

SPORTS

RITCHIE AND CROSS WILL FIGHT IN NOVEMBER

Eastern Critics Will Be Given An Opportunity to See if Champion is Real Mit Artist.

IF CROSS IS WORSTED
RITCHIE WILL GET MORE

Chances of Several More Combats Are Good in Case New York is Stowed Away by Champ.

BY HAL SHERIDAN
(Written for the United Press)
New York, Oct. 22.—Willie Ritchie, light-weight champion of the world, and Leach Cross, the New York dentist fighter, will fight here next month. The battle was scheduled for today, but Cross injured his hand. This means that the eastern critics, as well as the fight followers, are to be given a chance to see Willie in what promises to be a real fight. Ritchie has been panned more or less since his fight with Freddie Welsh was called off at Vancouver and the eastern bugs now want to be shown. It is up to Willie to show whether he is of real championship calibre or is of the cheese variety of which there are large hunks, to say nothing of gobs now operating about Manhattan.

Most any frosty morning during the past three weeks you might have spotted Ritchie hitting it up along the roads through Central Park, getting himself into condition for the Cross bout. He does not hold Leach lightly, considering that Cross has a knockout over Bud Anderson to his credit. But he does not expect to run into a great deal of trouble handling Leach.

"If he will just fight and not back away and cover up I am sure to knock him out," said Ritchie. "Leach is strong for the covering up game, but if he stands out and fights I'll get him."

If Ritchie hangs one over on Cross he may expect to have a reasonably busy winter if he cares to stay in the east. There is Jack Britton and Johnny Lero to draw on for fights. Ritchie declares he is willing to meet Freddie Welsh at any time. He may be accommodated here if the going gets good. A word from Welsh and a half dozen fight managers would be in a scramble to sign up such a bout, providing Willie shows something more than a pair of arms, legs and a title. The title sounds good, but New York fight fans are beginning to demand a little fight on the side.

Reich is Disappointment
One of the big disappointments of the early fight season here was the showing of Al Reich, former amateur champion, who blossomed out as a "white hope." Bad match-making was largely responsible for Reich's downfall. He is a strapping big fellow, well built and apparently has everything that a champion should have so far as physical fitness is concerned. He is mighty shy on experience however. Running him into Carl Morris in what was virtually his first professional fight spilled the beans. Reich didn't know even how to keep out of the way and went out in two rounds. A slow bringing up and Reich may yet be heard from.

In passing it might be mentioned that Morris is showing a lot more this fall than it was ever suspected he had lurking about his person. He is bigger than the sides of two houses and picked up a surprising amount of fight knowledge within the last year. He certainly has Gunboat Smith's number and Gunboat was strutting about New York as the real goods in the heavy-weight line.

All Talk of Next Year.
By this time the last alibi should have been offered and the last post-mortem held over the late lamented World's series—lamented so far as the Giant fans are concerned. The cry is now "next year." A week ago we gave Clark Griffith his yelp in that grand old chorus. After everybody has gotten a good square size of the bunch piloted by Connie Mack, however, the vote from around the stove in the winter league is that Griff's new kid pitchers are going to be in for a warm reception when the new season rolls around. Mack had one of the greatest ball clubs that ever went on the field this year but his "next year" song is that he will have the greatest club he ever managed. If the other seven clubs in the American league can get any satisfaction out of that announcement they are welcome to it.

Mack not only looks to next year, and the next, but so far ahead we do not know the exact limit of his sight. During the world's series forty-seven young men sat in the grand-stand and watched the game. Connie Mack had them there to learn something. They represented his "baseball school" and from the bunch may come another Baker, Collins or McInnes. Some of them are only high school boys, others were from colleges, but they all have shown a slant toward baseball and when they have developed enough stuff they will be pushed into Mack's fighting line.

With such a system as that working Mack is not likely to suffer from a lack of reserve material within the next few years.

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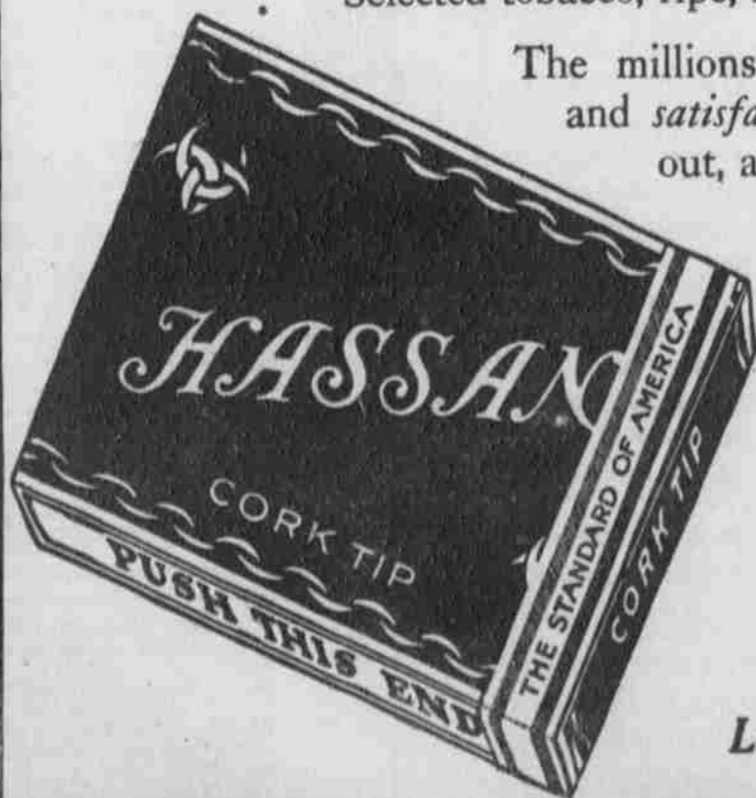
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