HAS COFFROTH GOT AN EYE ON BALL?

Question of His Intentions Among Outlaws Keeps Game-Fans Guessing.

MOREING SPENDS CASH

Over $300,000 to Be Used to Increase Popular Success of Outlaw League—Changes of Players Are Announced.

BY HARRY B. SMITH.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 15.—(Special.)—Is Jim Coffroth, the fight promoter, going into baseball, as a backer of a State League club? It is a question that has been asked frequently of late, and to tell the truth it is a query that has been causing the Pacific Coast League officials no little uneasiness. When you ask him pointblank if there is any truth in the report, Coffroth laughs and says that he might consider a proposition, if the conditions just suited him.

The gossip started about a week ago, when Coffroth paid a visit to the State League grounds in Oakland. It is so unusual for James Waldorf to go traipsing off to a ball game that no wonder the entire sportorial delegation pricked up its ears and commenced to ask questions.

In fact, the evening newspaper men who had extras coming out didn't wait to ask questions. They immediately telephoned their respective papers that Coffroth was looking for a chance to break into the State League. This was all the stronger because Coffroth has frankly expressed it as his belief that outlaw baseball is best for California.

Coffroth Evades the Issue.

"Will I go into the State League?" he repeated, in answer to a question. "I really couldn't tell you. I just went to that ball game because I wanted to see how the outlaw clubs were playing. And believe me it was great. We had better baseball in the old days than we have had since under organized baseball. At the commencement of the year, I did want to put a club in San Francisco. But there were too many who wanted a share. I made up my mind that I would run the club or have nothing to do with it. Possibly, if the State League puts a club in San Francisco next year I might run a club. You never can tell.

"Before I quit, though, I'll tell you my only experience in baseball. It was the year the war broke out with Spain. Fred Bushnell, the photographer, now dead, and myself were in the club, the San Francisco team. But the sight of those troops mobilizing at the Presidio was a bigger attraction. We played to $100 gates on Sundays and I got out of baseball in a hurry. But it seems a better game now."

Personally, I doubt if he has any real intention of dipping into the promotion of baseball. Coffroth likes to have his name in the public prints, because it advertises him as a fight promoter. Therefore, he would be glad to get through the Summer months and let the question hang fire. It would be a feather in the cap of the outlaws if they secure the co-operation of Coffroth. He is a fighter from way back, and if he started in the game he would be willing to spend his money.

Money Behind Moreing.

According to the latest gossip, Moreing has promised or given some of his players on the Oakland outlaws a bunch of stock in the club. He wants them to stick by him in the deal, and thinks that is the best way to have their good will. Cy Moreing, Sr., who financed the deal, issued a statement this week in which he said he was in the fight to stay.

"I have given my boys $150,000 to make this fight," he declared, "and will put in another $150,000 before I let go."

If Mr. Moreing, Sr., is serious, there is a merry time ahead. However, if the gentleman in question has that much money ahead, he would have done well to have secured grounds in San Francisco. It's simply impossible to make money in Oakland. It is not a baseball town.

Appreciation of Seals.

Can you imagine the victorious Seals returned from Portland leading the six clubs in the pennant race? Well, they opened at Oakland on Tuesday afternoon to 400 people. And about 150 of those people went across the bay to see the game.

The balance of the week the Seals have been doing much better on their home grounds. Their getting into the lead has been quite popular with the local fans, who have awakened to the fact that they have some ball team this year. All last week, while San Francisco was playing in Portland, the telephones were buzzing. And all you had to do was to shout the score of the Portland-San Francisco game. They didn't care a rap whether Vernon defeated Oakland or whether the Angels beat the Senators. They merely wished to inquire whether the Seals had reached the top.

Reidy as Manager.

As you have read, there were things doing this last week with the Oakland club. Something had to drop, the way the Commuters were losing games. The balance of the team managers demanded that Ed Walter make a change. Finally he selected Bill Reidy, who was once upon a time a pitcher on the same club, and made him the manager. Of course, Reidy has not had sufficient time in which to make changes. All of this week he has been looking over the team, and about next week he will have determined where the weakness lies.

About the first thing all the fans wanted to know was what would become of George Van Haltren. Reidy answered this very promptly.

"As far as I am concerned, and if he wishes to do so, Van Haltren will remain with the club and play in the outfield. I consider him the best player on the club today. He is fast and uses his head. I want him to remain."

There is no question but that Van is popular with the fans. He was given a rousing cheer when he first stepped to the plate last Tuesday. Relieved of the managerial cares, I rather think that Van will make a much better ballplayer.

It has been quite a disappointment to the Oaklanders that Truesdale is out of the game on account of sickness. The second baseman promised to be a star of this season. During the Winter he was bothered with malaria, and has never been just right. It is possible that he will be able to get back into the game, but considered hardly probable. If Truesdale continues in poor health Reidy will send out a hurry-up call for another infielder.

Berger Lacks Control.

It was no surprise when Danny Long announced that he had loaned Joel Berger to the Tacoma club. Berger is a good pitcher, but has shown a lack of control. He would doubtless do better work with more games to pitch, but Long has not felt that he could afford to take any chances. The Seal manager has been especially desirous of winning games and to that end has been using his best pitchers regularly. If Berger lives up to expectations he will be recalled in 1910 to play with the San Francisco bunch.

The gamblers are again getting in their work at the local ball games. Last Saturday three arrests were made by plain clothes men, who had marked coin. The arrested men preferred to forfeit their cash bail of $20 each, and the charges never came to an issue. On the following Sunday, however, newspapermen who were unknown to the baseball fraternity occupied seats in the bleachers and discovered that gambling was going on as if nothing had happened.

To the credit of the local people be it said that they are extremely anxious to stamp out "boxing" and will do their best.

FINE TRAINER COMING

DAN MURPHY WILL RETURN TO PORTLAND ROWING CLUB.

Stanford's Decision to Retire From Game Will Give Local Oarsmen Services of Veteran Coach.

Since the decision of the Stanford crew not to take part in the three-cornered race on Lake Washington between the Universities of Washington, California and Stanford, and their decision also to drop out of rowing altogether, it is probable that Dan Murphy, the coach and trainer of the Stanford crew, will arrive in Portland soon to take charge of the Portland Rowing Club oarsmen. The new shell, which was ordered some time ago, has arrived and has been delivered at the clubhouse. The Portland Rowing Club now has three good four-oared shells, as well as a number of single shells.

During week every night, the weather permitting, the members of the club are training faithfully for the races scheduled with the other clubs on the coast. It seems that the expectations of the members are not going to be realized in regard to the senior crew, as it is unlikely that the last year members will be able to take part in this year's contests. Dr. Byron Loomis is the only member of the senior crew of last year left. It was thought that the other three members would be back in Portland by this time, but the club has been disappointed. However, there is some good material to draw from in the other rowing enthusiasts and the vacancies will give these a chance to get in some good work.

Rowing is one of the most gruelling exercises that exists and many people cannot see why men will work hard for several weeks to enter a race that means only the most severe test of strength and endurance, but those who go into the sport like it and are willing to abide by its decrees.

The two great passenger steamers now building for the White Star Line will be 1000 feet long and probably 85 feet wide.

NOTCH IS GAINED ON CHAMPIONSHIP

Pullman's Victory Fulfills Earlier Predictions as to Interscholastic Field Meets.

OLD MEN HARD TO REPLACE

Corvallis' Strength Needs Another Season for Upbuilding—Eugene Meet Shows Promising Pointmakers in High School Lads.

BY THE AMATEUR.

Pullman's victory over the Oregon Agricultural College fulfills the predictions made in these columns a week ago and puts the Washington State College aggregation one notch nearer the championship.

Ten firsts, seven seconds and 11 2-3 third places out of a total of 14 events composed the record established by the victors, their total score being 82 2-3 points to 23 1-3 for the men from Corvallis.

The meet was held on Rogers field at Pullman, and although the day was stormy there were some good performances. Nelson, the phenomenal W. S. C. sprinter, repeated his time of 9 4-5 seconds in the 100-yard dash and proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that he is one of the greatest sprinters that the Northwest has seen. Nelson also won the 220-yard dash in fast time, but allowed Bartlett, one of his team mates, to win the 440-yard dash.

Nelson a Great Sprinter.

That Washington State College has a great sprinter in Nelson and that Cooil is a very classy man in the mile run are opinions that were freely expressed by Mike Butler, formerly athletic director at the Chicago Athletic Club, but now a resident of Spokane.

"Nelson will have a chance with your Walkers, your Rectors, your Kerrs and any of them," declared Butler, who was starter of the W. S. C.-Idaho meet at Pullman.

"I never saw a grander looking runner," declared Mike. "He is another Bernie Wefers, a dead ringer for that great old boy. He stands about six feet one, and will weigh perhaps 185 pounds. He is steady on the mark, has a good head and easy, graceful form.

No Doubt About Record.

"There is no doubt about that time of 9 4-5 seconds for the 100 yards. I knew what it was before I asked; I was sure that something was doing. Had they said :09 2-5 I would not have been so surprised as I would if they had called it 10 flat. W. S. Keinholz, the South Central High School track coach, was one of the timers, and he has been at it many years. One of the four watches caught it in :09 2-5 seconds.

"That 440-yard race was one the spectators will not forget in many a day. Edmundson fought Nelson every step till the last turn, and then Nelson pulled away, winning by fully 10 yards. There were odds of four and five to one on Edmundson before the race started, and one could have cleaned up $10,000 had he been sure Nelson would win, so much was there behind the great Edmundson.

"Nelson drew the pole and beat Edmundson to the first turn. Down the backstretch Edmundson challenged Nelson, but the latter refused to be shaken out of that long, pretty 440-yard stride, showing rare judgment. Nelson did not break into his sprint until he hit the top of the last turn. It was the fastest 440 they have had in the Northwest since Gorman and Waller ran at Portland four years ago. They made :49 4-5 then.

"Cooil is ready right now to meet any of the distance runners in the country at any distance from one mile up to 10. He finished yesterday with lots left in 4:21 2-5, and could have done it in 4:25 had he been pressed. That's an awful mile for a raw Westerner."

Nelson came to Pullman from a college in Colorado about six months ago. His record has been looked up and his standing is said to be all right. It is hoped that both Nelson and Huston, the fast Oregon sprinter, will be in first-class condition for the conference meet at Seattle on June 5, for there is a general feeling that the Pullman runner has not yet encountered a man of Huston's equal and that in the coming race he will be forced to do his level best. Huston has never done the century dash in 9 4-5 seconds, but he has a record of 10 flat, which is fast enough to win most anywhere.

Corvallis Showed Well.

Despite the one-sidedness of the score at Pullman, the men from Corvallis acquitted themselves with credit. Wolff was the bright particular star of his team. He won the discus throw and the shotput, making a record of 43 feet 3½ inches in the latter event. Bergman showed good form by winning the high hurdles and Scott was second to Nelson in both of the short sprints. Chapman, of O. A. C., defeated Putnam, of W. S. C., in the high jump, the height being only 5 feet 4 inches. Endburg, a Corvallis freshman, picked up a second place in the discus throw and third in the shot. Endburg was one of the mainstays of the Corvallis football team last Fall and is a coming man in Northwest athletics.

Although the Agricultural College has developed a number of good men this season, the places left vacant by Davolt, Greenhaw, Swann and others who contributed to the strength of last season's team are hard to fill and another season will be required to build up a strong team of point-winners. Trainer Hayward is experiencing the same difficulty at Eugene. He has lost many of last season's champions and has had to build up a team around a very small nucleus of veterans. He has a youngster named Davis who is proving his worth in the long-distance runs, while Means and Kelloy, two weight-throwers, are showing good form for freshmen. Davis defeated Burns, the speedy miler from the Hill Military Academy, in the freshman-high school meet at Eugene last Saturday, although in justice to Burns it must be said that he had just returned from California and had not fully recovered from the brilliant race which he won on the Stanford campus, when he met and defeated the best scholastic runners in California. Burns is by far the best academic miler that the Northwest has seen.

High School Boy Shows Speed.

The recent meet at Eugene developed a number of star performers, chief among them being Kay's work in the 220-yard dash. Kay, who is a Salem high school lad, did this event in 23 seconds, which is very fast time for an Oregon high school runner. He also won the 100-yard dash in 10½ seconds and picked up a third in the high jump. Meets of the character of the one held at Eugene and the big interscholastic track meet that is held each year at the Oregon Agricultural College, as well as the local meets in different parts of the state, serve to develop men who will make valuable point-winners for their colleges later on.

M. A. A. C. Will Compete in Seattle.

The Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club expects to be well represented when the Pacific Northwest Association and Amateur Athletic Union championship meets are held at The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in June and August, respectively. Bill Hayward will come down from Eugene after college closes and will put in several weeks with the local clubmen. Among the Multnomah athletes whose names are being mentioned in connection with this season's team are Smithson, Gilbert, Kelly, Williams, Greenhaw, Huston, Baker, Wolff, McKinney and Kuykendall. If Hayward has an opportunity to get these men together for anything like a respectable length of time there will be something doing when the Multnomah team strikes Seattle.

NEW BOAT IS MYSTERY

JOHN WOLFF SAYS NOTHING ABOUT CRAFT.

Great Interest Attaches to Entry of Launch in Races During the Coming Season.

Following the election of officers in the Willamette Motor Boat Club Friday, May 7, activities in regard to the Seattle races, as well as the other details of the motor boat season are well in hand. George W. Kelly, commodore of the club, and its most enthusiastic member, is getting as many entries for these events as possible and, according to the interest being taken, Portland will be well represented in the races scheduled.

The motor boat that is expected to carry off the highest honors in the Portland representation is a new craft that has been built by John Wolff. This boat is designed and built by Wolff, who has owned the fastest boats on the Pacific Coast for years. Wolff's new boat is somewhat of a mystery to everyone but himself and no one knows the speed it is capable of except its owner. It is jealously guarded and the trial trips are made up or down the river out of sight of the eyes of those who would know its capabilities. Even an attempt to photograph it is foiled. The mystery surrounding this vessel makes it all the more attractive, and the results of the races in which it is to compete are looked forward to with unusual interest.

In the meantime complete motor boats are steadily being launched in the river and tested for the first time. In few cases has there been reports of failure to operate successfully. The most important launching is that of the launch built by Curtis Brothers for W. A. Knight. This was plunged into the river for the first time last week, where the finishing touches will be given before it is put to use. A new model is being constructed by the same company for another Portland man. This is to be 32 feet long and constructed along original lines.

Petroleum is now being imported to a limited extent into Chili from California and used as fuel by the Talta Railway, about 300 miles north of Valparaiso.

NELSON TELLS WHY

Battler Postpones Fight With "Packey" for Business.

MAKE MORE MONEY LATER

Fight Fans of Bay City Hear Inside Gossip of Squared Circle and Find Many Good Bouts for the Coming Season.

BY HARRY B. SMITH.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., May 15.—(Special.)—It is practically an admitted fact that Battling Nelson will not fight Packey McFarland before Coffroth's Mission Club on July 5, the date that was set. The Battler arrived in California the first of the week, and proceeded to explain the situation.

"It is not because McFarland has been mean and nasty in his remarks," said the lightweight champion, "but because there is more money if I wait until September to fight him. If I should fight Packey in July, and then agree to meet Cyclone Johnny Thompson in September, it would be a foregone conclusion that I would beat Thompson. I have a number of good theatrical offers after September, and if I beat McFarland will have plenty of notices. It means $20,000 more to me if I keep Packey waiting until September, and that is what I am going to do.

"Personally, I don't care very much whether I fight Thompson in July in San Francisco. The game is going to open up in Denver, and we can get a match there with good money."

Nor is Promoter Coffroth anxious to force an issue. He saw the Battler the other day and suggested to the Dane that, inasmuch as he has a fight with Dick Hyland for May 29, it would be a good scheme to await the outcome of that contest before arranging others.

It doesn't look as if the promoter is particularly put out over the situation. He can get Ketchel for the Fourth of July date, and promises to match the middleweight champion with either the winner of the Papke-Kelly fight or Professor Jack O'Brien.

Ketchel-Langford Bout.

The Los Angeles dispatches state that Promoter Tom McCarey has cinched a ten-round match between Ketchel and Sam Langford for July 12. Coffroth says this will make no difference, and that if he wishes, Ketchel will fight in San Francisco on July 5. Of course, any such arrangement would meet with a protest from McCarey, and one of the two suggested matches would have to be called off.

Mike (Twin) Sullivan, one of the Boston Sullivans, who was knocked out so abruptly by Stanley Ketchel, is to appear in a 20-round bout in San Francisco on May 28, with Kyle Whitney. Whitney is a colored scrapper, who has had a number of fights here, most of them rather unimportant. Whitney was defeated by Jimmy Gardner, and more recently was knocked out by Al Nell. Some of the boys say that Mike Twin has developed a glass jaw and that Whitney can knock him out. At any event, this will be the main attraction of the Mission Athletic Club, an organization not to be confounded with Coffroth's Mission-street arena.

Monte Attell, who is to fight Johnny Coulon on June 12 for the bantamweight championship of the world, had a close call the other night in Oakland at the hands of a veteran bantam, Jockey Bennett by name. It was a six-round affair, and as Attell was to receive $250 for his work, he figured it was like stealing the money. He found the Jockey a tougher customer than he expected. Although the referee rendered a decision in favor of Attell, a draw would have been the proper kind of a verdict. Monte has gone to Skaggs Springs to spend a couple of weeks loafing around before he gets down to hard work.

Johnson Getting Ready.

PHILADELPHIA, May 15.—Confident he will be in fine physical condition for his bout with Jack O'Brien at the National Athletic Club in this city next Wednesday night, Jack Johnson, the champion negro pugilist, today began the final preparations for the fight. Johnson arrived here late last night and went to the home of George Cole, the old-time pugilist at Merchantville, N. J., where he will do his training. O'Brien will be in training for several weeks at King of Prussia, Pa., a few miles from this city.

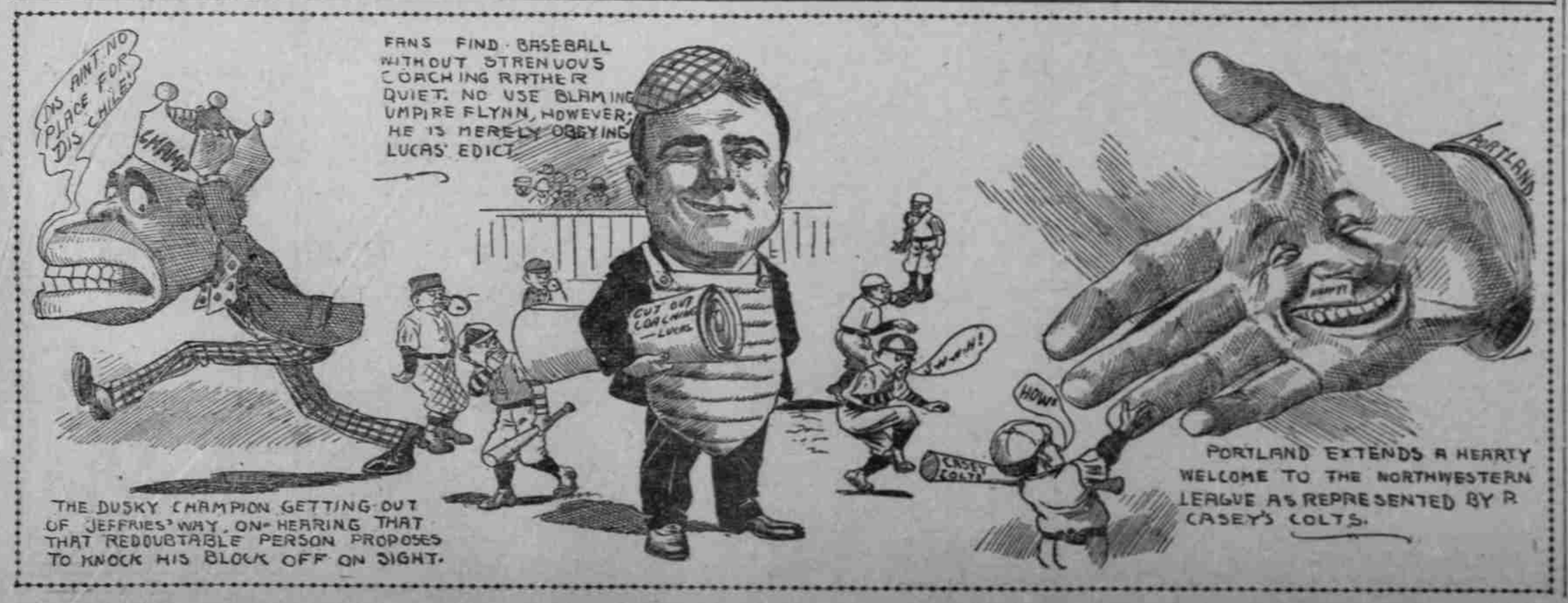
Golden Car Starts Return.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., May 15.—Piloted by Colorado Springs autoists, the Glidden R. M. P. pathfinder car left this city at 8:10 o'clock this morning on its return trip to Detroit. The car will follow the Rock Island tracks as far as Limon, whence it will travel along the Union Pacific to Hugo, where the night will be spent.

Whitney Horse Is Second.

GATWICK, England, May 15.—The Marlborough stakes of 500 sovereigns for 3- and 4-year-olds, distance one mile, was won today by Thaddeus. H. P. Whitney's Sixty II was second and Lawnsand third. Six horses ran.

A FEW LEAVES FROM THE SPORTING NOTE-BOOK OF CARTOONIST MURPHY



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ATLANTIC EXPRESS	8:10 AM	Portland to Salt Lake City and Green River via Oregon Short Line, connecting with through trains for Denver, Kansas City, Omaha and Chicago.
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