

SPORTING NEWS OF THE WORLD

MCREDIE GRABS TWO BY STEALTH

Steen and Rapp come to Portland Because Manager Uses Brains.

There is an interesting little story back of the recent trip east of Walter McCredie that will bear repeating. If anything, Manager Mac is one of the shrewdest baseball men in the minor leagues, and to his sagacity is due the acquisition of a pair of stars who will help mightily in landing the 1939 pennant for Portland. The tale is a recital of how the handsome manager beat the Pittsburgh champions and the Kansas City club out of two of the most promising youngsters in the game. In both cases McCredie scored through the oversight of his rival bidders.

One young man that the Buccaneers wanted mighty bad was Dick Steen, late of the Bloomington club. There was a little legerdemain on the part of somebody. Pittsburgh wanted to put in a draft for Steen from the Bloomington club of the Three-I league. Manager Clarke hesitated, because the Toledo club claimed to have a prior right to the brilliant young slapper. While both were mixed in their dates, Walter butts in with a draft, and when it came to a showdown, beat them out at the Memphis convention of the minor leagues.

Rapp's Case Parallel. The case of First Baseman Rapp is almost parallel, only Manager Mac was a bit more daring. He displayed a bit of craftiness that amazed the easterners. Now Rapp came from Oklahoma City, where he surprised the natives to such an extent that Kansas City heard of him. K. C. promptly got busy, and Owner Tebeau claimed the youngster via the purchase route. He played some 36 games for Kansas City. It is positively pathetic to relate that such a shy old for as Tebeau fought to register the purchase of Rapp. He did, though, and that was the signal for the crafty Beaver leader to get busy. Mac promptly put in a draft on Oklahoma City for Rapp, and although there were objections, he made and won a strenuous fight at Memphis.

Nor, backed up by timely judgment, save the Portland club the two stars and Manager Mac stated last night that he fully expected them to be stars. Steen is so well thought of in the east that Barney Dreyfuss of the Pittsburgh Nationals offered Manager McCredie \$100,000 for him as soon as he learned that he had been outwitted. Steen cost \$600, but Manager Mac told him nay. Tebeau is mighty sore at McCredie for beating him to Rapp, but then that is the exigency of baseball.

May Trade Grane. While we are talking about baseball matters it is well to let the fans in on a little secret. Here in Manager McCredie is thinking of trading Grane, some Jack Grane, the happy man of the Beavers, to an American association for a pitcher or third baseman. Bill Chinsult he is thinking of trading to one of the clubs in the same league for a catcher. Whether or not Gus Fisher will be with the club is problematical, though Mac thinks he can get the gungy backstop for another year. The trading of Grane especially will be the motif for a bit of comment on the part of the fans who have grown to admire the young Irishman in the field. But McCredie can afford to sacrifice Grane for a good pitcher or third baseman, as he is badly in need of both.

Rapp is considered a finished first baseman, even at this stage of his career, and it looks very much as if George O'Connell will fill the North-western league team, which the McCredies are already preparing to fill, even though the public is not assured that such a club will be allowed.

Casey on Second Again. Pearl Casey will be back on second for the Beavers next year, and McCredie figures the graceful one should head the list in fielding and bat in the neighborhood of .255. He wants a better batting team next year, and figures his acquisitions will bring the team average up.

Manager Walter doesn't hesitate to say that he has the best club in prospect that ever represented this city, and that the fans will be joyous when they see the players in action. He is trying to strengthen each position as much as possible, and money has been no object to him this year.

MEN WHO WILL PROMOTE GREAT FIGHT



Jack Gleason, on the left, and Tex Rickard, the successful bidders for the great Johnson-Jeffries fight for the world's championship next Fourth of July.

FAST GRAPPLERS CLASH TOMORROW

O'Connell and Smith in Splendid Trim for Second Wrestling Match.

When Strangler Smith, who for years held the principal place in the limelight of the local wrestling stage, and Eddie O'Connell, his conqueror, come together in Merrill's hall tomorrow night for a battle to the finish for the welterweight championship, hundreds of friends at witness, which they have been longing to see for the past year—a return engagement.

Before O'Connell came out from New York, Smith was the kingpin of the lighter weight wrestlers of the north-west. Reinforced by his terrible strangle hold, he has thrown terror into scores of wrestlers who outweighed him from 40 to 60 pounds. He was considered unbeatable, at his weight of 145 pounds, and whenever he started, soads of the pink metal followed his chances. They were willing to bank him against anybody.

Was Given the Laugh. When the young collegian from New Haven blew into Portland one September morning and challenged Smith, he was given the laugh. Apparently he was sparsely endowed with that excellent requisite muscle. After taking a look at Smith there were few who conceded O'Connell a lookin'.

About the first time he commenced tumbling the Multnomah grapplers around there was a change of sentiment toward him and he found plenty of backers among the club men. In fact, they unloaded on him when he met Smith. More than one sport fondled a vacant wall the next morning among the longshoremen's backers. For more than a year there has been a strenuous effort to get the pair back on the mat, for there has always been

(Concluded on Page Following.)

MAKES FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE TOMORROW



Eddie O'Connell, welterweight champion of the world, who makes his first public appearance of the year against Strangler Smith in Merrill's hall tomorrow night. O'Connell has granted Smith a return match, having defeated him last year. Both men are in prime condition for the match.

HOW PROMOTERS GOT THEIR START

Laundry Wagon Gave Two Their First Step Toward Wealth.

Those fight promoters created a sensation in New York. When the big came and New York was buzzing with excitement, every one was saying (this is every one above the teething age at all interested in fighting): "Who is Tom McCarey? Who is this here Tex Rickard every one is chirping about? Where does Hugh McIntosh get off to butt in the papers? Well, here is a line on the promoting men: Tom McCarey is a near millionaire and he started in Los Angeles driving a laundry wagon. Jim Coffroth used to be a politician in Frisco, but got into the fight game through Jim Kennedy and has handled more fights than any other one promoter in the world.

Ed Grane, another coast product, graduated from a blacksmith to a prize fighter and then took to promoting. He has done well. Grane has refereed more fights than any other one man save Charley White.

Tex Rickard, who hails from Salt Lake City, hopped into the game when he pulled off the Gans-Nelson fight at Goldfield. Tex had always been a sporting man, hence his elevation.

Hugh McIntosh of the wide, wide world, has ever had a leaning toward sport. Hugh's biggest stunt was to pull off the Johnson-Burns fight in Australia, although he has promoted scores of others in Great Britain and the colonies. Hugh is at home wherever he hangs up his hat. One month he is promoting a fight in Sydney; next month he is getting ready to pull off a grand row in London; next month he is in Paris, and next he turns up in Pretoria, or Frisco, or New York. Jack Gleason is another coast sporting man, better, horse race follower and all round sport, who got into the promoting business. Jack is there with a roll as big as any of them. Sam Harris, partner of George M. Cohan, was another who used to drive a laundry wagon. He made a fortune out of Terry McGovern and doubled it in theatricals.

CARROLL ADDS CLASS TO CARD

Crack California Bantam Will Give Splendid Exhibition With Bennett.

With the assurance that Jimmy Carroll, probably the most popular bantamweight boxer in California, will come north as an opponent of Frankie Bennett before the Oregon Athletic club at their smoker a week from tomorrow night, the fans have begun to sit up and take notice. Carroll is one of the cleverest mit swingers that the Golden state has turned out in years. He already has a 20-round draw with Bennett and when the pair come together they will settle an old score.

Carroll is one of the busiest boys in California and is always in demand because he gives the fans the best he knows. He cancelled a trip to Los Angeles and the guarantee of a number of bouts, just to make the trip north. Jimmy wired that he left for Portland yesterday and will go into training at once for his exhibition with Bennett. Carroll is a hot aspirant for the bantamweight championship of the world. He intends to go after Monte Attell again and his bout with Bennett he looks on as good practice for the title battle.

Frankie Edwards is due to arrive before Monday from California to prepare for his bout with Louie Long, the Spokane lightweight. Long has sent word that he will come down to Portland today.

Merrill's hall has been chosen by the club for its smokers in view of its downtown location. The hall will be fitted up with seating arrangements that will give plenty of comfort to the fans.

A lightweight named Whitman who has been trimming some of the Canadian youngsters in finished fashion, is one of the latest mit swingers to arrive in Portland and inasmuch as he has a good record of victories will likely be given a chance to go against some of the good boys on the coast.

Whitman will be given a try-out by the club and if he shows sufficient class will be given one of the exhibition bouts in the near future.

FRISCO IS BOUND TO BE SCENE OF BIG JEFFRIES-JOHNSON FIGHT

By Will J. Slatery. San Francisco, Dec. 11.—It has been definitely decided that the Jeffries-Johnson fight will come to California and the chances are that it will be fought at Jim Coffroth's Mission street arena. While promoter Tex Rickard indignantly denies that Coffroth, the king of all the prize fight manipulators, has a hand in the affair, the wise fans only wink to themselves and wonder why Coffroth is going to allow Rickard and Gleason to use his arena for the purpose, especially as he is planning to hold many fights there himself during the coming spring and summer.

The fans all over the country are very suspicious over the way the promoters and the principals are treated. Those mysterious conferences and agreements have not done much to boost the big issue. Most everybody believes that some sort of a scheme is about to be cooked up, but just what it is nobody can quite fathom. It looks like a deep laid plot to get as much of the public's money as possible.

Furze Looks the Bunk. The followers of the game in San Francisco do not believe for a minute that Jeffries and Johnson are to receive a purse of \$101,000. This is for the general public to eat up. Two sets of articles were signed by the fighters and the promoters. The real set is safe under lock and key in a New York safe deposit vault. This one will tell the true story, but the chances are that its contents will never be known by the public, unless perchance the fighters and promoters fall out and begin to sling mud.

Eddie Grane, the veteran referee played some important part in the deal. It is known that he stood with Rickard and that the pair compared bids on the night before the sealed-off fight was submitted to the public. Grane went east to either in Hoboken or to have his revenge on Coffroth. That he did some good for himself goes without saying. It is believed that he will get a certain cut for throwing his influence to the favored ones.

Where Comes This Coin? Where the money that Rickard and Gleason has guaranteed is coming from is a mystery. Neither of them are wealthy. Three months ago, Rickard was broke around San Francisco. When he first bid for the fight, he stated that he was backed by Salt Lake capitalists, but this story has fallen by the wayside now that the fight is to come to California. Gleason has never even claimed any backers. He merely posted his \$5000 certified check and assured the fighters that the balance of the money would be posted.

England's greatest little fighter, Freddie Welsh, Jim Driscoll and Owen Moran, will shortly be brought to the United States again to fight for championship honors. Promoter Jim Coffroth is now on his way to London to talk business to them and incidentally to get a line on the moving picture game in the European countries.

Britons Showed Class. Coffroth hopes to sign Welsh with Battling Nelson for the lightweight championship, Driscoll with Attell for the featherweight crown and Moran with Wolgast for special 125 pound honors, the new class which the British boxing authorities recently provided for. All these little Englishmen have done a deal of fighting in the land of the Stars and Stripes, and they showed that they are there with plenty of class and ability.

The reason for Coffroth's journey to England for talent goes to show how scarce good fighters are in the land that has always been noted for bringing out champions. There is really nobody left for Nelson. There is one great in action here, the fans at once came to the conclusion that he would never make a stand against the Battler over the Marathon route, for the reason that he threw two easily. No man who grows a bit tired in 28 rounds second ever last 25 or 26 with the champion. Also Attell has beaten everybody in his class in the featherweight ranks. He has to spend his time now in fighting suckers and settling around the coast and the south. He and Driscoll fought a great 18 round draw in New York last winter, and a return match for 20 rounds or more would settle the championship and provide a great ring card for the Frisco fans.

All seems to be in motion to start the fight. The first of the big fight was registered with Betting Commissioner Tom Corbett here yesterday. It was an even money proposition and the amount was \$1000. A prominent New York sporting man, believed to be Sheriff Tom Farley, took the Jeffries end of it, while the Johnson backers were four well known colored sports who always play dark fighters.

Corbett received a \$10,000 draft from the New Yorker several days ago with the request that it be wagered at the best possible odds on Jeffries. The four comes heard about it and putting in \$150 each, they covered one tenth of the amount. Now Corbett is looking for somebody to start the ball rolling by covering the remaining \$9000.

Just as soon as the money comes, the New Yorker will wire \$10,000 more, says Corbett. He writes me that he will bet \$50,000 on Jeffries.

San Francisco a bit more wide open after the first of the year and the fighters and managers are looking for him to a great game when the McCarthy regime goes into power. This is one of the reasons why Coffroth is outlining his extensive plans for bringing on the British fighters. It is understood that he may break back into the game here. If he does, he is likely to sink to fatness, as he is still the master of the situation down in San Mateo county.

Fisticuffs Lost Money. The game of fisticuffs was not a paying one last year so far as San Francisco proper was concerned. Only one of the three clubs, the Mission club, made any money. The others quit several thousand dollars in the hole. The affairs of these clubs were handled by men who did not know the boxing game, and they were held up and bunked right and left by the fighters, who seemed to run things very much as they pleased.

The Jeffries-Johnson match evidently has started a heavyweight boom all along the line. Right here in San Francisco, they have two rising youngsters who are likely to dash to the front within the next few months. They are Walter Schulken of the United States and Gumbo Smith, the pride of the navy and the conqueror of Young Peter Jackson. These young giants will meet in Oakland on Tuesday night in a 10 round bout to decide which is the man to go and star.

Schulken Great Fighter. Schulken has been little heard of though he's a great fighter. He was a big, raw, bashful teamster when he won the amateur heavyweight title by beating all comers at the Olympic club's national tournament here two weeks before the fight. Since then Schulken has stuck to the amateur game in a half hearted sort of way, but he was so very good that they could not get anybody in the amateur ranks to fight him, consequently he remained idle most of the time. He would not turn professional.

Finally, he was induced the other day to go after the money and he signed up with Smith. If he knocks the sailor out Schulken will be right in the limelight. He is a bigger man than Al Kaufman, standing 6 feet 3 inches in height and weighing 210 pounds when stripped. He has beaten every man he has met and most of them fell from his wallop in one, two and three rounds. He's a great possibility, providing that he is there with the stamina and the heart, and the meeting with Smith should prove this.

Ketch Handed Out Talk. Stanley Ketchel says that he will fight Billy Papke again, but in the meantime, Papke must go ahead and beat a couple of good men and then put up a side bet of \$10,000. Ketchel started in on a tirade against Papke the other day that was a wonder. He called the Illinois Thunderbolt all the names that he could lay his tongue on and fairly lashed himself into a fury while telling his audience what he thought of his old opponent.

Ketchel continues to live in grand style at the St. Francis hotel. Where the money comes from, nobody seems to know, but the Michigan Lion goes right ahead with his extravagant expenditures. Hugh McIntosh, the Australian promoter, wired Ketchel a guarantee of \$10,000 and his training expenses and Ketchel only laughed. This leads many to believe that the middleweight champion does not want to fight any more. The chances are that he could make a fortune in a few months by fighting stiffies like Bill Squires and Bill Lange in the land of the kangaroo.

Bantams Are Hurricanes. Danny Webster, a touring youngster, will endeavor to wrest the bantamweight title from Monte Attell in a 20 round contest here on next Friday evening. The boys are to meet at 116 pounds at 6 o'clock on the evening of the battle with Jack Welch as the third man in the ring. It gives promise of being another hurricane affair like Powell and Wolgast pulled off. The proceeds will be turned over to Johnny Murphy, the once popular little lightweight, who went down the line so fast.

Webster fought Attell off his feet twice in 10 round bouts in Los Angeles during the last three months. Up to that time the little Hebrew was looked upon as invincible by the local experts. He cleaned up everything in and around San Francisco and it looked as though he would have to go out of his class to find a suitable opponent. But this was not necessary. In Webster he found a last very worthy of his efforts.

Title in Doubt. The bantamweight championship of the world is somewhat in doubt, though Attell seems to have a better right to claim it than any of them. In the records, it is credited to Johnny Coulon of Chicago. Coulon beat all the boys in his class and when he was considered the champion, he crawled into his hole and refused to fight any more. That was more than a year ago. Since then, Attell has come on and knocked them all stiff and though he has offered Coulon all sorts of inducements, the latter will not fight him.

It is likely that the winner of the Attell-Webster bout will be offered a match with Coulon and if the latter runs out against the man who lands the next one will be looked upon as the legitimate holder of the title so far as the United States goes.

First Wager on Fight. The first wager on the big fight was registered with Betting Commissioner Tom Corbett here yesterday. It was an even money proposition and the amount was \$1000. A prominent New York sporting man, believed to be Sheriff Tom Farley, took the Jeffries end of it, while the Johnson backers were four well known colored sports who always play dark fighters.

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Coulon Meets Brannigan. Johnny Coulon of Chicago and Patsy Brannigan of Pittsburgh will fight at Johnstown, Pa., December 15.

A Hillsboro astronomer says he has seen Halley's comet.

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COAST BAT AVERAGES

The official batting averages of the records with the big stick. The records of Pacific Coast league, released for publication today, show many interesting lows:

Table with columns: Batting averages of players of Pacific Coast Baseball league who have taken part in five or more games. Includes names like Miller, Stewart, Melchior, etc. and statistics for AB, Runs, BH, SB, HR, 2BH, 2BH, SH, P.C.