cell in Aguinaldo's brain, and presently he was having a fit of hilarity. Doubtless the cell had never been used before. After the first fit of the fit had worn off, however, he turned to me as if to speak about something—feared it was about some other joke that mine had reminded him of. But before he could force the words from his lips, his neck swelled up again, and his stomach commenced to quiver. He was having another fit.

At last he recovered sufficiently to speak. "My Oulecoule, but that is a good one," he exclaimed. "Why in the world can't I use that in my lecture some way or other?"

I learned afterward that "Oulecoule" is a word in Aguinaldo's native tongue meaning heaven. In his excitement, he forgot himself and sprung it on me.

"No," I said, "it wouldn't do. It is too old and feeble to stand the strain of a long lecture tour. It would arouse pity, but that is all. I will get you a few younger jokes, if you must have them. It has been said, though I do not know how true it may be, that only one man ever crossed this desert since the railroad was built that did not get off that joke at least once before he got to Los Angeles. And it is also stated that when

this man learned what he had done, he immediately made another trip to San Francisco, and sprung the joke as often as possible, so as not to make himself conspicuous."

Soon after this I excused myself and made my way back to the Pullman. I wanted to be by myself for a few minutes, in order to dash off an account of the affair at the eating station to give to the papers as soon as we landed in Los Angeles.

As I entered the coach, I noticed that the lady glanced hurriedly at me, and then beyond me, and that a shade of sadness passed over her face when she failed to see Aguinaldo, too. My suspicions were at last aroused. Who was this mysterious woman? Why did she take such a deep interest in Aguinaldo? Was she following us? And if so, with what purpose in view?

These thoughts crowded rapidly into my mind as I sat down to write. I resolved to keep an eye upon the mysterious lady, for I had become suddenly impressed with the idea that she was indeed following Aguinaldo, and with no good intentions. After events proved how unerring my judgment was.

**CHAPTER IX.** My first meeting with Major Lake, after our arrival in Los Angeles, was really pathetic. He was overjoyed at our prospects. "I owe it all to you, my boy," he cried. "You have done nobly—you understand me—nobly. Everybody is talking

about Aguinaldo down here. We will jam the house." Tears glistened in his eyes.

"I have only done my duty," I replied modestly. "A press agent must be ready at all times to do what lies before him."

"Yes, that's so," said the Major, musingly, "but perhaps it would be better, should the occasion that ever arises for making any statement of that sort to the general public, if you could change the form of expressing it somewhat. Instead of saying 'lies—you understand me—I would endeavor to think of some other word that would convey the idea more clearly. The public is so easily misled by a word—you understand me?'"

We both laughed heartily, and then for an hour we chatted pleasantly together regarding our future movements.

"I presume you have already thought of something appropriate for this city," he at least said, "something that will have a tendency to keep up the interest and bring out the people?"

"Yes," I replied, "I have thought of a few things. It is my desire to use something entirely new and original here. I shall consider the matter further before deciding upon any particular thing."

Soon after that I took my leave and descended to the street, where I walked hurriedly away and was soon lost to view in the crowds of people who were surging along the main business thoroughfare on that bright, sunny Saturday afternoon for the purpose of showing each other who had the best clothes on.

(To be continued.)

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