

Winter News and Gossip from the World of Sport

COMMISSION TO ANSWER DEMANDS

Baseball Players' Fraternity to Hear From National Body January 5.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 26.—When the National baseball commission convenes in this city on January 5 next that body will be visited by a committee from the Baseball Players' Fraternity. The information comes direct from Dave Fultz, president of the fraternity, to August Herrmann, chairman of the commission. Fultz did not say whether he will be here or not, but agreed that a committee from the fraternity should be on hand.

Doubtless Fultz will be here himself, and the members of the commission hope that he will, but they were anxious to have a number of well known players present also, in order that the athletes themselves may hear the replies which are to be given to their requests for changes in the agreement. Several of the requests will be granted without a murmur, as they are eminently reasonable and fair for all concerned.

A number of the requests are considered so absurd, however, that the commission wishes the players to be on hand to hear the reasons why they are not granted, in order that they may not be persuaded that they are being discriminated against.

Mr. Herrmann will strongly advocate an open meeting for the purpose of discussing the players' demands so that all players, fans and writers may hear the arguments and understand that every request on the list is being fairly handled. Mr. Herrmann will urge Presidents Tener and Johnson to agree to an open session and think that they will do so, as there is nothing to conceal in the matter. One of the players' requests, in which they seem to have a good deal of right on their side, is that pertaining to waivers.

SPEED BOATS WILL RACE AT CHICAGO

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Elimination races to pick the American challenger for the Harmsworth trophy, emblematic of the motorboat championship of the world will be held in Chicago next summer. H. H. Melville, commodore of the Motor Boat Club of America, so announced. He said the races were to be held in recognition of the advance in motorboating made by the west.

It is probable the races will be staged in July. The Harmsworth trophy, which was won by England to carry the formal challenge for the Harmsworth trophy.

James A. Pugh, who entered his Disturber in the Harmsworth race last fall, is planning a new forty-footer to be driven by two engines of 500 horsepower each, the most powerful ever placed in a small boat.

CUP DEFENDER TO GO TO JUNK YARD

New York, Dec. 26.—From the proud position of the queen of all yachts to the junk yard is the probable fate of the America's cup defender Reliance. She started upon the last leg of her career Wednesday when E. Oliver Isely, head of the syndicate that built her ten years ago, sold her to Captain Leonard Miller, who was assumed skipper with the late Captain Charles.

What the sale price of the Reliance was could not be learned. Her original cost was \$700,000. She was built to race against Sir Thomas Lipton's Shamrock III and won. It is expected the new owner will dismantle her.

ENFORCE RULES AT BASKETBALL MEET

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 26.—Strict enforcement of playing and eligibility rules will be a feature of the state high school basketball tournament at Carleton college this winter. The meeting will probably be staged at the Northfield, Minn., gymnasium about March 20 and 21. Representatives of many of the high schools met with Carleton college professors at the Carleton faculty. Superintendent J. L. Sullivan of Red Wing, Superintendent W. H. Hollands of Stillwater, H. E. Griebow of Mountain Lake, W. H. Schilling, Duluth and Superintendent Frankling of Fergus Falls.

It was decided to follow A. A. U. rules in handling the play and the high school athletes will be drilled under those rules this season.

LEWIS AND MOREAU DRAW

American and French Middleweights Go Twenty Rounds at Paris.

Paris, Dec. 25.—Wille Lewis, the American middleweight pugilist, and Marcel Moreau, the French middleweight, fought twenty rounds to a draw here.

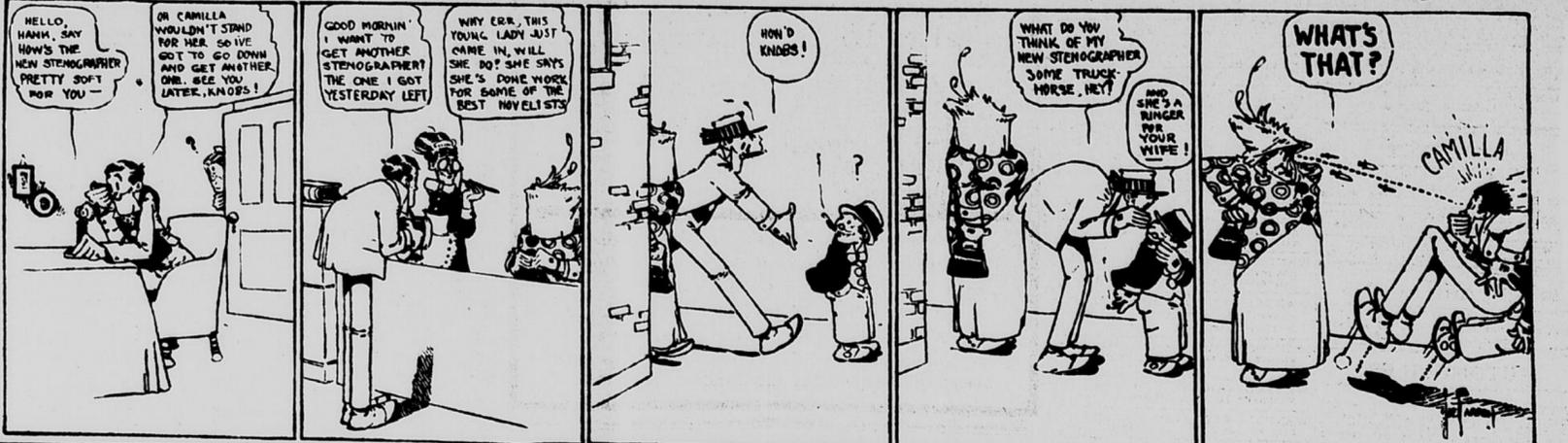
The men were apparently evenly matched and the contest was witnessed by a large crowd. In their previous fight last March Lewis defeated Moreau on points.

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Hough's Dairy Lunch
THE PLACE TO EAT.
Under Rossett's Clothing Store.
OPEN DAY AND NIGHT.

Hank and Knobs---Hgnk Gets a New Stenographer



By Farren

ALLEN'S NAME TO GRAND FORKS CONTRACT STIRS UP CANTILLON

KAVANAUGH HAS HIS JOHN HANCOCK

Star Catcher of Northern Involved in Deal to Strengthen the Local Club.

Nick Allen will catch for the Grand Forks baseball club next year, if his name, signed to a Grand Forks contract, will bring about such condition.

When announcement of Mr. Allen's acceptance of A. J. Kavanaugh's overtures to play with Grand Forks reached the ears of one Mike Cantillon, head of the Minneapolis baseball club, that dignitary immediately declared it "wasn't so."

But Mr. Kavanaugh, who is in Minneapolis spending the holidays, assured the Evening Times over telephone this morning that he had Allen's contract all securely signed, and would bring it home with him next week.

Allen may have some trouble including Cantillon to see just how anxious he is to play for Grand Forks. Reports are that Allen is reserved to the Millers, being taken out of the Northern league and transferred to the American association during the final month of last season, the purpose being to avoid the possibility of Allen being drafted from this league. Should Allen have remained in the Northern, he would have been able to draw a lower class league than the association, as was the case with Leverett, whom Cantillon left in this league a little too long.

Reserved by Millers.

There were during the final month of the 1913 playing season, varied reports as to the real standing of Mr. Allen in the baseball world. It was reported that he had gone back to Comiskey of the Chicago White Sox, who had claim on him previous to Cantillon. Now, however, it appears that Cantillon still reserves Allen.

The question is one of settlement between Kavanaugh and Cantillon, and they probably will get together at the Northern league meeting in Duluth next Monday.

Allen, with the Grand Forks club, would be about as acceptable a bit of property as local fans could hope for. He was the classiest catcher of the league last season, and would go a long way toward giving Grand Forks a winning aggregation.

Minneapolis' View of Deal.

The Minneapolis Tribune is prone to believe that Allen will play with Grand Forks. Says that worthy publication about the subject:

"According to a report, originating in Grand Forks, Nick Allen, ex-Miller catcher and at present Fargo-Moorhead receiver in the Northern league, has been signed by the Grand Forks club.

"In some unknown way the rumor was spread among the baseball population of the North Dakota town that Allen, old Nick himself, was convinced that nothing but a Forker contract would be the proper thing next season and as a result of all the persuasion affixed his John Hancock to

OLD RIVALS WILL CLASH ONCE MORE

Mike Gibbons and Jimmy Clabby to Hook Mitts in New Orleans next Month

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Ring phantoms of long standing rivalry are going to hook up again when Mike Gibbons of St. Paul and Jimmy Clabby, Hammond's leading citizen of the roped arena, get together in a ten-round argument in New Orleans during the third week in January. The local representative of a New Orleans promoter signed Gibbons for the clash yesterday, while Clabby's new manager is awaiting word from his principal before accepting.

Clabby wired his new business leader yesterday that Jim Coffroth, San Francisco match maker, is trying to match him before his club with either Frank Dillon or Gibbons on January 17. However, as the Crescent city club is willing to pay \$2,000 for a ten-round exhibition, the principals are figuring on taking this first and the longer engagement later.

Gibbons and Clabby have met three times, the first battle being Gibbons' initial professional fight. He was beaten by the Hammond boy, and the next mill, held in Milwaukee in 1911, ended in a draw, the boxers drawing a round of hisses for their trouble. It was such a clever exhibition that the fans thought they were "stalling." Their last battle took place in Winnipeg, and it ranked Gibbons among the top notchers. He trimmed Clabby to a stand still, and since that time the latter has been meeting middleweights.

CHRIS PERSON IS WINNER OVER HUSET

Hatton, N. D., Dec. 26.—Chris Person easily won his match with Huset, the local wrestler, in straight falls. The first fall was secured in 41 minutes with an arm scissor and a half-Nelson, while the second was secured with a double Nelson in 25 minutes and 10 seconds.

MERKLE MAY BE GIVEN THE CAN

John McGraw Likely to Try Snodgrass at First Base, it is Said.

New York, Dec. 26.—Although Edward Konetchy did not land with the Giants in the big shift of National league players last week, it is by no means certain that Fred Merkle will continue to play first base for the Giants. There is reason to believe that Manager McGraw is grooming Snodgrass to play that position. Merkle is not likely to be sold or traded before next season, but his fate depends largely on his hitting next spring.

Snodgrass is no stranger to infield play, and during his career with the Giants has often acted as doorkeeper of the base-running circuit. A year ago last spring he played first base for about a month and gave general satisfaction. At various times he acted as an understudy to Merkle.

McGraw frankly admits that he wants more "noise" in his infield. Fletcher and Herzog were the only ones who exercised their vocal chords to any great extent last season. Merkle and Shafer seldom lifted their voices in encouragement to a pitcher, and Doyle was not much of an orator either. Now Herzog has departed, and rumor has it that Snodgrass will be placed on first base to "pepper up" the infield.

The acquisition of Bob Beacher probably means the displacement of Snodgrass as a center fielder. Undoubtedly Burns will continue in left field. Though he failed to shine in the world's series, Burns gave an excellent account of himself during the championship season, and should improve in his second season as a regular. It is not McGraw's way to pick his team from world's series form. As there is a hole in the right field, Jack Murray is expected to patrol right field.

Murray is available only as an outfielder, but Snodgrass can play the first or second base. In Dave Robertson the Giants have another nifty baseman, as Merkle will have plenty of competition. The return of Robertson will go to complicate the outfield situation. The southerner is said to have developed into a great hitter. He is expected to be a big pitcher as he pounded southern league hurlers last season, McGraw will find a place for him.

With Cooper, Peterson, Thorpe and possibly Mike Donlin on the payroll next spring, McGraw will have a wealth of outfield material, and can spare Snodgrass for infield roles. He was originally a catcher, and could be pressed into service behind the bat if necessary. However, the Giants should be well supplied with catchers, as Meyers, McLean, Wilson and Johnson will be on the job. Johnson is a big husky from Omaha. Scout Dick Kinsey captured this bird, and states that Johnson, while a bit slow, is a fine thrower and a splendid batsman. "He's just as good as Meyers was when McGraw picked up the Indian," declares Richard, the ivory hunter.

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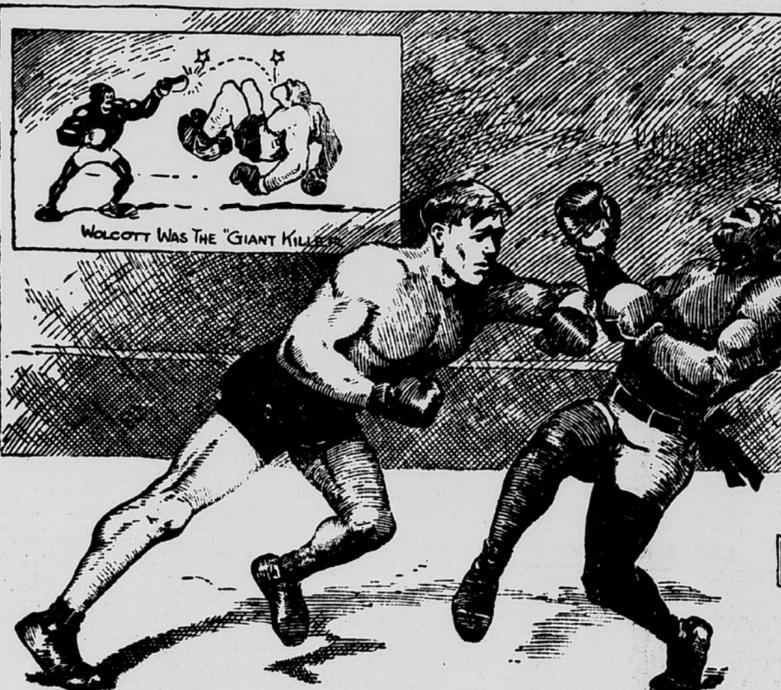
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When the Short End Won



OLD 'SAGINAW KID'

Geo. Lavigne

Sam Fitzpatrick, Sailing for England Again, Tells of Lavigne's Hardest Fight

Sam Fitzpatrick, one of the grand old pugilistic managers of the ring, is just about to sail for England with another man whom he hopes to make a champion. Many years ago he took over there George (Kid) Lavigne and fought him against Dick Burge, England's lightweight champion, and the Kid came back the champion of the world.

But the hardest fight of Kid Lavigne's career was the fifteen-round contest with Joe Walcott at Maspeth, L. I., eighteen years ago this month. Then the lightweight champion entered the ring on the short end of the betting. Walcott, "The Black Demon," "The Giantkiller," etc., went in a 2 to 1 and a 3 to 1 favorite.

"I picked up lots of bets at the ringside at 2 to 1 against me that day," said Fitzpatrick.

By many persons who saw the fight it is considered the hardest ever known between first-class men under Queensbury rules. Charley Harley, now secretary to the New York state boxing commission, who was master of ceremonies and who has acted in that capacity many times since, maintains to this day he has seen nothing like it. The ten-round bout between Philadelphia Jack O'Brien and Stanley Ketchel in the National Sporting

club of New York was a hard fight, but most of the old-timers insist it was not the equal of the lightweight battle eighteen years ago.

"Lavigne," said Sam, "was born of French-Canadian parents, in Saginaw, Mich., in 1871. He was eighteen years of age when he fought his first ring battle, which was against, no less a fighter than the great George Siddons. The bout was fought at Saginaw, on March 1, 1889, and went seventy-seven rounds to a draw. Not content with this verdict, they met again on April 25 of the same year at Grand Rapids, and once again fought without any decisive result, the second battle being declared a draw after fifty-five rounds of bitter fighting.

"George became a little disgusted with the game at this point of his career, and retired for a couple of years. In 1891, he returned to it, beating Joe Sotro, Johnny Griffin, Jack Evershart, and others. I was attracted to him when he fought Young Griffo an eight-round draw, and took him under my management. I cannot recall the exact date or year, but it was in the early nineties. But about the hardest battle:

"The hardest fight of George Lavigne was the hardest fight in the

history of boxing. It was fought between Lavigne and Joe Walcott at Maspeth, L. I., December 2, 1895. Walcott and Lavigne were bitter rivals. The bout was a good bit heavier than George, but not enough to make it impossible for them to meet on an equal weight basis. So finally Tom O'Rourke and myself got together and made the match.

"I insisted that Walcott make 133 pounds at 6 o'clock on the night of the battle. At that, I was giving Walcott the best of it, as the 'Kid' was always well under 133 at ringside. We pointed weight forfeits of \$500 a side. Walcott had difficulty making the weight. Several days before the fight O'Rourke wanted to forfeit the money, and have his man come in at catchweights, but I threatened to call off the match. So Walcott made the weight at 6 o'clock, the fight starting about 10.

"O'Rourke had bet me \$1,000 to \$500 Walcott would stop Lavigne inside of fifteen rounds. Fight fans had become so used to seeing him topple over men outweighing him thirty or forty pounds that they believed that no man near his own weight could stand against him. They had reckoned without Lavigne.

"At the sound of the gong for the

QUILLEN THREATENS TO JOIN FEDERALS

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 26.—Lee Quillen, for three years third baseman of the pennant winning Denver club, and before that with Sioux City and the Minneapolis Millers, has announced he would serve notice on the Denver management that if not given his release or transfer to the Lincoln club, he would jump to the Chicago Federal league club, from which he says he has an offer.

TINKER LIKES FEDS' OFFER.

Former Red Sox Says He Has Spurred Brooklyn's Terms.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Joe Tinker declared that he had dismissed the Brooklyn offer of \$5,000 from his mind and had practically come to terms with the men backing the Chicago Federal league club.

"I will manage in a few days whether I will manage the Lincoln club, or the Federal league club," said Tinker. "The offer was not for \$40,000 for three years, as has been stated, but it is close to that. Three big business men of Chicago made me the offer."

