

LANDIS AND JOHNSON DISAGREE ON STATUS OF RUBE BENTON

PITCHER OBTAINED BY REDS NOT YET IN GOOD STANDING

Giants Declare the Only Reason They Sent Famous Southpaw to St. Paul, Where He Won Pennant for Club Last Year, Was Because His Pitching Was Poor and Not Because of Any Charges Against Him.

By Robert Boyd.

AN investigation is being secretly conducted by officials in the National League to ascertain once and for all the status of Rube Benton and his appeal to return to the major leagues. The Benton case has stirred up much agitation in baseball and is creating considerable discussion.

"All this will be settled in a short while," advised a prominent magistrate of the National League who wishes that his name be withheld until the investigation is concluded. This might be in a few days or perhaps weeks.

NOTHING IN RECORD TO BAR RUBE BENTON, SAYS JUDGE LANDIS

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Judge K. M. Landis will make no effort to investigate further the record of "Rube" Benton, pitcher who was mentioned as knowing of the 1919 World Series scandal. Benton was released from the National League and after playing with St. Paul has been signed by the Cincinnati Reds.

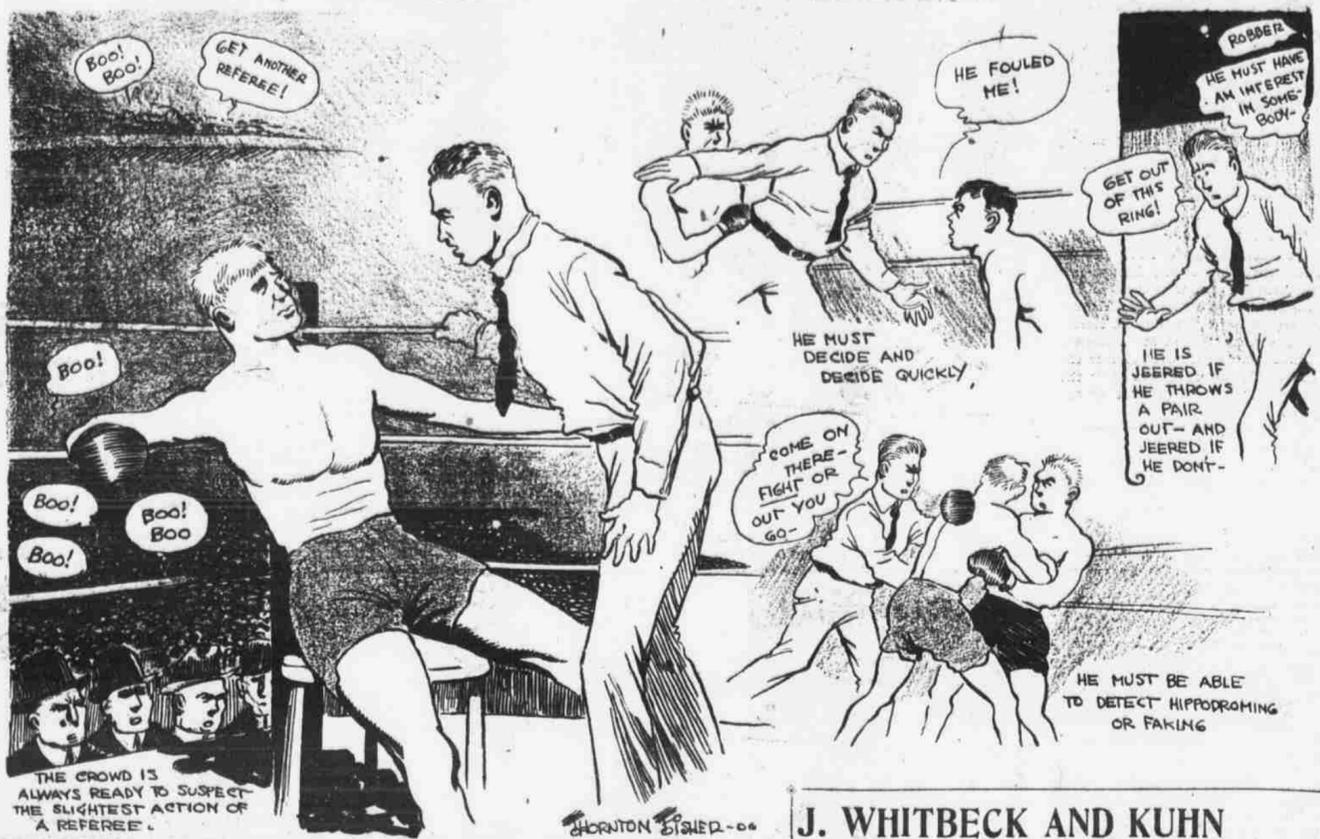
Like this was not a good figure to have in baseball.

When Ban Johnson, czar of the American League, heard that these two clubs under his jurisdiction were angling for Rube, he served them with official instructions to "lay off," as the league did not want Benton, for the best interests of baseball. So both these clubs "laid off" the Rube. The National League has been investigating the status of Benton ever since he made a charge of bribery against Charlie Herzog, former star second baseman of the Giants in 1920, with no result. Herzog and Benton fought it out, and John A. Heydler, president of the National League, never could find any basis of foundation for Benton's accusations. Shortly after the controversy Herzog was sued out of the National League with a certificate of "good standing." The other men in the affair were never allowed back in organized baseball.

"The National League is going to investigate the case of Benton very thoroughly," stated a National League official, "despite Judge Landis giving the North Carolina Rube a clear bill at the minors' meeting in Louisville a few weeks ago. We are not satisfied that Benton is of a desirable character to mingle with our other boys in the league. We will not be swayed by Mr. Johnson's attitude in the American League. We know of the Benton charges and accusations long before Johnson. None of his charges have stood up under investigation. Some of his stories, especially about the White Sox-Cincinnati series betting, have proved untrue. He was given every chance to make good by McGraw in 1921 and failed to take advantage of the opportunity. There is no disposition to make a martyr of him.

THE REFEREE'S JOB

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TAKE IT FROM "OLDTIMER," REFEREEING BOXING BOUTS IS HARDER THAN FIGHTING

New York Has an Unusually Good Set of "Third Men" Whose Tireless Efforts Often Save Shows From Becoming "Bloomers."

By Thornton Fisher.

It fairly makes you burn sometimes to have to be in the ring there and take a verbal browbeating from a lot of people who know nothing whatever about the game. The speaker was one of the most efficient and at the same time popular referees officiating in New York rings. "It's about the most utterly thankless job of them all," he continued. "No matter what you do, it's all wrong. And the epithets they hurl at you when you're doing your best to give everybody a good show and a square deal—well, they wouldn't do it if you could only get 'em outside the building some place, and the referee's steel blue eyes gleamed as once they did when he himself was socking them over in the old days.

He was sitting together at the ringside, and as he talked the conviction gripped me that he had a righteous "kick"—that of the three men in the ring he is the most maligned. Two inexperienced dubs scarcely receive the razing that is dealt out to the men who have devoted their lives to the boxing game and who, with few exceptions, today are ex-boxers schooled with a knowledge of the profession they follow. To satisfy every fan it would seem that a referee should be a lawyer, doctor, mechanical genius and diplomat.

New York State possesses at present collectively at least one of the most efficient and honest corps of referees to be found in the country. The height of assiduity would be to regard them as infallible. It is to be expected that at times they will err in their judgment, that something will escape them, some one receive an unintentional raw deal, somebody "get away" with something. It would indeed be strange if at times he didn't pull a "bloomer."

When one considers the rapidity of action within the ring, the speed with which the blows travel, it is remarkable that even the quickest eye can follow and catch a violation. Take for instance the matter of fouls. Opinion among the spectators may be divided (as often it is, according to an individual's favorite) as to whether a man was fouled or not, and, if so, whether the foul was deliberate. The referee moving about the boxes and watching for just such violations must declare his decision at once and disqualify the violator or order the fight to continue. Once the decision is made there can be no rescinding it, even though the hoots and howls of the throng demand the opposite course. And whether the referee succeeds in making his emotions or not, he feels the "razing" nevertheless. Many fans are prone to believe that the referee is "in on something" when he cautions one of the men, that he is siding him for the sole purpose of demoralizing him to the advantage of his opponent. Only recently a foreign boxer in the ring with an American was continually cautioned about hitting low. One of the most efficient of the local referees was officiating. Hundreds of fans thought the official was pulling for the American boy, and this conviction was emphasized when the referee strode to the foreigner's corner between rounds and whispered a few words to him. You think the referee was "bloomed" mercifully. What the fans didn't know was that the referee simply

FORTMEYER FINALLY DECIDES NOT TO RUN FOR N. Y. A. C. OFFICE

Fred R. Fortmeyer, the well-known rowing official and for ten years Secretary of the New York A. C., has finally decided at the advice of his family not to be a candidate for election at the meeting of the Mercury Foot organization today.

TILDEN RESUMES TENNIS PLAY IN CHICAGO JAN. 5-6

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—William T. Tilden, national tennis champion, in a series of matches here Jan. 5 and 6, will make his first public appearance since he underwent an operation that cost him part of a finger on his serving hand, it was announced today.

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WILLIE HERMAN SCORES ANOTHER EASY VICTORY

PASSAIC, N. J., Dec. 29.—Last night in the Paterson Sporting Club, Willie Herman, the lightweight champion of New Jersey, scored his third straight victory in ten days when he gave Johnny Martin, sparring partner of Benny Leonard, the lightweight champion of the world, a boxing lesson in ten of the twelve rounds before the greatest crowd that ever witnessed a boxing contest in this city. The southpaw style of Martin proved a difficult one for Herman to solve for the first two rounds, but beginning with the third round, the Jersey champion proceeded to deal out an artistic lacing. The weights were: Herman, 136½; and Martin, 124½.

DARTMOUTH AGAIN BEATS COLUMBIA HOCKEY TEAM

LAKE PLACID, N. Y., Dec. 29.—The Dartmouth hockey team defeated Columbia yesterday by a score of 2 to 1, the second victory in two days.

NEW YORK GOLFERS MAY GO TO CONVENTION IN SPECIAL

If present plans carry, metropolitan district delegates to the annual meeting of the United States Golf Association, set for Jan. 12 at Pittsburgh, will make the trip to the Smoky City aboard a special private car. Arrangements to have such a car leave New York at 11:30 o'clock Thursday night, Jan. 11, are being pushed. Full details in the hands of T. J. Mahon, 205 21st Street, New York.

J. WHITBECK AND KUHN VICTORS IN SEMI-FINALS OF JUNIOR TENNIS SINGLES

Brainerd Whitbeck and Hill Triumph in the Boys' Division; Ernest Kuhn Furnishes Upset by Disposing of Charles Wood, Former Boys' Titleholder.

By Burriss Jenkins Jr.

John F. Whitbeck and Ernest R. Kuhn, were the winners in the semi-final round of the national indoor junior tennis tournament today at the Seventh Regiment Armory before a large gathering. The victors in the boys' division were Brainerd H. Whitbeck and Malcolm T. Hill. The elder Whitbeck eliminated Horace Orser of George Washington High School, 8-6, 6-2, while Kuhn disposed of Charles M. Wood, Jr., 7-5, 6-0. The younger Whitbeck defeated John S. Millen of Newtown High School, 6-2, 6-1, and Hill, the Boston youth triumphed over Stuart Gaynes, 6-4, 6-3.

Orser started off like a winner in his match with John Whitbeck and held the lead for a short time. After the Loomis Institute star had gone to the front, Orser came through with another great rally and was leading at 5-3. Whitbeck's efficient and steady game, however, showed to advantage as the match progressed and Orser's occasional brilliancy was of no avail. The victor's superior form was plainly in evidence during the second match during which he was always in command of the situation.

Kuhn's victory over Wood was something of an upset though not a few experts had pointed out the former would bear watching. Against Wood the former boy's champion and who ranked second in the metropolitan list, Kuhn displayed a cleverness and generalship that had the gallery cheering all the way. Kuhn seemed to outguess his opponent at practically every stage and while not a player of exceptional brilliance he nevertheless managed to shift his style of play in a fashion to meet each emergency.

Brainerd Whitbeck who is doing his share to make these tournaments a family affair, won even more decisively than his brother, John Millen, his opponent, was practically outplayed from the start. Whitbeck plays an exceptionally sound tennis game for a youngster and was in his best form and while Millen came through with occasional rallies they availed him little against the play uncovered by the winner.

REED KNOCKS OUT MARTONE IN 9TH

At Reed, who hails from Boston and sports the title of the "Fighting Parson," knocked out Harry Martone of Jersey City last night in Orange, N. J. in the ninth round of a scheduled twelve-round bout. Reed was the aggressor all the way and easily Martone's master. In the eighth round Reed knocked Martone down three times with terrific left hand punches to the face and body. In the ninth session Martone was floored six times as the result of stiff right and left hand wallop to the face and body. After going down the sixth time, Referee Edny Favara stopped the fight. The weights were announced as Reed 158 1-2; Martone, 154.

JOE MOORE CAPTURES TWO-MILE RACE ON ICE

Iceland was filled to capacity last night when about 3,000 spectators witnessed the weekly ice races. Each event was closely contested. Joe Moore gave a fine demonstration of speed when he captured two two-mile final.

HOCKEY TONIGHT! 11 P.M. AT ICELAND

ST. NICHOLAS VS. CANADIAN.

ATHLETIC RESEARCH SOCIETY MEETS TO-DAY

The Athletic Research Society will hold its sixteenth annual meeting at the Hotel Astor to-day. The main theme of the conference is to be "Recent Advances in Athletic Administration." The meeting will start this morning at 9 o'clock with Daniel Chase, Vice President and Supervisor of Physical Education of New York State, presiding. Mr. Chase will speak on "Public School Athletic Administration."

RIDGWAY DEFEATS MORRISON AT BILLIARDS

Fred Ridgway scored an easy victory over Robert Morrison last night in the national amateur English billiards championship tournament now in progress at Jack Doyle's billiard academy by a score of 250 to 84. Ridgway finished his string in three-five innings and led by a score of 82 to 4 at the end of the tenth inning.

ENTRIES TO CLOSE FOR BOXING BOUTS

Entries for the St. Anselm's Athletic Club amateur boxing tournament, to be held at the club house, 154th Street and Tilton Avenue, will close to-morrow. Four classes will be contested, namely—110, 118, 130 and 135 pounds.

Pancho Villa Will Be Able to Go Through With Bout Here To-Night

Popular Filipino to Box Terry Martin Fifteen Rounds in Madison Square Garden.

By John Pollock.

The news that Pancho Villa, the flyweight champion, will be able to go through with his fifteen-round battle with Terry Martin of Providence, R. I., at Madison Square Garden to-night, was received with much joy by the fight fans of this vicinity yesterday, as the fast little Filipino is a popular battler with the followers of the flat game. In the semi-final of twelve rounds Hughey Hutchinson meets Babe Herman of California, Pickles Martin of California faces Jimmy Carroll of the West Side for six rounds, and Al Brown vs. Charley Snyder for four rounds.

Because Dan Rogers, manager of Rocky Flanagan, the middleweight, demands that Frank Flanagan charge from \$2 to \$10 for tickets for the bout between Kansas and Charley White at the Garden on Jan. 29, the bout has not been clinched. Matchmaker Flanagan wants the price of tickets to be from \$1 to \$7. Rogers would get a nice piece of money for his fighter at these prices.

A match was arranged to-day to be fought at Madison Square Garden on the night of Jan. 12. It will be a twelve-round all-Ireland flyweight bout between the popular West Side fighter, and Jim Tracy the Australian heavyweight. Tracy, who recently returned from a tour of the States, was a member of the New York State team at the National Amateur Athletic Association in New York City. Tracy will box the semi-final of the five-round bout between Jim Brennan and Floyd Johnson.

Dave Blaine, the crack welterweight of Chandler, who has made close to \$75,000

TRAIN GIRLS, TOO, IN SCHOOL SPORTS ADVISES EXPERT

They Need Athletic Competition Like Boys, Chase Tells Research Society.

Speaking before the sixteenth annual meeting of the Athletic Research Society at the Hotel Astor to-day Daniel Chase, State Supervisor of Physical Training, under the State Board of Education, declared that the great need in public schools athletics to-day is the extended organization of sports for girls as well as boys.

"Public school athletes should be organized for all students," said Mr. Chase. "This means a variety of activities for boys and girls as well. There should be teams suited to the age and sex and adapted to the physical capacities of the various types of pupils. As a definite part of the physical education program many schools in our State have a motto, 'A team for every adolescent pupil, and every pupil a member of some team.' The attention of public school people is now being centered on the needs of the girls. In the past we have been thinking in terms of athletics for boys and men exclusively. Girls need the training for life that comes from athletic competition even more than boys do. The lessons of sportsmanship, self-control and group loyalty must be taught to these girls who are to bear equally the burdens of citizenship if the democracy is to endure and our civilization to continue to advance."

Mr. Chase sounded a note of warning, however, when he said: "Before rushing into the organization of athletics for girls, public school authorities must study the ground very carefully and make haste slowly. There are almost no traditions as yet. The race mind must be considered as well as the physiological heritage of the sex."

Mr. Chase, who, during the past year has been Vice President of the organization, was elected President. Dr. C. W. Savage of Oberlin College, Oberlin, O., was chosen Vice-President, and Elmer Berry of Springfield (Mass.), Y. M. C. A. College, was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer. The meeting adjourned to attend the opening sessions of the National Amateur Athletic Federation which began a one-day convention at the Hotel Astor.

Personal Afterthoughts

Your post-Yuletide clothes requirements now probably demand attention.

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