

STORIES OF SPORTS TOLD BY EXPERTS

BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

UP TO DATE, NEWSY AND WELL WRITTEN

MAN CROKER IS BACKING TO BEAT TOMMY BURNS

Former Tammany Chieftain Must Have Some Object in Backing Irishman, Who Is Said to Be Another Peter Maher.



Ringside will be worth the money One thing is sure, Mr. Croker isn't handing Tommy Burns the winner's end of a \$1,500 purse and a \$500 side bet merely as a matter of charity. He isn't presenting Tommy about \$3,500 just because he likes the way Tommy parts his hair.

ROCHE, from all accounts, is another Peter Maher, as Peter was when first discovered by Billy Madden on the Old Sod. He is husky built, very much on the lines of Tommy Burns himself. He is of the same weight as Burns. He doesn't know a quarter, probably, of what Burns knows in the boxing line. But he is a sturdy, slugging fighter. Recently Roche whipped Williams, who four years ago, knocked out Gunner Moir in two rounds.

A SHAKESPEAREAN quotation (slightly damaged): "Now, in the names of all the gods at once, Upon what brew doth this our Willie Lewis train That he is grown so fat?"

WHICH reminds me of the time when Leach Cross was fighting a preliminary bout at the Dry Dock. Leach had a couple of gold teeth knocked out. The teeth fell upon the floor. Immediately the spectators saw a queer sight—a tall, lanky boxer bent double, dancing and sidestepping about the ring, holding up one hand to block his opponents' blows and exclaiming anxiously "Look out for me teeth—don't step on me teeth!"

JIM CORBETT lost a tooth at Carson. One of Bob Fitzsimmons' wallopers came off close to the sum. One of Corbett's seconds reached into the ring and grabbed the tooth. Later he had it set as a watch charm, and for all I know he may be wearing it to this day.

SOMEbody told Tom Sharkey that if he had his grinders pulled he couldn't be knocked out by a punch on the chin, as there would be nothing to communicate the shock to the brain. Tom blew a couple of dollars on a dentist without delay. Then he fought Bob Fitzsimmons. Every time Fitz tapped Thomas on the jaw the sailor grinned. He thought the joke was on Fitz. But Bob grinned to the socks. The joke was on Tom after all.

WHEN Samuel Langford and James Barry fought just once or twice more they'd be able to go through their act like a

SHEPPARD DENIED REINSTATEMENT

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1.—The District Registration Committee of the Amateur Athletic Union has denied the application for reinstatement made by Nevev Sheppard, of the Irish-American A. C., of New York. The committee held a meeting yesterday, and after reading Sheppard's application voted to stand by the decision which suspended him until March 1 for fouling George Haskins in their recent 100-yard sprint race here. Last Saturday night, Sheppard and athletic associations at which Sheppard is slated to appear at their meet sent letters to the committee, urging that it lift Sheppard's suspension. They were of no avail, however, for the committee paid no attention to them.

Creascents Defeat New Yorks. The Crescent A. C. defeated the New York A. C. in a hockey game at the St. Nicholas rink last night by a score of 3 to 1 in the presence of the largest crowd that has witnessed any game so far this season. The game was a bitterly contested one, and the spectators were continually on their feet applauding the excellent work of both teams.

Swimmer Nearly Drowned. During a swimming meet held in the "old days" of the city of New York tank last night, J. C. Tice, forward on the water polo team of the Clinton High School, was held under the water and nearly drowned. A physician was summoned, and the lad was quickly revived. The meet was between the Clinton High School and the High School of Commerce.

Fight at Basketball Game. There was a free-for-all fight during the basketball game between Poly Prep and Pratt at the latter institute last night. Before Harrow forfeited the game to the Pratt Institute because Poly refused to continue playing unless a new referee was appointed.

Crowd Hoets Referee. (Special to The Evening World.) MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 1.—Freddie Welch, the Englishman, was robbed of a well-earned victory over Charlie Neary, of Milwaukee, in the first round of a ten-round draw here last night. Neary was easily outpointed by the stranger, and

THE main thing in favor of Jim Roche, of Ireland, who is matched to fight Tommy Burns, is that Richard Croker backing him. Richard Croker is a good judge of men. His ability in this line made him the most powerful "boss" New York ever had. He isn't likely to pick any dead ones.

Perhaps Croker thinks that J. Roche, champion of Ireland, has a chance with Tommy Burns. Perhaps he just thinks that Roche will put up a hard fight, and that the fun of pulling it off and sitting in a box at the ringside will be worth the money.

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JOE GANS says that he didn't demand 80 per cent. of the purse when he fought Memsie in Los Angeles. "I just demanded \$8,000 as my share," explains Joseph. "I wanted \$8,000 for boxing, and it wasn't my fault the club had only offered \$10,000 for the bout. I wouldn't have boxed for less."

THIS seems to be a distinction without much of a difference. The club offered \$10,000 for the fight. Joseph demanded eight out of the ten. Of course he would have been consistent enough to demand only \$8,000 out of the \$10,000. He would have made any difference and it wouldn't have made any difference to him whether the club paid Memsie \$2,000 or \$12,000. Champions are so careless about mere business details.

NO EXCUSE FOR THE HIGHLANDERS NOW

Griffith Says at Last He Has Team He Has Always Wanted.

BY BOZEMAN BULGER. CLARK GRIFFITH has reached Chicago on his way back to the East, and in a personal letter writes that he has got the Highlanders he has always wanted them for several years. In Harry Niles he thinks he has just the proper man to lead off his batting list, and with Keeler, Elberfeld and Chase to back him up it begins to look as if the New York Americans will beat the barrier in getting away with "most any team that faces them." For three years Griffith has been experimenting with the hope of finding a suitable man to lead his batting list. He tried Dougherty, and met with failure because of his slowness in running bases. He then tried Elberfeld, but found the "Kid" more valuable as a "backer up" batter and put him third in the list. He then secured Danny Hoff-



DISTANCE RUNNING IN AMERICA IN NEED OF A BIG BOOM

This Branch of Athletics Best for Developing Younger Generation.

THERE were six world's records broken in standard athletic events last year. All these feats were accomplished by athletes of the American Amateur Athletic Union, but that organization cannot well congratulate itself on the general work of its members and its influence to raise athletics to a greater and more popular plane. With the exception of Martin Sheridan's 7:20 1/2 points, the world's record for the all-round competition all the others were weight throwing records.

In sprinting and jumping American athletes distinguished themselves during the past year, but distance running has not been encouraged. There

has been a revolution in American amateur sports for the past twenty years, with the exception of distance running. Weight throwing is a splendid sport, and, contrary to popular belief, it requires more skill and intelligence than other forms of athletic exercises. It is a very neat "turn" neat but not joyful.

George Boniaz's American indoor record of 26 minutes 11 1/2 seconds for four miles was a fine feat. It was unique by the fact that it is the sole indoor record better than one for a similar competition made on an outdoor track. The accomplishment of this record induced many to believe that it is possible to run as fast on boards as on dirt or ten iron tracks.

Public organizations which attempt to promote athletics should be encouraged to do the A. A. U. for their athletic friends and others who otherwise would like little interest. The Post-Office Clerks' association, the Dry Goods Athletic League and the Irish Cousins Athletic Union probably are prominent factors in the athletic future.

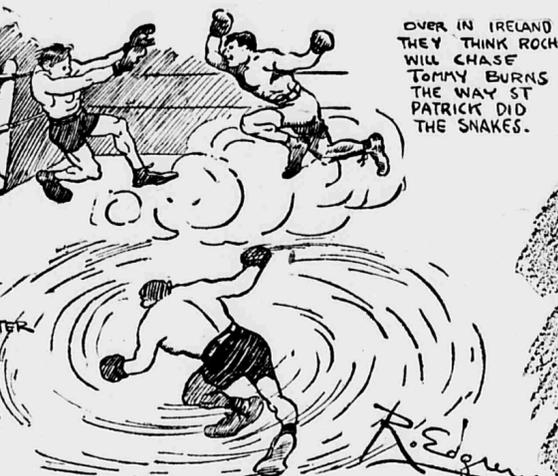
Chance for the A. A. U. The A. A. U. can easily get material to raise American supremacy in distance running at the colleges and large cities. Outside the colleges and large cities athletes are unknown. The ideals of the American Amateur Athletic Union should be recognized in rural schools, the making of the American distance runner would probably be a prominent factor in the athletic future.

Good Men Decline to Run. In the big indoor meets, which began Monday with the Pastime Regatta, the distances for the training together of specialized runners at middle distance were limited, and a number of good men declined to run. Both Boniaz indoor champion and Fred Healey, the outdoor champion, announced their intention to refrain from participation in the indoor running as they are anxious to prepare for the Olympic team.

John Dill of the Irish-American A. C. declined to run the mile, which has determined that his next race will be the Metropolitan mile, which will be held in March. John Joyce, the veteran distance runner, is unfortunately suffering from pneumonia, and will probably be out of the sport for some time.

Strengthen the Youngsters. The mission of athletics is to strengthen the youth of the nation, and this is impossible when those most active and engaged desire nothing but the development of strength and the creation of records. A review of the best meets of the past season is testimony to the fact that the best first places are held by the young men of the nation. It is an evil element which blights the aspirations of our youth and gives little excitement to the spectators. For the greatest benefit to the nation, the amateur athlete should be encouraged to break down the barriers of age and to compete for records.

Amateur athletes are idealists, for they really compete for honor and glory, and the public race for local club teams; the relay for teams of the various mercantile houses in the Greater



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JAMES ROCHE OF IRELAND

KETCHELL WILL BET \$2,500

Sure That He Can Defeat Bill Papke or Hugo Kelly.

BY JOHN POLLCK. STANLEY KETCHELL, the cyclone middle-weight fighter of Grand Rapids, Mich., is so confident that he is going to beat Mike "Twin" Sullivan in their twenty-five-round bout before the Colma (Cal.) A. C. on Wednesday night that he has offered \$2,500 for any man who can defeat him. Ketchell, who comes off in Milwaukee on Feb. 25, "I saw both men in their first at Milwaukee a few weeks ago," said Ketchell, "and I cannot beat both of them. I will only bet \$2,500 for any man who can defeat me. I am fortunate enough to get on a battle with him."

Papke Drives Color Line. Billy Papke, the crack Western middle weight, will not fight any colored pugilists. He recently took part in a fight with Mike Murray, matchmaker of the club, who is anxious to bring them together.

"Kid" Murphy to Meet Pheico. "Kid" Murphy, the local bantam-weight, who last winter defeated Johnny Coulton, the crack Chicago bantam-weight, at Peoria, Ill., a few nights ago, has secured a match on his hands. He has been ordered to meet Jack Pheico, of Pittsburg, for six rounds, at a show to be held at Alton, Pa., on Feb. 1. Tommy Nelson, of Pittsburg, who bested Pheico in a three-round match a short time ago, has been matched to meet the winner.

Baker Starts Training. Harry Baker and Al Schumaker, two of the Joe Sullivan stable, have started training at Stratford, Conn. Baker will fight several bouts on at the local club, Sullivan will leave for the West with Baker the latter will be in the West in a few days.

Dorsey After Hurley. Jack Strook wants to sign up Bout Dorsey with O'Brien, Battling Hurley or any of the 120-pound boys who are boxing at the local club. Dorsey has started training with Frankie Madden and will be ready to box in about ten days. This youngster is a tough proposition when right and against boys of his weight.

Fights in San Francisco Cost \$1,200. It certainly costs some money to pull off a fight in San Francisco. For every permit granted by the Board of Supervisors to a club to hold a boxing show the club officials are compelled to pay \$1,200 into the city treasury. Unless the show takes in over \$1,000 there is not much money made by the promoter. The city has been granted five permits to hold fights out there this year, but not money on the fight.

Gardner Knocked Out; Quits Ring. George Gardner, the ex-light heavy-weight, was knocked out by Harry Hopkins in a three-round fight at the local club. Gardner has decided to quit the ring.

"A Waltz Dream" will be given in the Magazine Section of tomorrow's Sunday World. Piano music, by arrangement with the publishers and owners of performing rights. Authorized, copyrighted music. Order to-morrow's Sunday World to-day.

BOWLERS! See the C.TY EDITION OF THE EVENING WORLD every day for the live news and gossip of the TEN-PIN WORLD

600 ENTRIES FOR ONE MEET SHOWS POPULARITY OF ATHLETICS

Advertisement for a 600-yard relay race featuring Melvin Shepard, Pilgrim, Harry Hillman, J.B. Taylor, and C.J. Bacon Jr. as the fastest runners of the East.

CLY, a big event in itself; the 400-yard schoolboy relay, the pole vault and the 200-yard dash. Other athletic events of the ordinary program are provided too. The 600-yard dash, which may be numbered among the night's features because of the meeting of Dan Kelley, the 2-8-8 man, and Eaton, the Boston crack, regarded by many as the fastest indoor sprinter in the world. Kelley will also start in the 200-yard handicap. Among the novelties may be mentioned the Gaelic football game between the First Regiment of Irish Volunteers and the Seventh Regiment, of Brooklyn. Gaelic football is one of the most exciting games. Last year's contest at the Irish carnival proved to be the feature of the night.

Advertisement for Sunny Brook Whiskey, featuring a bottle illustration and text describing its quality and availability.