

CURRENT SPORTING TALK

BASKETBALL IS
A GREAT SPORTGiven Remarkable Prom-
inence Last Year.Bids Fair to Rival All the Inside
Games During the Win-
ter Months.

Basketball as a college sport has come into remarkable prominence the last year, and bids fair within a year or so to become the leading branch of winter athletics in many colleges. Hockey a year or so ago was popularly hailed as the coming college winter sport, but the reason why basketball is so rapidly distancing hockey in student favor is not far to seek.

The games of the Intercollegiate Hockey League are all played in the St. Nicholas rink in Washington, and are, therefore, fought out on non-college grounds. In basketball the case is reversed. In the Intercollegiate League the members are Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and Cornell. A schedule of 20 games is played, in which each team meets every other twice. Yale, for example, plays two games with Harvard, one at New Haven and the other at Cambridge. In this way every one of the five colleges has the benefit of playing before its own students, arousing their interest and having them to count on for spectators.

Popularity Is Great.

It is not difficult to understand the popularity of basketball with those who play it as well as with those who watch it. Contrary to ignorant prejudice, few sports require more endurance and staying power. For forty minutes the length of the average game, the players are constantly on the go, exerting every energy and putting forth every effort. The poorly trained or physically undeveloped have no chance to succeed in "various" basketball as it is played today. As an evidence of the qualities required for participants in basketball, it is of interest to note that Columbia's gymnasium authorities require a man to pass as rigorous a physical examination as to attain as high a standard in the strength test to play basketball as to play football or row.

Has Its Advantages.

Basketball, when it is well played, is usually by the college, is a fast and spectacular game. It is exciting to watch and exciting to play. It has two elements of roughness which college men and the public generally seem to like in college sport. Basketball, too, has an advantage in that there are so few winter sports, hockey and gymnastics being the only real competitors. In spectacular interest it is of course much superior to gymnastics, and is rapidly surpassing hockey. Where Harvard has 25 candidates for its hockey team it has 125 in basketball, and the same figures prevail at Columbia, Yale, Princeton and Cornell each have about 50 candidates for their basketball teams. Basket-

ball usually attracts men who have attained some prominence in other sports that are seasonal at other times of the year. Columbia, for example, has among its team and substitutes the stroke of the varsity crew, the captain of the baseball nine, the quarterback of the football team, the captain of the gymnastic team, a member of the varsity four-oared crew, a member of the lacrosse team, one of the water polo team, and the captain of the cross-country team.

To those who are unfamiliar with college men's basketball the sport must not be confused with the game as played in the girls' colleges. They are as different as possible, not only in rules and number of competitors, but in general style of play.

Benefit for "Macon."

The many newspaper and sporting friends of J. B. McCormick, whose sporting letters over the nom de plume of "Macon" have been read with considerable interest for the past 35 years, and who has been lying dangerously ill at his home in Bath Beach, L. I., for some time past, have arranged a monster benefit in his behalf to take place in Industrial Hall, Philadelphia, on the 18th inst. One of the first to volunteer his services was Jack McAuliffe, ex-light weight champion, who will spar with Jack Fogarty. Other old champions who have volunteered to spar on this occasion are Jimmy Ryan of Philadelphia, Horace Leeds, Dominick McCaffrey, Arthur Chambers and Johnny Clarke. "Philadelphia Jack" O'Brien, Peter Maher, James J. Corbett, "Young" Corbett, Terry McGovern, "Kid" McCoy, Gus Ruhlin and other boxers of the present school have also agreed to lend their services.

Y. M. C. A. Double Attractions.

At the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium tomorrow night there will be a double attraction on the boards. The opening contest will be a baseball game between the Multnomah team and the Y. M. C. A. This will start promptly at 8:15. Following this contest the Willamette basketball aggregation that has been touring the Northwest will meet the champion team of the Y. M. C. A. in a vigorous game. On account of the excellent standard of both teams an exciting exhibition is looked for.

Will Box Six Rounds.

George Gardner, the Lowell pugilist, has made a business proposition to Jack O'Brien. It is this: "I will box him six rounds at Philadelphia, 20 rounds at Fort Erie, or at any other spot he may name, and he can see how he wants the money divided. I feel confident that I can whip him over the short or long route, and all I want is a chance to prove it."

Tracy Wants Walcott.

Tom Tracy, the local favorite and the white welterweight champion of the world, who was negotiating as to journeying to Australia and meeting "Snowy" Sturgeon before a Melbourne crowd, will now seek elsewhere for a cypher, as Sturgeon recently met defeat at the hands of "Soldier" Thompson in the sixth round. Tracy's legion of friends now insist on Joe Walcott making reply to his def.

Albany Girls Win.

The Albany High School girls' basketball team defeated the Roseburg High School contingent last night by a score of 8 to 6. It was an exciting game throughout and much enthusiasm prevailed.

JEFF AND JIM.

Information comes from Champion James J. Jeffries that he will not fight Jim Corbett until the latter comes to his terms. The boiler-maker also avers in his demurrer that as champion of the world, he alone is capable of dictating terms. Leaving out the merits of the question in dispute and judging both men fairly on their pugilistic ability, we think that in a finish fight or even a 20-round contest, "Gentleman" Jim could not stand any chance with Jeffries. Why is one so anxious for a fight, and the other finds it so easy to refuse? A match may result from the deliberations, but if it is on the square, the winner's name will be Jeffries.

BOXING GOSSIP
FROM 'FRISCOJimmy Anthony Writes Interesting
News of the Ringsters.

Jimmy Anthony, the Australian-American ex-bantam champion, writes The Journal as follows from San Francisco: "I am still after a date with either Eddie Hanlon or 'Kid' McFadden before any Eastern or Western club. If either of the foregoing fail to make reply, I am prepared to match with any of the stellar lights in the 122-125-pound division."

"Tim Murphy, who is listed to box Soldier Green in Oakland, is anxious to meet the winner of the Heilly-Neill contest or the winner of the Carter-Johnson go."

"Snowy" Sturgeon, the Australian welterweight, whose sweeping def. was answered by Tom Tracy, met with defeat in Sydney the other night. Soldier Thompson defeating him in six rounds.

"Jimmy Barry, the Chicagoan and ex-world's bantam champion, is still here, and is regaining his wonted good health. I accompany him on the road and we work out a little together. Regards to Joe Acton, Tracy and all the boys."

BILLY SMITH
TALKS ON FIGHT"Mysterious" Says Jeffries Can
Easily Whip Corbett.

Champion Jim Jeffries' refusal to meet ex-champion Jim Corbett in a 20-round contest before an Eastern club was the subject of much comment today in local sporting circles.

"Mysterious" Billy Smith, when interviewed as to his opinion in regard to the outcome and the \$25,000 offer—the largest sum, by the way, ever offered for a limited contest—thus unbosomed himself to The Journal's representative: "I know Jeffries and Corbett well, and a second meeting between the twain would draw a large attendance. The statement that Jeffries is afraid to risk a second meeting with Corbett is the veriest kind of rubbish. Jeffries should win inside of 15 rounds. He is too big and strong, and recently his cleverness has been a surprise to old ring-goers. Corbett's request for a finish contest would not change my opinion as to the figures given in which the champion would win," said Smith, as he handed The Journal's man a wire he recently received from "Mexican" Pete from Ogden, Utah, asking him to jump up "Young" Chapski and arrange as to his meeting Pete in a 20-round contest before the Ogden Athletic Club, within the next two weeks. In conclusion, Smith said: "Jeffries, in 15 rounds or less, anyway, that's the way my money would be placed."

Tom Tracy Says

Tom Tracy, the welterweight champion, when seen in connection with the proposed limit or finish contest between Jeffries and Corbett, said: "Well, it should prove one of the greatest contests on record, and it would be a difficult matter to pick the winner. Jeffries, according to latest reports, has improved considerably in foot work and cleverness, and perhaps he may be induced, after all, to again meet the ex-champion. Another meeting between the twain should prove the historic event of the new year."

Over \$700 an Hour.

The gate receipts in the recent Hanlon-Atlet contest at San Francisco amounted to \$7,750. The prize for their work each drew down \$1,437.50, which was pretty fair pay for two hours' services.

Eddie Hanlon, who meets Young Corbett in a 20-round contest before the Yosemite Athletic Club of San Francisco, February 26, is training at Paso Robles, Cal., having Harry Foley as his mentor.

"Parson" Davies, on behalf of Bob Armstrong, colored, has forwarded a challenge to Jack Johnson, the colored Southern California boxer who recently defeated Jack Lavette of Montana at Los Angeles.

Jack Lechman, an alleged prize fighter, is a prisoner at the San Francisco city jail on suspicion of robbing John Kays and George Redman, two strangers from Alaska.

Favorites Were Few.

(Journal Special Service.) OAKLAND, Cal., Feb. 5.—The book-makers were happy yesterday, only two favorites coming first under the wire. Results: Seven furlongs, selling—Pru won, The Miller second, Louwelsa third; time, 1:21 1/4. Three and a half furlongs, selling—Selected won, Rose Farr second, Juana third; time, 0:43 1/4. Seven furlongs, selling—Annie Max won, Bogus Bill second, Tyrannus third; time, 1:31 1/4. Mile and a furlong, selling—Bessie McCarthy won, A. Tolight second, St. Sever third; time, 1:55. Six furlongs, selling—Sylvia Talbot won, Stuyve second, Ballroom Belle third; time, 1:15 1/4. One mile, selling—Diderot won, Dun-bell second, Fossil third; time, 1:46.

Sporting news, Tracy & Denny, 105 4th.

CHESS MASTERS
AT MONTE CARLOThird Annual Tourney
Has Begun.Experts From the World Round
Gathered at Famous Gambling
Home for Great Contest.

(Journal Special Service.)

MONTE CARLO, Feb. 5.—During the next 10 days this famous resort will be the cynosure of all eyes in the chess world, for here are gathered the greatest chess masters of Europe and America to compete in the third annual international tournament. The honor of America will be upheld in the tournament by Pillsbury and Ishtar. The other competitors will include the famous experts, Lasker, Tarrasch and Mieses of Germany, Moreau and Taubenhau of France, Burn and Teichman of Great Britain, Maroczy and Marco of Austria, and Tschigorin and Schleffers of Russia.

The play will commence in the Casino at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. An important change in the rules governing the two previous tournaments at this place is the valuation of drawn games. Instead of being replayed, as before, a draw will dispose of that particular game and will be counted as one-half point for each. In case any retiring player has failed to complete one third of his schedule, the games actually played by him will be cancelled. Otherwise, his score will stand and his remaining games be forfeited in due course.

A large prize fund has been provided by the Casino management, and prominent patrons of the game in Europe and America. Of the total amount, 4,000 francs, together with an object of art, will go to the winner of the tourney, and 2,500 francs to the player finishing second. In case of a tie between the two leaders, the money cannot be divided, but must instead be played for in a supplementary match of two games up to break the tie. The prize of 7,250 francs, will be divided among the rest of the players in proportion to their respective scores at the close. The men with the six highest scores will also receive medals or diplomas of honor.

Special prizes have been donated as follows: Prince Dadian of Mingrelia, two prizes of 250 francs each for the prettiest games; Baron Albert de Rothschild of Vienna, two prizes of 300 and 200 francs respectively, for the best games ending with announced mates; Captain A. S. Beaumont, London, 250 francs to be distributed at the discretion of the committee; Isaac L. Rice, New York, 250 francs for the best game played with the Rice gambit.

Though the European contestants form a formidable array, it is not unreasonable to believe that the Americans have at least an even chance of winning. Many are of the opinion that Pillsbury and Tschigorin will be the two rivals for first honors, and that the struggle is bound to narrow down to a duel between America and Russia.

Colored Championship.

(Journal Special Service.) LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 5.—The colored heavyweight championship, now securely held by "Denver" Ed Martin by virtue of the severe tracing he administered to Bob Armstrong, the only other colored fighter who made any pretense to the title at that time, will be defended by Martin here tonight in a go with Jack Johnson. Up to a short time ago Johnson was comparatively unknown, but his recent victories over more experienced fighters has led his admirers to believe that he is a "comer." At all events, they are sure of his ability to make a game showing against Martin, even though he does not obtain the decision.

Dismissed From Custody.

On the order of Police Judge Mogan of San Francisco, Spider Welch (Joseph Hogarty) and the men who were in the ring several seconds in the recent Welch-McConnell contest, have been set at liberty. Judge Mogan's order was based on the signed statement from Dr. Richter, who is attending the injured man. The physician says that McConnell is better than at any time since his entrance at St. Mary's Hospital. His mind is clearer, he is stronger physically and is perfectly conscious. If he continues to improve as he has in the past 24 hours the physician says that he sees no reason why he should not eventually recover.

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Frank Stiles, bricklayer, of 4559 Thirty-third avenue, Denver, Col., says: "It is over three years since I recommended Doan's Kidney Pills through our Denver papers. At that time they stopped pain in my back and through the sides which, although never severe enough to lay me up, was sufficient to cause more annoyance than any one should endure when Doan's Kidney Pills can so easily be procured. If I had not received positive benefit when that remedy first came to my notice I would be the last man in Denver to publicly endorse the medicine, and if the results obtained from the treatment with Doan's Kidney Pills had not been permanent nothing could induce me to endorse this medicine. The merits of Doan's Kidney Pills should be universally known. Just such evidence here at Milburn Company, Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no substitute."

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SENATOR CLARK'S
NEW STABLESMontana Millionaire Intends Com-
peting With Eastern Turfmen.

(Journal Special Service.) NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—It is reported here that Senator Clark of Montana intends establishing a racing stable that will rival and compete with the Whitney, Belmont and Keene stables. Charles Clark, son of the statesman, will manage the business and Lew Elmore will be the trainer. The plans for the new stable are said to be elaborate and the financial outlay will amount to millions. It has been known for some time that the Montana Senator had in mind the scheme which has been made public today and in the knowing circles little surprise was expressed.

Crescens Doesn't Like Women.

Crescens, the champion trotter of the world, is to be one of the attractions during the coming summer in Spokane. He is the horse that is said to drink out of a cut glass bucket and wear a blanket or oriental make, that cost upward of \$2,000. Unlike most kings in the world of sport, he has taken a violent dislike to the fair sex. Whenever a member of the fair sex enters his stall it claimed he will lay back his ears and kick viciously. To a member of the masculine persuasion, however, he is as gentle as a lamb.

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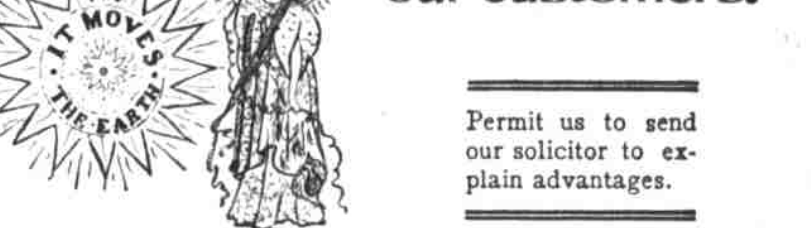
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