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NEWS OF THE SPORT WORLD

WILLARD'S RED CROSS OFFER, IS LATEST EFFORT TO STOP CRITICS

A few days ago the boxing world was startled when Jess Willard crawled out of his shell and announced he was ready to box any heavyweight on condition that all money taken in should be donated to the Red Cross.

The announcement was particularly spectacular on account of Willard's attitude since he has had the championship—an attitude which held off all challengers by the simple but effective method of ignoring them. It was also surprising on account of Willard's previous seeming unwillingness to enter into any activities which would aid any patriotic cause.

As it stands, Willard's announcement will bear a little scrutiny.

In the first place, Jess Willard is not altruistic. Since he won the championship from Jack Johnson he has done nothing which would not bring the money his way and has succeeded in piling up a stack of dollars that a Zeppelin couldn't fly over.

Why, then, this sudden reversal?

Willard's heavyweight title is worth a lot of money to him so long as he holds it.

He knows that public opinion will force him into the ring within the near future anyway and Jess is not anxious to fight over a marathon route. What he wants is to keep out of the ring altogether, or if he can't do that hold off public opinion a few years longer by engaging in a short bout.

Willard knows as well as anyone in the world that there isn't a fighter living who can take his measure in a 10-round bout. Since his 10-round fiasco with Frank Moran he realizes that most promoters would jeer at the idea of offering a big purse for another bout of that length.

But fight he must and, to fight under the terms which he wishes to fight under, he must make concessions.

For the Red Cross he can concede the gate money—he is not giving up very much, the other fellow must do the same. Then he can lay down his own rules, which provide for a 10-round fight without a decision in which his title is not at stake.

This will not bring in so much money at the gate, but it will safeguard Willard's interest and it will put him back in the limelight again, which means money to him.

And who will Willard fight?

He doesn't care, and why should he? Fulton is undoubtedly the only heavyweight who has a chance with him and Fulton would have no chance in anything less than 20 rounds. Billy Miske is the only other candidate who has not been proved a bloomer recently.

The others are entirely out of it. Carl Morris has fouled himself out of consideration; Frank Moran has shown he is no match for Jess; Jim Coffey is even more impossible. It's up to Miske or Fulton, preferably the latter, and in 10 rounds—oh, well, as before stated, Jess Willard is not altruistic.

LINING UP FOR SOLDIERS' SHOW

Manager Graham Has Announced Card—Pinkman and Engle to Clash.

With the hope of raising hundreds of dollars for the mess fund, the members of the coast artillery stationed in Butte are leaving no stone unturned to make the boxing entertainment to be given at the Broadway theater, on Jan. 4, the greatest athletic event in the city since the old Kiley law was repealed. "Hob" Graham is at the helm, and is arranging the bouts, looking after the details and the publicity end of the show.

The boys are highly elated over the fact that at last a suitable man has been secured to meet Eddie Pinkman, the northwest lightweight champion. George Engle of Seattle is the lad and Engle is rated a top-notcher on the coast. Before Pinkman won the distinction of being the premier boxer of his weight in this section of the country, he was pitted against Engle. That was not so very long ago and Engle took Pinkman's measure. The men have never met since. The coming of Engle, therefore, will be just what Pinkman has been waiting many a day for, and it will also mean a rich and rare treat for the lovers of the fistic game. With two such men as the stellar attraction, the success of the show is assured right at the start.

But there are other boxers who will also perform for the soldiers. There will be six bouts listed. Some of them will be for four rounds and some of them will be over a longer route.

Private Hunt and "Spider" Kelly, both of whom have been seen in action at the Connolly gymnasium but never against each other, have been matched. 145 pounds, and their reach is about the same. In fact, on paper, they look about as evenly matched as it is possible to find two men. Another bout that promises to a crack attention especially among the soldiers, is that between Private Rémaurd of the Seventh company and Private Morrison of the sixth company. Besides the usual company rivalry there is said to be a lot of feeling between the boys which ordinarily gives to any bout an additional amount of pepper.

Other men lined up are Hot Lindley and Frank Hayes, the colored lads who go at it with a dash that makes the spectator's blood tingle. Private Mann will be pitted against a man yet to be selected, and Jack Brown, the local amateur who came to Butte a short time ago from Canada and who has been seen a couple of times at the Connolly gymnasium, will also perform for the soldiers. Brown is a heavyweight and Manager Graham is endeavoring to line up a big man who is both clever and fast to meet him.

OLD TIMERS STAR IN FIELD MILLER AND FLETCHER LEAD

While comparative youngsters have the call among National League batsmen, Roush and Hornsby being by far the best batsmen in the old league, it's the older heads who lead in fielding in practically every position, the honors going to Jack Miller at first, Rawlings at second, Art Fletcher at short, Heine Groh at third and Dode Paskert in the outfield. The only one of the outfit who has not been "up there" for several years is Rawlings, the Boston youngster.

Jack Miller's average is far above normal. Playing in 46 games at first he handled 545 chances with but a single error.

Heine Groh was the same old Heine around the hot corner. He handled 327 chances at third with his customary grace and erred but 18 times.

If Dode Paskert is going back it isn't very noticeable in his fielding. Dode has often been regarded as the surest fielder in the National League, a sort of a National League Tris Speaker, and he surely lived up to this reputation this year. Dode handled 310 chances in the gardens with but five misplays.

Art Fletcher used better judgment around the short field during the season than he did during the world series and led all shortstops.

RETRENCHMENT POLICY IS DISTASTEFUL TO PLAYERS

Indications Are That There Will Be Record Number of Holdouts.

New York, Friday, Dec. 27.—Holdouts among major league players promise to break all records during the next three months, according to a prominent baseball man here.

It is said that there are fewer holdover contracts in the possession of players now than for the last five or six years and, with so many contracts expired, the club owners must sign a greater number of men for 1918 than is usually the case.

With retrenchment the by-word of the club owners, it is a certainty that contracts for 1918 are going to call for less money than they did last season, and it is just as certain that the players are going to balk.

In some cases, the players are already making big demands. The case of Roger Hornsby of the Cardinals is one of the most interesting. Hornsby has informed Branch Rickey that he will not play next season unless he receives $10,000 for his services.

An example of how few players are under contract in the big leagues is furnished by the three clubs located in Greater New York. Only eight players of the Giants, Dodgers and Yankees are said to have holdover contracts. Of this number, five are members of the Yankees, two are Dodgers and the one remaining is Charles Herzog of the Giants. Shawkey, Pipp, Baker, Gedeon and Nunamaker are safe in the Yankee fold and Daubert and Coombs are the only Dodgers with unexpired contracts.

ELI DEPARTS FROM ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Yale Introduces Boxing as an Aid to Men Taking Military Training.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 27.—More evidence that Yale athletics are conducted as an auxiliary of the war service of the university came when it was announced that Yale will this winter hold the first boxing tournament in recent years. Indeed, no boxing matches on the scale of those planned have ever been arranged here, and the reason for the innovation is avowedly the perfection in physical condition and in the use of arms, body and feet, by the soldiers who will step into the service of their country in a short time.

Two sports of the university are being augmented rather than decreased, because of their availability in assisting in the training of the members of the Reserve Officers' training camps—fencing and boxing. Both are to be developed the coming winter, fencing with an extended intercollegiate schedule; boxing through lessons given to the members of the corps by Mose King, instructor in boxing at the university, and later through a long series of boxing matches and a tournament.

In the case of boxing this has never been done before. Fencing, however, has existed for several years, and Yale's teams have stood high in intercollegiate competition.

Even before America entered the war, the worth of fencing was recognized as an aid to the development of the members of the corps, which was organized three years ago, but boxing had not been taken up as a training auxiliary till now.

Yale's recent football head coaches, Frank Hinkey and Ted Jones, recognized its boxing an aid to football training and prescribed boxing lessons for many candidates for the eleven who were awkward in the use of their arms especially, and in some cases of their feet. The boxing coaching has never failed to get results in increased facility of action, and Hinkey and Jones have both testified to its worth and timeliness in numerous instances.

Boxing Part of Course.

During the past fall the entire Yale Reserve Officers' Training Corps has been instructed by King in boxing movements of a simple nature. The instruction has been given as a part of the course in calisthenics and the sight of the large squad of young soldiers on the historic New Haven Central green, drilling in phantom swings, jabs and parries, has been a unique feature of their training.

More elaborate instruction and boxing practice will continue to be given in the boxing room of the gymnasium by King, who has hitherto confined himself to rudimentary work in automatic and bayonet positions.

The proposed boxing tournament will be an interbattery affair. King will give two weeks to coaching each battery before the tournament. The members of the battery will change their uniforms for boxing clashes and squads of 12 will be instructed for half an hour each. According to the plans laid for the tournament, two or three representative members of each battery will be picked for every weight, and from this number the battery representatives will be finally chosen.

The weights which will be contested will be as follows:

Bantam, feather, light, welter, middle and heavy. In accordance with amateur rules, every boxer will be allowed leeway of three pounds over his class weight.

The plan to develop boxing as a part of the training of the members of the Yale Reserve Officers' Training Corps—in reality an addition to Yale athletics—was put through by Capt. Winfield S. Overton, military instructor at the university. Professor Robert N. Corwin, head of the Athletic Council, has worked with Professor Overton in carrying out all the military plans which relate to athletics at the university.

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MANAGER NEEDED TO HANDLE BUCK

With Right Boss Giants' Second Sacker Ought to Rival Collins

Temperament, some of 'em call it.

Maybe it is—and then again, maybe you might say a mule's general attitude toward life was caused by temperament.

Anyway a discussion of temperament leads to consideration of the latest move of Charles Lincoln Herzog, second baseman and field captain of the New York Giants, who says he will not play ball with McGraw.

Now anyone who knows McGraw and knows Herzog can figure where the men were bound to clash.

McGraw will not brook any interference with his way of running a ball club. He is manager, the highest paid manager in baseball, and he intends to be manager.

Herzog has a very high estimation of his own ability as a ballplayer and having managed the Cincinnati Reds made it pretty hard for him to buckle down to the autocratic stardom of a McGraw.

Herzog is a wonderful mechanical player. He is a quick, brilliant thinker, a shifty, crafty field general, but Herzog is of that peculiar type which may be either beneficial or detrimental to his club. If everything is going good and Herzog is feeling fine, well and good, he is out there doing everything he can minute. But let the breaks go bad and he assumes just the opposite role.

Perhaps there is a manager who can handle Herzog. Maybe Mathewson could do it. Handling him means more than getting just mechanical play out of him, it means putting him right with his teammates, which is the most difficult side of the problem. If this manager can be found Herzog will rival Eddie Collins.

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