

MAJORS ARE WILLING TO FIGHT JOHNSON

Corbett Gets Letters From Hundreds of Aspiring Pugilists.

GIVES THEM GOOD ADVICE

Ex-Champ Says They Should Study Lives of Fighters, and Points Out What Makes a Leader.

Other Prizing Gossip.

Since I announced immediately after the Reno fight between Johnson and Jeffries, July 4 that it would be one aim of my life to find a man who would win back the championship and to see that it was again the white man's burden I have received several hundred letters from all parts of the country from young and even old, aspirants for the heavy-weight pugilistic crown.

I wish to take this opportunity to say to the writers of these letters and to all others with like desires that I am deeply touched by the sentiment which excited this correspondence. It is impossible for me in the height of my summer vaudeville season to make personal replies to all. I have had each letter carefully filed away and ordered by a newspaper clipping bureau reports which will cover a wide circuit in order that I may keep fully posted upon the advance made by these men.

My advice to them all is to caution personal care. Avoid all the pitfalls and temptations which attend toward physical weakness. Stick fast to careful training and let your matchmaking be always toward the highest goal. One good, hard fight won is worth a dozen easy ones, and it frequently happens that a defeat after a hard battle is the stepping stone toward a championship.

Should Study Fighters' Lives. It would not be a bad idea to read the stories of the lives and battles of our greatest fighters, and in this matter I may digress in order to say that it has always been a wonder to me why someone has not prepared in book form such a complete volume which could be a ready seller and full of interest.

While I have stated that I would be willing to give my time and such ability as I may possess to any man who would think may have the ability to win back the championship from Johnson, this must not be taken as a promise. I could not be expected to take even a dozen or six men under charge.

But I do say now, as I intended that I offer should first appear for acceptance, that when the time comes for me to think one man stands out from all the rest as having a chance he will then be asked to accept my offer. I am sure that a number who seem to be possibilities. It is for them to get together in the ring and show us which is the best among them all.

And I want to impress strongly upon all who may feel a sincere desire and who have the physical qualifications that while they may think of a gift of directly under the spotlight they should always remember that many of our champions have won the crown although they have not been given a seemingly only half a chance at best. Odds on favorites have lost their heads in scores of fights. It is well to remember these things.

And now a word to Jack Johnson. In some quarters it has been made to appear that I am not particularly sympathetic to him because he defeated Jeffries. Of course, I feel that natural dislike that comes to every man against one who lacks his graces.

Johnson is Praised. All my readers, however, will remember that I gave Johnson all the praise as a fighter that was coming to him in my weekly Sunday letter of July 10, and also directly following the Reno fight.

I frankly admit I have a race prejudice against Johnson because he holds the championship, but I am not alone in this. I don't think that a white man should enter the ring with a negro. If we are to have colored men as champions, then let them fight in a class by themselves.

Johnson as a great fighter, as he surely is, was entitled to public opportunity, but I certainly blame Tommy Burns, who practically offered the championship for which we of the good old times almost, if not actually sweat and bled, in matching up with a colored man. I believe in Burns' fight, while I felt some personal friendly sympathy, I also believed he had been justly rewarded for his foolishness.

I hope I have now placed myself plainly on record as regards Johnson. Briefly I want to see Johnson whipped, but with me it's the supremacy of the white race that I wish to see again established and I won't rest until I have done all in my power to bring about such a happy and, to myself, satisfactory conclusion.

"Unknown" Looks Good. Incidentally, I have an unknown under cover who is a big, strong, dangerous fellow, and I think him a good candidate for the championship honors. When I can see what he can do I will give him a name and more particulars to the public.

Those who have carefully read the newspapers of late, and I hope all my readers are "regular subscribers," may have noticed that Hugh McIntosh, the Australian, has been offered to back my unknown against Johnson for a side bet of at least \$5000. The fight to be not less than 20 rounds. Johnson was very badly opened the eyes of the public, and what do you think he said in reply? Just this: "I, too, have an unknown to match with your unknown." As Sir Hart, a worthy manager of the champion, would say: "Johnson is a great self-made man. Got all his education himself."

They are gradually getting Johnson screwed up to a fight, however. McIntosh offered him \$75,000 to fight three men. The first contest to be with Tommy Burns and within three months to fight in Philadelphia August 10, and I hear that Bill Lang, the Australian heavyweight brought over by McIntosh, is to fight Stanley Ketchel, two-ripping good boxer. Langford sails for England August 20. He is to fight Burns 20 rounds before the Olympic Club, London, the last week in September.

I heard that Frank Gotch had given up the idea of entering a pugilistic career. Gotch has many good points to recommend him to public attention in this way, but he finds it hard to screw his courage up to the sticking point. Now that he has been so badly opened, he expressed some idea of entering the ring about six or seven years ago, but about as suddenly decided to reconsider the matter.

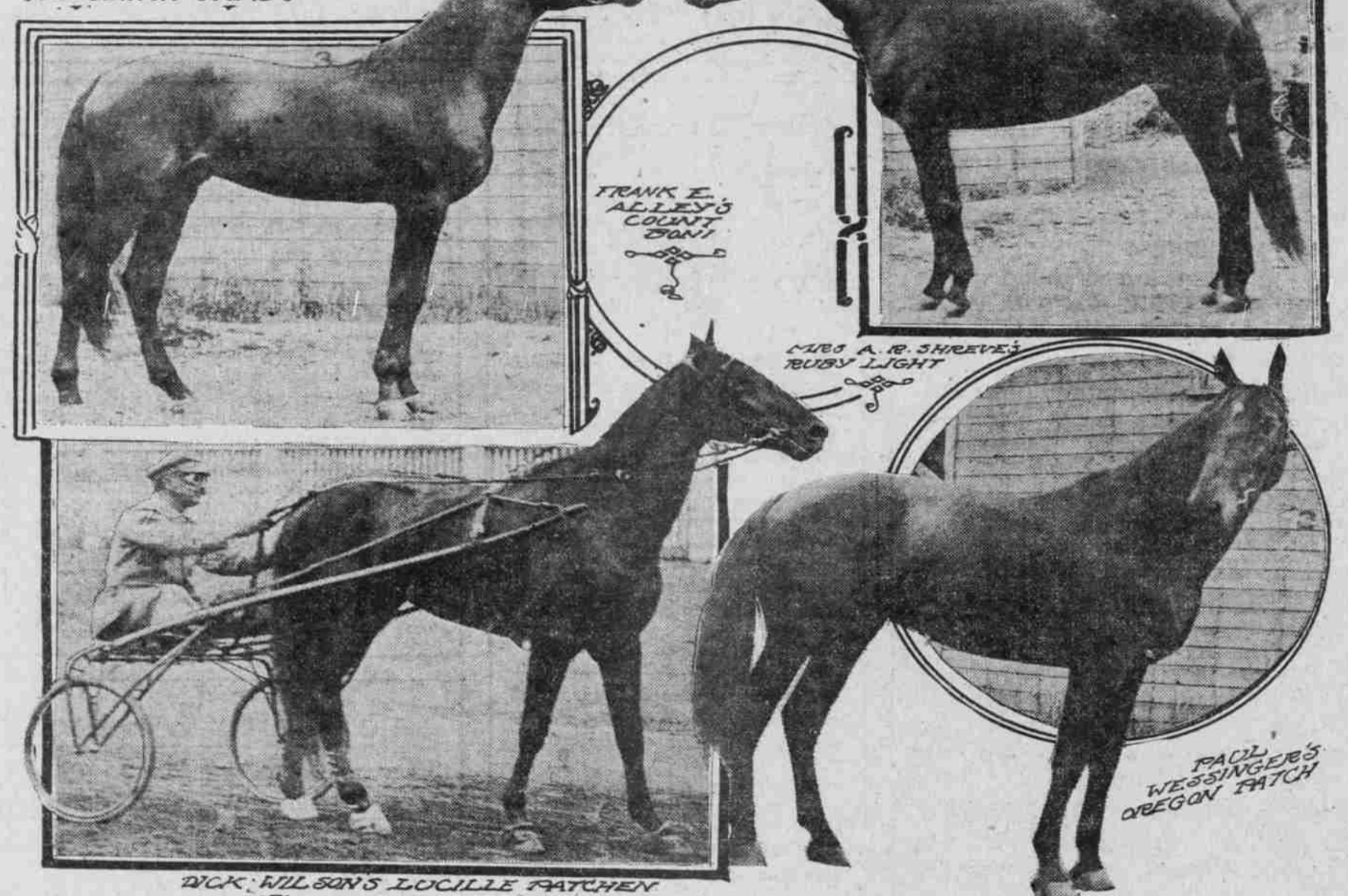
So far as my knowledge goes, I don't think Jeffries ever will fight Johnson again, and the Californian has any serious intentions of such a contest. There are many besides Sam Berger and Joe Choyinski who think "Jeff"

HIGH-BRED HORSES TO RUN IN FALL FESTIVAL MEET

Big Purse Attract Some of Fastest Harness Racers in Country—Noted Trainer Praises Ruby Light—Extensive Exhibit of Fancy Stock Will Be One of Features of Coming Show.



GROUP OF PROMINENT HORSEMEN AT PORTLAND FAIR ASSOCIATION TRACK



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT THE PROMINENT HORSEMEN SHOWN IN THE PICTURE ARE—G. K. HOWITT, PAUL WESSINGER, LOUIE CARRILLO, JOHNSON PORTER, DICK WILSON, A. R. SHREVE AND FRANK E. ALLEY.

BY W. J. PETRAIN. PORTLAND'S first annual fall festival, to be held under the auspices of the Portland Fair and Livestock Association, is only a few weeks away, and greater interest than ever before is now being taken in the big event. Finer racing, better attractions, and a bigger and more extensive stock show will be more attractive features during the week of September 5 to 10 than have marked any show held in the Northwest in the past.

This annual festival includes the regular harness race meet, and this year the fancy steppers are to have a greater inning all over the circuit of the North Pacific Fair Association than has been the fortune of the horsemen in previous years. Larger purses are being offered all over the circuit, and as the Portland meet starts the ball rolling, the interest naturally centers upon the proposed plans of the Portland association.

est trainers, has been in Portland for several months, and he has worked out his own horses as well as the best bred fancy sloppers owned by Portland and Northwest horsemen. He is delighted with the prospect of a successful season, and predicts that the North Pacific Fair Association can compete with the Grand Circuit right now, and that it is only a matter of a year or two when most of the biggest horsemen of the coming month, Wilson was a driver, trainer and handler on the Grand Circuit for more than 15 years, and today is rated as one of the best whipmen in the country. He knows the horse game thoroughly, and is enthusiastic in his praise of the quality and class of the Northwestern horses, whether bred here or imported.

One animal which has performed exceptionally well and over which Trainer Wilson waxes most enthusiastic, is the 2-year-old mare owned by Mrs. R. Shreve. This mare is Ruby Light, bred at Arolog, 2:13 1/2, as a 3-year-old, out of the famous brood mare Bertha, dam of five horses with marks of better than 2:10, and of five others better than 2:14. Coming from such splendid stock Ruby Light has the proper strain to become a great racing filly, and Dick Wilson predicts that, barring accident, she will some day be the champion pacer of the country. Aerolite, sire of Ruby Light, has a mark of 2:05, and this Wilson declares the Shreve mare will better this mark easily before she is a 5-year-old.

The other day Wilson put Ruby Light to suika, and drove over the track of the Portland Fair and Livestock Association in 2:25 1/2, with Frank E. Alley, of Roseburg, one of the best-known horsemen in the Northwest, as timer. The last half was made in 1:10 1/2, which is considered a remarkable performance for a filly of her age. Wilson was a driver, trainer and handler on the Grand Circuit for more than 15 years, and today is rated as one of the best whipmen in the country. He knows the horse game thoroughly, and is enthusiastic in his praise of the quality and class of the Northwestern horses, whether bred here or imported.

Between handling so many locally-owned horses and those of his own stable, Wilson has his hands full, but he enjoys the task and is always busy. Probably his principal reason for wearing that golden smile of his is the fine manner in which his high-bred mare, Lucille Patchen, works out each day. Wilson has entered the Patchen mare in the \$10,000 trot to be raced here in Harvest Festival week, and if she doesn't win that big purse it will be because somebody else has a better horse entered. Lucille Patchen is one of the finest trotting mares in the country, and no one realizes this more than does Wilson.

Retired to the stud entirely at the end of this season. There is no busier place than the track of the Portland Fair and Livestock Association during the period when Dick Wilson and his staff of trainers, including the veteran, Louis Carrelle, put the fancy-steppers through their paces. Every row and again Wilson holding the ribbons over a similar promising entry, engage in a speed test much to the delight of the group of owners and stable hands assembled at the track to watch the workouts. Many a hotly-contested heat is dashed out in this way for the horses seem to enter into the spirit of the affair and do not have to be urged by their handlers to let themselves out. It is in this way that Wilson has discovered many of the fine points of the various horses owned by Portland and Oregon horsemen.

Philadelphia next month. He was suspended from membership indefinitely last night by the officers of the Federation of American Motorcyclists. A Whitley appeared at the Salt Palace, a National Cycling Association track. Local representatives of the Federation, which is at odds with the Association, consulted the Eastern headquarters by telegraph and Whitley's suspension followed.

PERIOD OF REAL CHAMPIONS GONE

No Good Fighters, Big or Little, Left to Maintain Game's Former Glory.

PUGS ARE ALL MONEY-MAD

High Financing Occupies Their Attention Rather Than Fighting, According to View Taken by This Writer.

BY W. J. PETRAIN.

Boxing promises to be a dead issue in America as far as the professional exponent of the game is concerned, for there are no good big or little men left to uphold the title of champion. No matter what the division selected, one cannot point to a John L. Sullivan, a Jack Dempsey or a Jack McAuliffe. The old-time champions were real champions and not money-mad financiers as are the would-be fistie pretenses of the present day. In the olden days the men who posed as fistie champion would fight, and it was by fighting that they won the prowess enjoyed by them during the time they were at the top. The champion of today tells his challenger, if he be a poor man and without backing, to go and get a reputation. The champion figures that the unknown will hardly help the box office receipts and that is more essential than the championship. Besides if he were to lose to the unknown he would be no more a card and would not be an attraction sought after by the giddy promoters of the present time.

Game Fraud to Get Money.

The present status of the fistie game is nothing short of a gigantic fraud to get the money. The promoters, fighters and training-camp followers handle the truth about their entries as recklessly as a negro youngster would handle a watermelon. This was emphatically demonstrated in the case of James J. Jeffries and his handlers, who heralded him broadcast as the physical marvel of the age. As long as it is possible to peddle a tale of Jeff's great physical prowess the "hirelings" attached to his camp as well as the staffs of various newspapers took advantage of the unlimited space allotted them to tell the poor old general public what the poor old general public, out of stupidity more than anything else, wanted to know, and to get a little bit of money. How he came back is history. It was about the most miserable comeback ever experienced.

Johnson Alone in Field.

The elimination of Jeffries leaves Jack Johnson alone in the field. The big negro is in a class by himself, for there is no other man living who looks to have a chance with him, for he was not put in there in his recent fight with Jeffries. There are some who think Sam Langford stands a chance with Johnson. Sam Langford is about the same size as Tommy Burns, Johnson, the bigger and cleverer of the two, does not seem likely to mind much of the chirping from the Langford camp.

In New York they are mentioning a young collier, William Warren Barbour, as the possible conqueror of the black champion. Barbour is the son of a wealthy family and does not take to the idea at all. It is extremely doubtful if he will seek the championship, but to secure a possible conqueror capable of defeating Johnson has also brought back the name of Earl Van Meter and Long. Long is a burly young giant, and said to have all of the qualities necessary to make a small percentage of the crowd. Neither Barbour nor Long ever appeared in a regular fight, so they would be but experiments at best.

M. A. A. C. Gossip

The true Northman Club spirit was shown the past week when everybody worked for the bond sale. President Holt and the board of trustees wish to thank the Harvards and other students for their generous support of the project.

The new clubhouse will be taken over tomorrow by the club and will be gotten into shape to receive the membership inside of a week. The new clubhouse is expected to prove no comfortable that it will be with the removal that the removal to the bigger club is made.

Martin Pratt, an honorary member, has asked that his name be placed on the active list again, that his dues may help the club. Ralph Knight, who won three months' free dues in a recent membership campaign, has refunded that amount to the club.

W. Tyler Smith, a well-known track athlete, who was formerly employed by The Oregonian, has taken the position of circulation manager of the Medford Sun, a new paper.

Tennis players are still seen on the club courts night and morning. A diving tent has been established on the grounds. The new courts are in first-class shape and play on them will begin soon.

LAJOIE AND COBB ARE CLOSE

Struggle for American League Batting Honors Is Interesting.

The struggle for the batting honors in the American League is one that is attracting widespread attention. Napoleon Lajoie, the Cleveland star, and Ty Cobb, the Detroit whirlwind, are battling along about even these days. Lajoie has a head of scarcely 10 points over the "Georgia peach," and indications are that this struggle, for which an automobile has been offered to the leader, will be of as much interest as the pennant fight in both leagues. The averages follow:

Table with columns for Player-Club, G., AB., R., H., AV. and batting averages for various players like Lajoie, Cobb, Evers, etc.

HANS WAGNER COMES BACK

Pittsburg Player Again Has and Exercises His Batting Eye.

Hans Wagner, the famous Pittsburg player, has finally "come back." For a long time this season the "Flying Dutchman" hitherto the terror of all pitchers, had been trailing along among the almost hitters with a small percentage of hits. Hans seems to have recovered his batting eye of late completely and is slaming the ball at such a lively gait that he is once more in the 200 class. The wonderful player is the marvel of the baseball world, for it is seldom that a player gains so hitting points in so short a time as has Wagner.

Larry McLean has also hit well in the last few games, for he has increased his percentage. The averages up to the games played July 27 are as follows:

Table with columns for Player-Club, G., AB., R., H., AV. and batting averages for various players like Lajoie, Cobb, Evers, etc.