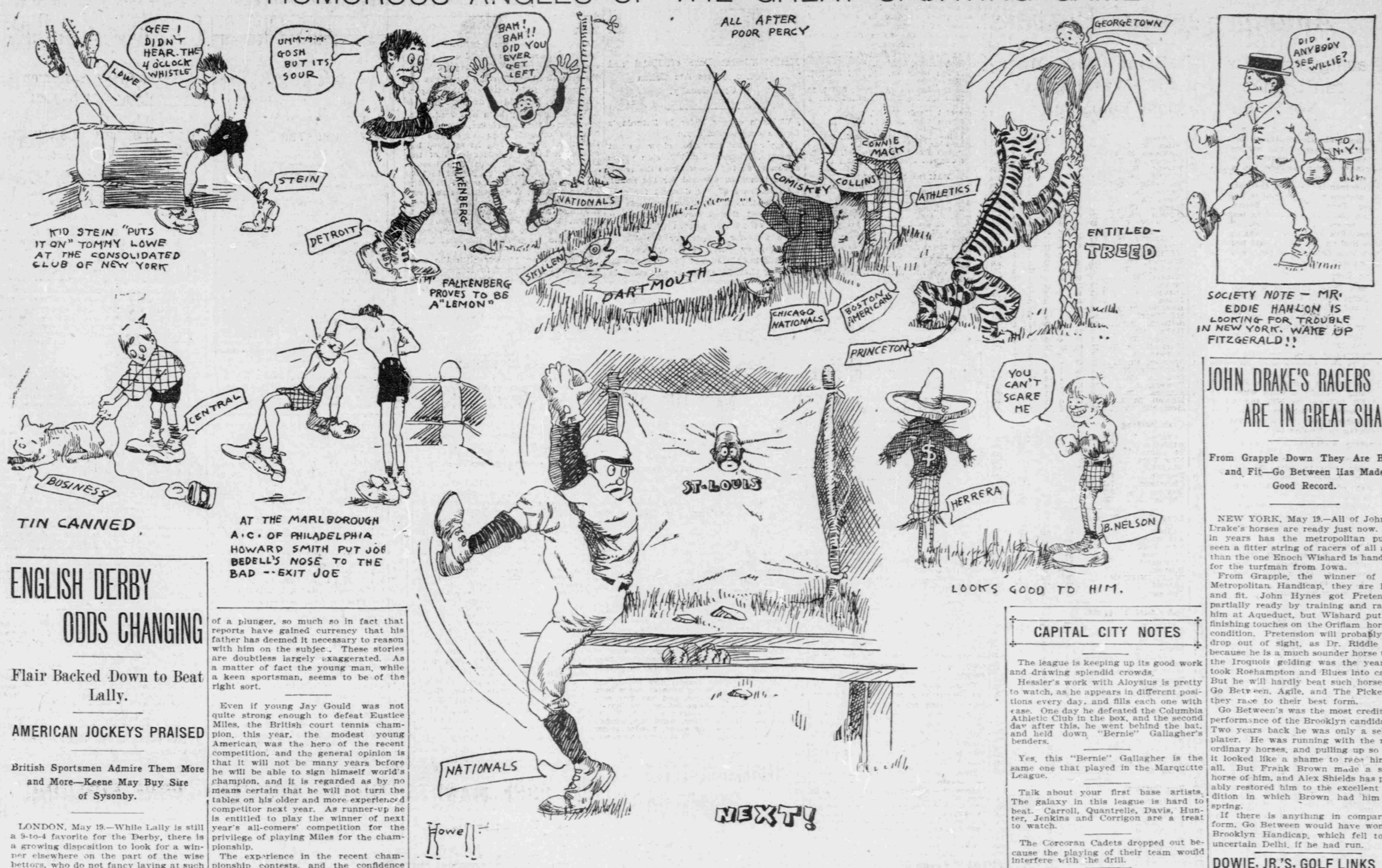
BASEBALL ⁂ GOLF ⁂ RACING ⁂ BOXING ⁂ ATHLETICS

HUMOROUS ANGLES OF THE GREAT SPORTING GAME



ENGLISH DERBY ODDS CHANGING

Flair Backed Down to Beat Lally.

AMERICAN JOCKEYS PRAISED

British Sportsmen Admire Them More and More—Keene May Buy Sire of Sysonby.

LONDON, May 19.—While Lally is still a 9-to-4 favorite for the Derby, there is a growing disposition to look for a winner elsewhere on the part of the wise bettors, who do not fancy laying at such short odds on so uncertain a proposition as the Derby.

As was indicated in these dispatches last week, Flair is looked upon as the most likely contender. This idea has been strengthened by the hollow style in which the speedy filly of Sir Daniel Cooper took the 1,000 guineas. Odds against her are down to 4 to 1 and 9 to 2, and they are likely to shorten before Derby Day, May 30. Several bets at evens have been recorded with Lally and Flair against the field. Others are backed at longer odds for the race.

Gorgos, the Agneta colt, Malna, Nulli, Secundus, and Picton all have followers at prices ranging from 7 to 1 up to 12 to 1, but the best opinion is that, barring accidents, the great race is likely to go to Flair or Lally. However, there are few things so uncertain as a horse race, which is one of the beauties of the game.

Danny Maher, the American jockey, probably will be at the head of the winning jockey list if he keeps in his present form. He is getting a good class of mounts and as many of them as he cares to take. In percentage of wins he already is well in the lead, and is only a few races behind in the actual number of wins. Skeets Martin also is doing well. Both these American lads are popular, and the reason is not hard to find. An owner remarked recently in speaking about Maher: "When Maher is up you may always depend on seeing not only a skillful ride, but an absolutely straight one. There may be better and more satisfactory jockeys than the American, but I should hate to have to make the selection.

On the Continent also the American jockeys are making their mark. In Austria, for instance, two Americans, the veteran Fred Taral and Harry Birkenouth, already have a commanding lead. An event at the opening meet of the Vienna track, Taral's fifteen-year-old son Johnny made his debut as a jockey. When it is told that he rode a winner against Harry Lewis and was in the money in both the other races in which he had mounts it will be admitted that he is riding some.

Melton, the sire of the great Sysonby, may go to America. At the dispersal sale of the stud of J. Musker, in July, Melton will go on the block, and there is a general impression that Mr. Keene will buy him.

The manner in which Pretty Polly romped away from her field in the Marsh Stakes at Newmarket shows that May Loder's great mare is her same old unbeatable self. That the layers of odds felt that she was is shown by the prohibitive odds of from 25 to 30 to 1 on, which was the best they had to offer about her.

Lord Dalmeny, son and heir of Lord Rosebery, is determined to follow in his distinguished father's footsteps on the turf. He has a string of horses which is bound to win many races, and while his ambition as to the Derby may not be realized this year, unless the story is true that he has offered a blank check for Lally, and Mr. Purefoy accepts and then Lally wins the race, two rather big ifs, it is altogether probable that he will in time see his colors in front of the most coveted prize in the world of racing.

Lord Dalmeny is said to be somewhat of a plunger, so much so in fact that reports have gained currency that his father has deemed it necessary to reason with him on the subject. These stories are doubtless largely exaggerated. As a matter of fact the young man, while a keen sportsman, seems to be of the right sort.

Even if young Jay Gould was not quite strong enough to defeat Eustice Miles, the British court tennis champion, this year, the modest young American was the hero of the recent competition, and the general opinion is that it will not be many years before he will be able to sign himself world's champion, and it is regarded as by no means certain that he will not turn the tables on his older and more experienced competitor next year. As runner-up he is entitled to play the winner of next year's all-comers' competition for the privilege of playing Miles for the championship.

The experience in the recent championship contests, and the confidence which will result from it is bound to strengthen his play next year, and it is not improbable that it will more than make up the difference in Miles' favor this year. Then, Gould is a comer, while Miles is at his best.

The American lawn tennis experts soon will be with us, and there is much curiosity to see the new men. There will be no great odds against their taking home the Davis trophy.

There is likely to be quite a flight of British pugilists across the water within the next few weeks. If it develops that twenty-round fights can be held without interruption in Philadelphia and New York, London will be denuded of champions. As it is, Joe Bowker, Jabez White, and Jack Palmer have covetous eyes on the rich prizes hung up by American fight promoters, and may take a shy at them, anyway.

The death of Martin Corbett deprives British sport of another of the men who it can ill-afford to spare. He was always a power in any movement for the advancement of clean sport.

AMATEUR CHAMPION TO TRY FOR HONORS

LONDON, May 19.—J. Woolf, of the Amateur Swimming Club, has commenced training in earnest for his Channel swim.

Recently he swam from Rottingdean to Brighton Aquarium, a distance of four miles. This, in itself, is no great achievement, but when it is mentioned that during the journey, which occupied two hours and ten minutes, the temperature of the sea was only 46 degrees, and that a strong westerly wind caused the waves continually to break over Woolf's head, the performance is remarkable. He had to work very hard, indeed, throughout, and a few thought him likely to succumb, but, maintaining a powerful over-arm stroke of thirty-three to a minute, he made good progress, and finished both warm and strong.

Under the care of Walter Brickett, Woolf is training very nicely, and now weighs 14 st. 8 lb. Two hours in a temperature of 46 degrees leaves Woolf with little fear concerning the cold water likely to be met with in the Dover straits.

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GUS RUHLIN AND FERGUSON

Akron Giant Still Considered Dangerous—Burns Becoming Genuine Heavyweight.

By CHIP.

CHICAGO, May 19.—The much discussed Nelson-Herrera battle is scheduled to occur next Friday at Los Angeles, being the most important fistic event so far this year, and the outcome of which will go far toward determining whether or not Battling Nelson can be whipped by any man in his class.

Herrera is about the last hope. Nelson has met and vanquished every other aspirant for his pugilistic scalp, and also has defeated the Mexican once. The latter, however, has by dint of strenuous efforts earned the right to another trial, and there is no denying the fact that he has a chance. Herrera and his punch are not to be lightly spoken of, for the aforesaid wallop is the real, genuine sleep-producer, and one of the wickedest propositions ever carried into a lightweight's mitt.

Taking this justly celebrated right smash into consideration, it will be interesting to note the Batter's tactics in the coming encounter. The Dane has the proud distinction of never breaking ground—always boring in and never retreating.

It is a question whether he can successfully follow this policy with the Mexican. In so doing Nelson will be very apt to run against that terrible right and the fight will end in a hurry. He had a taste of it in their former battle at Butte some two years ago, when he went down for the count, although he managed to come back and win out.

It will be a great fight. Herrera claims that he is in better shape right now than he has ever been—in fact, it is said that his battle with Kid Herman was the first one for which he ever did any real training. The Mexican has been cultivating that punch for all it is worth and will undoubtedly give Nelson one of the hardest battles of that young man's somewhat meteoric career.

Nelson is in perfect condition and ready to fight a den of tigers. He will probably be a slight favorite over Herrera at the ringside, but the margin should be a narrow one, considering that the Mexican is a California product, and consequently will receive the usual "native son" shade.

Gus Ruhlin and Sandy Ferguson are billed to mix things at New York next Monday night, six rounds at catch weights. The event will signalize Ruhlin's first ring appearance for something over two years. However, Gus has always lived carefully and will probably show up in fair condition.

Ferguson would have made a great fighter had he done likewise, but the nearest he has ever come to anything like training, or even temperate living, has been in the past few months, when, according to report, he was obliged to do so through force of circumstances resulting from a little "enforced hospitality."

These heavyweight battles, however, will do the game in New York no good, and should be held back for a while, anyway. For some reason a fight between two husky six-footers is treated as a more serious matter than a livelier affair between two fast featherweights. Let the little fellows do the entertaining until boxing is again firmly established in Gotham, then it will be time enough to turn to the big fellows.

Kaufmann, California's promising young heavyweight, has joined the exodus from the coast and has started East looking for trouble. He wants to meet Sam Berger or Gus Ruhlin and, if successful, will hunt another match with Jack O'Brien, the much-sought.

Tommy Burns is training near Chicago for his mill with Fitzsimmons at Essington, Pa.

Burns is rapidly developing into a simon-pure heavyweight of the short, stocky type. He is only twenty-four years of age and has hardly reached the zenith of his powers. At present he weighs 194 pounds, and is in pretty fair shape, at that. He expects to meet Bob weighing about 185 and professes to believe he will have an easy time with the old fellow. He may be fooled a whole lot. The veteran is liable to turn a trick when least expected, as he has done on several well-remembered occasions.

Dick Fitzpatrick and Joe Thomas, of Frisco, perform at Terre Haute, Ind., next Monday night. They will go ten rounds, barring a knockout. The fight was originally scheduled for San Francisco and both men were hard at work at their training when the earthquake came. Fitz is a fair average second-rater, while Thomas has quite a reputation on the coast, where he is regarded as a comer. They should put up a good exhibition.

CAPITAL CITY NOTES

The league is keeping up its good work and drawing splendid crowds.

Hessler's work with Aloysius is pretty to watch, as he appears in different positions every day, and fills each one with ease. One day he defeated the Columbia Athletic Club in the box, and the second day after this, he went behind the bat, and held down "Bernie" Gallagher's benders.

Yes, this "Bernie" Gallagher is the same one that played in the Marquette League.

Talk about your first base artists. The galaxy in this league is hard to beat. Carroll, Quantrelle, Davis, Hunter, Jenkins and Corrigon are a treat to watch.

The Corcoran Cadets dropped out because the playing of their team would interfere with the drill.

Buscher made the first balk of last season, and repeated the performance this year. Rather a unique record to hold.

"Caddie" Handler, the hard-working manager of the St. Stephen's team, made two hits the other day.

Have you noticed the stone yard in right field at North Capitol and L streets. A hit in there is good for three bases.

Rather good that Bill Rapp should come to the aid of the St. Stephen's Institute team, just when Kraft was incapacitated by a split finger. "Bill" is the goods, and should be worthy of recognition in the minor league.

Frank McCormick is again in hard luck with his bad ankle. He had it spiked last week.

McCarthy needs no points on how to look after the thirty base bag. Willie Handiboe showed a good eye when he got this lad.

The Columbia Athletic Club holds the record of scoring the first shut out last year and this year, only last year the score was 7 to 0, with St. Patrick's team, and this year it was 8 to 0, with the Atlantics.

Stanley is making good in the Virginia State League. Too bad "Al." Handiboe could not keep him company. Never mind, better luck next time.

JOHN DRAKE'S RACERS ARE IN GREAT SHAPE

From Grapple Down They Are Hard and Fit—Go Between Has Made Good Record.

NEW YORK, May 19.—All of John A. Drake's horses are ready just now. Not in years has the metropolitan public seen a fitter string of racers of all ages than the one Enoch Wishard is handling for the turfman from Iowa.

From Grapple, the winner of the Metropolitan Handicap, they are hard and fit. John Hynes got Pretension partially ready by training and racing him at Aqueduct, but Wishard put the finishing touches on the Oriflam horse's condition. Pretension will probably not drop out of sight, as Dr. Riddle did, because he is a much sounder horse than the Iroquois gelding was the year he took Roehampton and Blues into camp. But he will hardly beat such horses as Go Between, Agile, and The Picket, if they race to their best form.

Go Between's was the most creditable performance of the Brooklyn candidates. Two years back he was only a selling plater. He was running with the most ordinary horses, and pulling up so sore it looked like a shame to race him at all. But Frank Brown made a stake horse of him, and Alex Shields has probably restored him to the excellent condition in which Brown had him last spring.

If there is anything in comparative form, Go Between would have won the Brooklyn Handicap, which fell to the uncertain Delhi, if he had run.

DOWIE, JR.'S, GOLF LINKS PLOWED UP BY VOLIVA

CHICAGO, May 19.—Out in Zion City "the man with the hoe" has supplanted the man with the golf stick, and Gladstone Dowie, "the unkissed son" of the first apostle, regards with melancholy eye the rough furrows of a potato patch, where once was the velvety expanse of his links. By order of Overseer Voliva the grounds have been turned over to the tender mercies of amateur gardeners. As a result the entente has been shattered.

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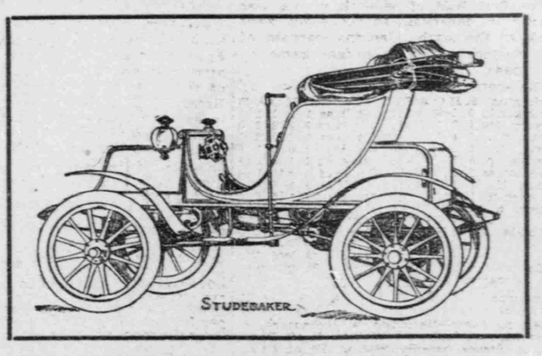

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