

FIGHT FANS SURE OF JACK O'BRIEN

Promoter Coffroth May Be Induced to Call Off Match With Ketchell.

NO FAITH IN EASTERNER

Talk of Side Bet of \$5000 Between Gans and Nelson Without Foundation—Battle of McFarland and Welsh.

BY WILL G. MAC RAE.

Promoter Jimmy Coffroth's return to San Francisco has been awaited with a great deal of interest by the Bay City fight fans, for they are anxious to know whether there is anything in the story sent out from the East, that he had signed Philadelphia Jack O'Brien and Stanley Ketchell for a fight on Mission Day. When the news reached San Francisco, there was a storm of protest for they want none of Jack the Confessor's gains.

Coffroth may have had some notion of matching these two fighters, but the stand that the sporting writers and the fans have taken against the fight will undoubtedly cause the reluctant Jimmy to undergo a change of mind. Nothing could be worse than this proposed fight, for Ketchell so far has kept his hands clean and beyond the money there would be in it, the fight would mean nothing to the champion.

O'Brien's own confessions, made boastfully at the time, should have put him out of the fighting game forever, but they seemingly have not. He has fought several times around the "Unconquered City" where he seems to have the fight fans hypnotized, but out on the Coast he is down and out.

No man who has been promoting fights in recent years has had so much for the game as Coffroth, and if he insists upon making this match, he will make the mistake of his career. The public has a great deal of confidence in him, but they will lose it quickly if this O'Brien-Ketchell farce goes through. No one will have any confidence in the fight, and it will be known whether it is another one of the infamous brand of O'Brien or not.

The best thing Coffroth can do is to let the Philadelphia fight go, and let the O'Brien kind of fighters and attack to the high class matches that he has always brought about. It will be better for a game, which is just as wobbly as the racing game just now.

There has been lots of talk on the part of Battling Nelson over that \$5000 side bet between himself and Gans. The truth of the matter is, there is no side bet, and Gans has no intention of taking Dan back into the ring, he had to consent to splitting the purse with the Battler. The only concession that Gans gained was the battle on the weight question. When he meets Nelson on July 4, he will have the call on the weight, a thing that he did not have in the Goldfield fight.

Ben Sellig, Gans' manager, is the authority for the facts about the conditions on which the match was made. This is not generally known, and when it gets noised about, interest in the fight will not be so keen. The fact that Gans consented to cut the money in two, no matter how high the fight goes, seems to indicate that he is not seeking the fight as keenly as he is after the money. The same may be said of Nelson.

To get the money cut in two was a shrewd move on the part of Nelson. The pair is sure of attracting a large house, and the fact that Gans is to be beaten by the champion, while the end of his making big money as a fighter. If he stuck in the game, a thing which would not believe he intends to do, he would have to fight the winners and for small money. He said while here that he expected to get enough out of the Gans fight to enable him to quit the ring and live on the farm he has bought.

BLACKBURN CLEVER FIGHTER

Mulatto's Battle With O'Brien Brings Him Before Public.

From time to time the name of Jack Blackburn has attracted the attention of the fight fans. Blackburn's last fight was with Jack O'Brien and the Philadelphia Record has the following review of the fight, which will interest the fight fans, for there is a chance that this same negro will be heard from:

That six-round drawn fight with Jack O'Brien was a virtual victory for Jack Blackburn when the weight and reputation of the two men are taken into consideration. Very few thought the tall, thin mulatto had any chance with the clever O'Brien, and predicted that the man who twice boxed twenty rounds with Tommy Burns would be a better man and more doubly confident at the end of the first round in which O'Brien put it all over Blackburn, so to speak, but the farther the fight went the better the colored man seemed to grow, while the white boxer plainly showed signs of tiring. The final bell that ended the fight was much more welcome to O'Brien than it was to Blackburn, and all good critics agree that the fight was a draw, but that Blackburn was a flash that night. Philadelphia Jack would very likely have been defeated. At the beginning of the fight O'Brien seemed at his very best, but as the fight progressed he became more and more tired, and he was not as fast as he used to be, and also that he was not keyed up to the point of holding the name of the crowd to the length of time. Then, too, the jolts Blackburn gave O'Brien probably slowed him down some, whereas the punches received by Blackburn only seemed to make him fight the faster. Should the men ever come together in a future fight, the negro will have backing, notwithstanding the 14½-pound difference in weight.

To the followers of boxing who have witnessed so many of O'Brien's frame-ups last Wednesday's contest was particularly interesting, for the last they were able to see what Jack could do in a genuine fight. To be sure the conditions were all in O'Brien's favor, for he was heavier and stronger, and more experienced than his opponent, and if he had been a man who has tried to make the public believe he is good enough to hold the title of champion of the world, he should have proved an easy winner. But what was the result? Flung out with so great a lead in the first round as to make the fight seem in his favor, O'Brien allowed Blackburn to so far outbox him in the closing rounds as to lead some to think that the negro deserved credit of a victory. For a fact, however, the contest was too even for a decision, particularly since neither man was able to do any particular damage to the other, so cleverly was every attack

PORTLAND BOY VAULTING 12 FEET 7¾ INCHES



A. C. GILBERT, OF YALE, WHO HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN OLYMPIC TEAM.

The above photograph shows A. C. Gilbert, of Portland, now a student at Yale, breaking the world's record for the pole-vault at 12 feet 7¾ inches at the Eastern trials for the Olympic team, held at Philadelphia. Following the meet, Mike Murphy, the famous Pennsylvania trainer, who will coach the Olympic team, and who first handed Gilbert at Yale before going to Pennsylvania, said that he expected Gilbert to vault 13 feet at the Olympic meet.

GOLF HAS GROWN FAST

SCOTCH GAME HAS THRIVED IN UNITED STATES.

During Past 25 Years Sport Has Steadily Increased in Favor With Americans.

Few persons have any idea of the progress the game of golf has made in this country during the last 25 years, says Charles B. Macdonald, of this city. The first course in the United States was the New York World. For that matter there was no regular golf course in America then, although golf in an almost unlimited form was being played several years prior to the organization of the pioneer St. Andrews Club, in 1858.

It is probable that the first golf ever played in the United States was done by Charles B. Macdonald, of this city. After graduating from the St. Andrews University, Scotland, Macdonald came to this country, in 1873, and almost immediately located in Chicago. He brought his bag of clubs along from the other side, and it is worthy of mention that he has some of those same clubs to this day. The first golf course in this country, and Macdonald's playing was confined to driving a few balls in the outskirts of Chicago.

Shortly after this Sir Edward Burgin, an Englishman, who had traveled all over the world and had played golf on the other side, met Macdonald, and they had a few matches, using tomato cans sunk in the ground for holes. That was practically the golfing situation in this country 25 years ago, while now there are thousands of courses throughout the length and breadth of the United States. So rapid has been the increase, however, that it would be little more than guesswork to attempt to enumerate with any degree of certainty.

The first course in the vicinity of Chicago was laid out in 1881, just before the World's Fair. Several British Commissioners came over, also several Scotchmen, including Sir Evelyn Wood, and one afternoon they all went up Lake Forest and laid out a short course. This did not amount to much, being confined to little more than a ten-acre lot, but the following year they laid out a good nine-hole links at Belmont.

It is scarcely less interesting to note that after these years, during which thousands of clubs had sprung into existence and more than 1,000,000 Americans have joined the army of golfers, the same individual who was the leader in approaching and putting solid gutty balls into the cans out on the prairie, was the central figure in this country's latest and most remarkable golfing undertaking—the millionaire's course. Reference is made to the National course, which Macdonald hopes to see put into commission this time next year.

Rapid strides have been made on this golfer's retreat down among the sand dunes near Shinnecock Hills, and a fortune has been spent on the enterprise, which when completed will probably represent the highest standard of a golf course in the world. And why? Any course that is to become a composite of the best holes to be found in all Great Britain certainly ought to eclipse anything now in existence.

But to get back to the time when the game was but a baby in this country. Hereabouts the game unquestionably received its first real start with the formation of the old "Apple Tree" course, which became incorporated as the St. Andrews Golf Club in 1858. The first year after John Ross and his zealous banding golf in a field not far from the Tallmage residence in Yonkers. That was when the spreading apple tree near the first tee was used as a meeting place.

Multnomah Junior Track Meet. For the purpose of organizing a track team from among the ranks of the juniors of the Multnomah Amateur Athletic Association, a field meet will be held next Wednesday at 6 P. M. in which more than 20 members will contest for honors in the high and broad jump, 75-yard dash, 100-yard dash and low hurdles. The entries are as follows: Harold Dabney, Davis Welsh, Thammie Dell O'Hanlon, Joe Dorney, D. Getty, Harold Quigley, Carlyle Geisler, Leon Fabre, Clarence Frenn, Orvin Daley, Ed Duffy, Walter Gerstel, Jack Cook, Colton Meek, R. Whitney, Robert Krohn, D. W. Messenger, William Oberstuffer, Jr., George M. Schaefer, Avery Lasswell, Charles Frenn, John Oscar Baker, Earl Crow, Howard Black, David Brace, A. L. Grutzler and Melvin W. Boyle.

Delagrangre Will Visit America. NEW YORK, June 20.—Delagrangre, the famous French aviator, who has been making long distance aeroplane flights in the recent parts of Europe, will visit America this Summer. He has been secured by a coterie of enthusiastic aeronauts of St. Louis, including many members of the St. Louis Aero Club, and while it is impossible to ascertain the details of his visit, it is believed that virtually all of his flights with his famous aeroplane will be made in the West.

PITCHERS STILL AHEAD IN BATTLE

Batsmen Have Made No Gains for Supremacy This Season.

TEAM WORK WINS GAMES

That and Individual Sense a Winning Combination—Foul Strike Rule Proves Big Handicap. Must Follow Team Play.

Contrary to impressions that have prevailed the batsmen are not having any easier times with the pitchers this Summer than they did in the last few seasons in the big leagues, says the New York World. Now that two months of the season have passed comparisons of the batting averages of the leading batsmen of the National and American Leagues for 1907 and this season can be made.

At the close of last season there were four players in the National League ranks who had batting averages of .300 or better. Up to the date of the writing, seven men are in the select class. Two of these, Merkle of New York and Howard of Chicago, are substitutes. Of last year's leaders, Bill Wagner, who led the league, is the only .300 hitter. Doolin, of Philadelphia, who now leads the league with .320 per cent, last year finished the season with an average of .211 per cent.

Among the American League players last year nine finished the season in the .300 class. Up to the date of the writing in the select class five are youngsters playing in last company for the first time. They are Criss of St. Louis, who leads the league with .320 per cent, made an emergency batter; Eddie Collins, the Columbia College boy, with the Athletics; McConell of Boston, Ball of New York and Harry Sawyer of the Athletics.

Of those who finished the 1907 season with .300 per cent or better, Cobb of Detroit and Stone of St. Louis, are in the select class this season.

It has been stated that the falling off in batting during the last decade is due principally to the greater amount of work at the bat and on the bases that is now practised by the big league teams.

Principle of Attack and Defense.

Manager McCloskey, of the St. Louis Cardinals, who has been successful in building up a team with young material, recently gave a good explanation of the principle of attack and defense. "Baseball," said he, "is divided into attack and defense, team work and individual baseball sense. That is the winning combination, and the former depends to a large extent on the latter."

"Any manager with a good knowledge of the game can lay out tactical plans and direct his team in the field and at bat, but the task comes when an attempt is made to train players to live up to the inside game. The greatest part of that work is done in the clubhouse, where the manager's work leaves off, except in so far as selecting players who promise to have good heads, and showing them the way to play the game. The manager's work begins there. The great player is the one who does not stop at the routine of team play, but carries the latter to its greatest perfection. Given then he cannot do his best unless he has other players around him who can aid him in carrying out his plans."

Foul Strike Rule.

"Adoption of the foul strike rule has proved a big restriction on the team work in attack. Formerly the batter could pick out better balls and protect his base runners with much greater ease and safety. Fouling off balls enabled him to protect his base runners in stealing when it was pretty certain the latter would be put out otherwise. It also enabled him to pick out the kind of a ball he desired to bunt or place and choose his own time in doing so. While bunting and place hitting are still available methods of attack, it takes better work to make them effective and there must be a closer understanding between the runner and batsman. Given that, the attack is just as damaging as ever."

"It is in this latter respect that individual thinking counts. Either the base runner or batsman can help out by quick thinking and quick action, but this cannot be reduced to a mechanical basis. Contrary to the generally accepted idea of things, base running and batting cannot be dictated absolutely by a code of signals. When there is a hit-and-run play or a sacrifice, exigencies entirely out of the control of the man who gives the signals may crop up, and it is here that individual work comes in. A runner is never given instructions to steal on any one ball pitched unless it is an open-and-shut play, as a lead is obtained to enable him to reach the next base successfully, and this depends upon the pitcher and catcher and what efforts they make to prevent it. Base stealing is usually signalled for, but the exact time is left to the runner and batsman, and unless they have a good understanding with each other and work together, the attempt is almost sure to fail."

"In team fielding the same thing is true in batting. Besides team work, there must be an individual understanding and good baseball sense used. The which became incorporated as the St. Andrews Golf Club in 1858. The first year after John Ross and his zealous banding golf in a field not far from the Tallmage residence in Yonkers. That was when the spreading apple tree near the first tee was used as a meeting place.

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- 10—Standardized parts. Accurate workmanship. Many users practically no expense for a year.

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batter's plan is to find out which fielder is going to cover second, for instance, and the fielder must follow this. If the batter knows which fielder is going to cover second on a steal, it is possible to draw him out of his position and put the ball through it with a place hit. This causes a lot of damage, as the runner can gain an extra base. The way to prevent it is to have the second baseman and shortstop understand each other so well that there is a constant shifting, and the baseman is kept guessing as to which will cover the bag.

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