

WOLGAST AND NELSON WILL CONTINUE OLD BATTLE AT RICHMOND

Their Fight in Milwaukee Looked Upon as Joke but Fur is Bound to Fly.

By W. W. Naughton.

San Francisco, Oct. 12.—What a funny business "box fighting" is to be sure. A Milwaukee club recently announced the signing of Battling Nelson and Ad Wolgast for tonight and immediately loud gruffaws resounded through the hills and hollows of sportdom.

The idea of yanking the two old derelicts out of the Surrogates sea of pugilism seemed too amusing for anything. Wolgast is 35 years of age, yet the Wildcat and The Dana are jeered at as though the memory of man scarcely reached back to their heyday.

When on all this wide earth is there a line of endeavor, apart from fist-cuffs, wherein men are considered to have outlived their usefulness at either 35 or 37? Why, Oiler himself never dreamed of setting a man's prime as close to the grade days as that.

Pugilism Most Wearing Work.

But the fact seems that so far as their field of activity is concerned Wolgast and Nelson are slipped pantaloons. Neither one of them as a fighter is half as effective as he was when three years younger, and with their birth records staring us in the face, the lesson aduced is that pugilism is the most wearing work a man can engage in.

Years ago there was a sporting contention that ring men wear at their best from 25 to 28 years of age. The fallacy of the argument has been shown many times. Nelson, after years of invincibility, suddenly faded away and lost his laurels at the age of 27. Wolgast was relieved of his championship at 24. Eddie Hanlon, who was a battered old hulk and out of the game before he was 21.

The old saying has it, "It's not the miles we travel but the pace that kills." In pugilism it's not years that are lived but the time spent at fighting that kills. Frequent training, excitement of combat and much hammering sap the vitality and no matter what age a fighter starts out at, he is an old man, pugilistically eight or 10 years later.

Has Much to Commend It.

At that, the Nelson-Wolgast bout has much to commend it and should be well worth witnessing. The writer cannot at this moment recall an instance in which two world's ex-champions were engaged in a bonafide contest, and the fact that these two fellows both contend that nothing short of bad fighting luck contributed to their dethronement lends an added zest to the spectacle.

The vanity that attaches to boxing and that is a particularly besetting weakness in the case of vanquished champions takes no note of stiffened muscles or vanished speed. The pugilist who is not "as good as he ever was," is either lying in a hospital or tucked away in God's acre. But with both Nelson and Wolgast there is a little something on which to build a flimsy argument that, given the chance, things might be as they were.

Neither of them was knocked out in the real sense of the word. Nelson was lurching across the ring at Richmond when Referee Eddie Smith halted him and proclaimed Ad Wolgast the new king of the 133 pounders. Wolgast lost his crown on a foul.

There's the Humorous Side.

A humorous angle to the approaching match is the way it was brought about. Nelson set aside Labor day as the date of his perpetual retirement and laid down his gloves for ever and aye, amidst impressive ceremonies. What followed recalled the story of two Irishmen hurt in a train wreck. On learning they both were mortally injured, a mutual friend persuaded them to grip hands across the hospital stretchers and forget a hateful feud that had endured almost a lifetime.

"But," said one, "if we get well, this reconciliation does not go." So with Nelson's retirement. So long as there was a prospect, however remote, of a clash with Wolgast, "The Cheese Champion," the retirement did not go.

Unless Nelson and Wolgast have reached the age of philobophy and have made up their minds that there is nothing much to boxing apart from the fringe of the cash, the scrap at Milwaukee is likely to be a stubborn one. Nelson never forgave Wolgast for relegating him to the background and Wolgast has not forgotten the harsh things the Battler said about him in the months after the title changed hands.

Will Be Richmonded Continued.

If the old rivalry is aroused the minds of both men will hark back to that other fight on Richmond field on February 22, 1910. Nelson will gaze into the eyes of the man who gave him the worst drubbing he ever received and will be more than anxious to wipe out all unpleasant memories with one avast.

Wolgast will think of that one round—the twenty-third I think it was—when Nelson showed a flash of his old form and knocked the Wildcat under the ropes with a smashing right on the jaw. For a minute or so it looked as if the old story was to be repeated, but Nelson after being badly mauled, was about to turn defeat into victory.

But the old Nelson was not there. As a chopping block he was as enduring as ever—as a battering ram he had sloughed 50 per cent.

So far as fighting spirit is concerned, I have no doubt it will be Richmond over again. But I'm thinking that if there is anyone at the ringside who witnessed that other scrap on the rills soaked platform at Richmond, he will murmur when it is all over: "What a falling off there was."

Cottage Grove Beats Eugene.

Cottage Grove, Or., Oct. 12.—By a score of 7 to 0 the Cottage Grove high school team defeated the Eugene high school eleven on the local gridiron Saturday. The game was hotly contested, Cottage Grove's score being scored in the first quarter.

Carpenter Wins Fight.

Paris, Oct. 12.—George Carpenter won a decision over Joseph Smith of New Jersey in a 20 round bout Saturday night.

Local and State Games

The championship of the Moler-Frank League was won by the United States Laundry team yesterday afternoon, the U. S. players beating the Fairness 3 to 1. Harry Gardner, who pitched for the St. Paul American Association club, allowed but three safe hits, but errors

caused his downfall. Kallio pitched for the laundry team and allowed five hits.

The Wagon, by defeating the Timms-Cross and Sellwood teams yesterday by the same score of 7 to 4, clinched the independent baseball championship of the city. The batting of Nelson, who secured eight hits in eight times up, including two triples, was the feature of the game. Telford and Schultz formed the Wagon battery against the Timms-

Cross team and Dilard and Fiesinger worked in the second game. O'Dell pitched for Timms-Cross and Scott twirled for Sellwood.

Forest Grove Swamps Hillsboro.
(Special to The Journal.)
Pacific University, Forest Grove, Or., Oct. 12.—Forest Grove high school football team defeated the Hillsboro high school squad on the varsity field Saturday by a score of 45 to 0. Hillsboro

was outclassed throughout the entire game and the ball was in Hillsboro's territory during most of the time. Repeatedly Forest Grove's plunging backfield plowed through Hillsboro's light line for considerable gains and Hillsboro, outweighed 14 pounds to the man, was unable to break up the perfect formation of their opponents. The forward pass was used to good advantage several times by Forest Grove. The feature of the game was Norton's 60-yard run down the field for a touchdown.

Captain Tom himself to and Norton started for when the pre-Olsen proved the star to danger to pre-visitors.

Klamath's discovery of Chance.
Yule, Ore., Oct. 12.—A match has been a "discovery of Chance" for the Klamath and the Clatsop. The Clatsop, under the leadership of Frank Kluge, defeated the Klamath 13 to 0 in the first round of the match. Kluge was knocked out here Saturday night a few seconds before the scheduled end of their

six round bout he was regarded as the middleweight champion of the world.

Neill Schmidt's Record Broken.
San Francisco, Oct. 12.—Neill Schmidt's 42 minute woman's swimming record across the Golden Gate was broken by Mrs. Roy H. Wright and her daughter, Myrtle, aged 13, in 23 minutes, 13 seconds and 55/60, respectively, yesterday.

Journal Want Ask bring results.

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