

HOW THE JOHNSON-KETCHEL BOUT SIZES UP AT PRESENT

By TOMMY CLARK.

On all sides you can hear the question asked, "Will the Ketchel-Johnson fight be carried out as originally planned?" The recent poor showing of Ketchel against Billy Papke and the subsequent cutups of the middleweight champion have probably lessened public interest in the coming battle for the world's championship between the pair.

Promoter Jim Coffroth and Manager Willis Britt, representing Ketchel, declared emphatically that the fight will take place in October as originally planned and have even gone so far as to state that had the recent fight ended in Ketchel being knocked out the heavyweight match would in no way have been interested with.

Public opinion, however, counts for something when the box office receipts are to be considered, and the indications are that neither Coffroth nor the fighters will rush headlong into the matter without first having given the middleweight champion another test to prove his right to meet Jack Johnson.

Before his fight with Papke there were many who gave Ketchel a mighty good chance of beating Johnson. They figured him a good ring general and a man with so remarkable a punch that Johnson would not be able to stand against him. Those same fight fans, however, when they looked at Papke and Ketchel, shook their heads when it was suggested to them that Ketchel would stand a good chance against the negro.

Ketchel's Stock Has Declined.

Even admitting that he injured his hands, he would be likely hurt those same hands against Johnson. Stanley didn't have the punch to stow away Battling Nelson recently, let alone Billy Papke or Johnson. The exercise of moving around the ring in the first three rounds, before Papke had marked him, tired the Michigan boy, so that it must either be admitted that he was woefully out of condition or gone back in the boxing game.

There are few boxers who can give away forty pounds and still be considered a possible winner. Bob Fitzsimmons did this, it is true, but that one exception proved the rule. In the days of John L. Sullivan, James J. Corbett and even to the later period of James J. Jeffries there was no talk of matching middleweights against heavyweights. While Fitzsimmons was a middleweight by weight, he was so remarkable a man in many ways and had proved his worth so thoroughly that there was no questioning his right.

In the lighter classes, such as Joe Walcott among the welterweights and Joe Gans among the lightweights, there are instances of men going out of their classes and sustaining their reputations. It is more difficult, however, among the heavier fighters, where Ketchel has accomplished little of the Fitzsimmons sort. He looks to be a genuine middleweight and gives no signs of putting on weight much about the 165 pound mark. He is middleweight champion beyond a doubt, but Papke cast a shadow on the title in their last go, not so much because of his superior power as because Ketchel failed miserably.

Under such conditions as exist, Johnson would go in likely to a 4 to 1 favorite over Ketchel, and the odds so lower because there would be no betting. He would figure a certainty to whip Ketchel, and the fight would see the charm that goes with the big contests of the ring.

Good Thing to Fight Langford.

If Ketchel fights Langford, as he has agreed to do, however, the result might put a different aspect on affairs. The writer is one of those who believe that Ketchel's showing was due to his lack of training. He will find no easy opponent in Langford, and should he beat the negro middleweight Ketchel will once more be ranked with the leading fighters. Until he has done this or redeemed himself by a spectacular defeat of Papke the Michigan boy will be laughed at when the name of Jack Johnson is mentioned.

Ketchel Must Beat Langford.

There is no denying that Ketchel will have the toughest battle on his hands that he ever has had when he faces Langford in New York Sept. 3. The record of the black is an imposing one. For years he has met and trimmed heavyweights of all descriptions. The 165 pounders stood absolutely no chance against him. Among some of his principal heavyweight victims have been Jimmy Barry, Joe Jeannette, Sandy Ferguson, Tony

Ross, Young Peter Jackson, Larry Temple and a score of others. Tough propositions these, every one, as their name and records will indicate. Jack Johnson has been the only man to successfully take the measure of Langford.

In order to earn public support Ketchel must trim Langford as decisively as Johnson turned the trick. If the Wolverine can do this, he will have to be regarded as a serious factor in the heavyweight division. If he fails, his prospective meeting with Johnson will be nothing less than a fiasco.

White Sox Miss Jones.

Catcher Billy Sullivan is having his hardships as manager of the Chicago Americans, and Fielder Jones' successor was doomed to trouble from the outset, for Jones was the most important cog in the machinery of the team. Only the nicest handling could ever keep a naturally weak scoring club like the Sox on the map, and not every manager is a Fielder Jones, whatever his baseball education may have been.

Weak scoring power is the root of the White Sox trouble. It existed when Jones was in charge of the Sox, but that wonderful leader had the faculty of getting results. It is questionable whether Jones was ever appreciated. He never had a real strong team, yet he always kept it in the hunt because he outgeneraled his opponents. Jones was a thinker. He had splendid theories which he carried into practice. He figured out a system which gave his team an advantage, and his system was never changed, though defeats were rolled up. He had the percentage in his favor, and it was bound to tell sooner or later.

It was a sorry day for the White Sox and President Charley Comiskey when Jones retired, and it's a good guess that every effort will be made to get him back to Chicago for next season.

Johnny Bull's Latest Setback.

The recent victory of the Meadowbrook Polo club in England, whereby the trophy returns to America, is particularly significant in that Great Britain has about lost its hold in international sports.

In the last few years it has lost its rowing honors to Belgium, its tennis trophy to Australia, while its showing in the London Olympics was distressingly poor.

In addition, it has never figured strong in boxing, with the exception of the featherweight and lightweight classes, and its efforts to win the

Yachting trophy from America is one long history of failures. What's the matter with John Bull?

Don't Abolish Foul Strike Rule.

It would be a step backward to abolish the foul strike rule, yet some baseball writers are continually nagging at

title holder of his class and is willing to defend it.

Jimmy is ready to meet Monte Attell, McGovern, Wagner, Goldman or any one else at the weight who is looking for trouble any time either will do 116 pounds. As a matter of fact, Jimmy has been recognized on the Pacific coast and in England as the

could stand the gaff, in place of quitting, as the Reds have year after year been doing.

Griffith took hold, and from the outset his hand has been manifest in the success of the club. It is not a pennant team yet, but it is a good one and plays interesting, intelligent and fairly successful baseball. That Griffith has done this is shown in the daring manner in which he has ripped up his club, Miller Huggins was rated right with Johnny Evers as a second baseman, but Miller reposed on the hard board or the soft pine, whichever it may be, of the bench, occasionally exercising his prerogatives—and his voice—from the coaching line. Young Egan has replaced him.

Many managers would think it a blasphemy against baseball tradition to do so rash a thing as replace a star with a youngster. But Griffith was wise enough to see a greater star in Egan, whose stick work has been excellent and who is quite as fast as Huggins. Then, again, Hans Lobert was rated one of the strong assets of the club, but Griffith unhesitatingly yanks him out of his berth to put in a man who is working in better form.

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The pinch hitter's life is far from being a continual bed of roses. To the casual observer it appears pretty soft for a man to sit on the bench every afternoon for seven or eight innings, with nothing to do but watch the game, and then be called on to step to the plate in a pinch to hit for some weak stickler.

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American bantamweight champion for the last three years.

Up to Jan. 1, 1929, light record books classed him as bantam champion of America. The publisher, probably thinking that Walsh had outgrown the bantam limit, especially after he fought Abe Attell, Tommy O'Toole, Freddy Weeks and that class of boys, weighing 122 pounds and more, left

English Tennis Innovations.

In this year's English tennis championships at Wimbledon there were a couple of innovations which might well be copied here for the convenience of both players and spectators. One of these was the plan of having program numbers for the players instead of cards, and this saved the expense of printing the names of a lot of players who were defeated in the first round. The other new idea helped out this to an extent, and that was the printing on the program of the matches for each court. Thus when a spectator wanted to know the location of any particular match he had only to refer to his program and there were the names of the players, the number of the court, the hour of the match—all that was necessary to know. Some people thought it favored of commercialism, while the majority thought it a capital arrangement.

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Take the world's champion Chicago Cubs in a game last year. Mike Donlin of New York is coming to bat. Ob-

serve the k-l-l-e-d-scope movement on the field. Chance suddenly drops back ten feet and takes a step nearer the first base line. Evers edges twelve feet toward first base and goes ten feet farther back, playing deep.

Schulte retreats twenty-five feet or more toward the stands and moves nearer the foul line. Shockerd, in left field, trots forty feet nearer to the diamond and angles toward center field, while little Slagle swings from center over into right. Tinker is playing down within ten feet of second base.

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To have the cheers of the fans ringing in his ears at a time like that is mighty fine, but does it atone for the times after he has failed to deliver the much needed hit, and, on his way to the clubhouse, he hears some particularly rabid fan yell:

"Get out, you big mut! You couldn't fall out of a boat and hit the water!"

BASEBALL RUNS IN FAMILY.

Detroit Stars Have Younger Brothers Striving For Honors on Diamond.

It is a singular fact that nearly half of the members of the Detroit ball club have brothers who are striving with great ambition to win a place in the big leagues. Paul Cobb, Tyus' brother, was given a trial by the St. Louis Americans, but was sent to the minors for further development. Charley Schmidt has a brother, a catcher also, with the Memphis club, and from all

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Though perhaps the strongest team in the league, the Tigers cannot afford to have one of their best hitters on the bench. Rossman in the game is sure to have four chances to hit, and yet only occasionally may his inability to throw prove costly. With a pitching staff that is at its best, Detroit must make more runs than any other team in the race to win games, and for this reason Rossman has proved himself to be a most valuable man.

The Bantamweight Fizzle.

The bantam dispute has reached a very interesting stage and is in fact the only Queensberry class where a decisive series of bouts is probable. The victory of Monte Attell over Frankie Nell brought the brother of Abe Attell sharply to the foreground as a contender for the chief honors. Attell's contention that by his victory over Nell he became the bantam champion of the world is, however, as absurd as the assertion of Johnny Coulton that he is the holder of the bantam title, although he limits opponents to 105 pounds ringside.

As has been frequently said, precedence is the only guidance as to class weights. As there is not a syllable in the fighting rules about weight, precedent in America sets the weight at 116 pounds. That was the weight at which Terry McGovern and Pedlar Palmer fought for the world's title in Tuckahoe, N. Y., in 1899. It was at 116 pounds that the retired undefeated bantam champion fought most of his battles. Jimmy Barry could do 105 pounds, but accepted challenges for the title at 116. Therefore Coulton, in claiming the title and limiting opponents to 105 pounds has taken an untenable position and put himself outside the pale of the championship struggle.

Therefore, as the case stands, Monte Attell is the only bantam in the west with claims to consideration, and he is the logical candidate in a bout for the title with the best boy in the east.

There is rich material in the bantamweight class in New York. Phil McGovern, brother of Terry, Charley Goldman and Joe Wagner are three of the hardest hitting men of their weight in the country. Jimmy Walsh, the New England bantam, who recently fought a fifteen round draw with Digger Stanley, the bantam champion of England, claims he is the legitimate

and a thousand other points of similar nature.

Take the world's champion Chicago Cubs in a game last year. Mike Donlin of New York is coming to bat. Ob-

JAPS QUEER BASEBALL RULES

Players in Land of Rising Sun Observe Strange Maxims.

The following are some of the maxims which prevail on any baseball diamond in Japan, where the great American national pastime is finding much favor.

The University of Washington baseball team, which returned to this country recently from the Land of Nippon after spending two months playing the leading university teams that have been formed there, were impressed with these strange rules.

The Washington nine was the first white team ever seen in Japan, and it attracted no end of attention among the orientals. The games played were also the first intercollegiate meetings, in which a foreign team was a contestant, ever enjoyed by the mikado's great universities. Unprecedented crowds attended all games, and the sport was the leading topic of conversation. The baseball invasion was a healthy rival to the visit of Admiral Sperry's American fleet.

Of the ten games played in Japan the Washington nine won but six. They were played with Keio university of Tokyo, Waseda university of Tokyo, Yokohama Higher Commercial school and the Yokohama Cricket and Athletic club. The personnel of the latter team included Chinese, Japanese, Kanakas, a Hindoo, an Englishman and one Yankee.

The American players were put off their mettle on every occasion to wit a majority of the games played. The Washington players declared upon their return to this country that the Keio team could "keep out of the cellar" in any American Class B league. One of the games played with the Waseda university team was a fifteen inning game, which was won by the Americans, 5 to 3. This, the newspapers declared, was the longest game ever played on the eastern hemisphere and brought forth endless comment.

NO CHARM FOR WAGNER.

Baseball King Dislikes Pest Who Loiters Around Hotel Lobby.

None of the spot light for Hans Wagner, king of baseball. He's bashful almost to a fault. When the Pirates play in Pittsburgh Wagner sticks close to his home in Carnegie. He rides to and from his automobile touring car. Never starts for the grounds until the last minute, and always hikes out for home the minute he climbs out of his baseball togs. On the road Wagner sticks close to his room.

Jim Malloy, chief clerk at the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in Kansas City, Mo., who used to be on duty at the hotel where the Pirates stop when there, was talking to Fred Clarke in the rotunda of the hotel. He asked where Wagner was.

"Up in his room," replied Clarke. "He seldom comes down, only at meal times."

Hans was sitting down here one night reading the newspapers. One of these hotel pests walked up to him and asked him how he was.

"I don't know you," Wagner blurted out.

"Why, you're Hans Wagner, ain't you?" chirped the pest.

"No," he replied. "Do you know you're the fifth man that's mistaken me for him tonight." And, saying that, Hans "beat it" up to his room.

FINE POINTS OF BASEBALL.

How the Fielders Shift Around For Different Batsmen.

Baseball has made such advances scientifically and the generalship and team work have become so involved and complicated that even a lover of the game rarely understands the fine points or knows how or why a play is made.

Every catcher and pitcher in the big leagues knows to an inch how far each base runner may leave any base and get back safely. A catcher will throw to catch Miller Huggins of Cincinnati, for instance, when he leaves first base over twelve feet, while he will let Fred Clarke of Pittsburgh take sixteen, even eighteen feet, without making a throw with intent to catch him. If he throws, it is to drive Clarke back and keep him from getting too great a start.

Every infielder at least knows just how certain men will make a play and turn their play accordingly. For instance, with Wagner on first and Tommy Leach on third every catcher in the National league throws to third if Pittsburgh attempts a double steal, because it is a well known fact that Leach, in other respects a good base runner, will "come through with the play."

That is, if the catcher makes a motion as if to throw to second base and then "whips it to third" Leach will make a false start for the plate and be caught. In the last season Chicago defeated Pittsburgh three times because, with either Wagner or Clarke on first, Leach was caught off third.

Each man must know whether Donlin "pulls" a fast ball or not, whether or not he hits a curve to left. He must know that Fred Clarke is the only left handed batter in the game who can hit a left handed pitcher's curve ball hard,

DALMORES IN THE LEADING ROLE IN "THE TALES OF HOFFMAN."

Charles Dalmore, the French tenor who has contributed so largely to the success of grand opera at the Manhattan Opera House, New York, during the past two seasons, will return to this country in November. Dalmore's voice and method have been especially acceptable to American opera goers, and he has also established a reputation of being an actor as well. Like the admirable Renaud, Dalmore without his exquisite voice would still be Dalmore the excellent actor.

the bantam title off Walsh's name this year. Attention has been called to the fact that Walsh and Stanley were about to fight in London for the world's bantam title at the class limit in England, 115 pounds, and that Walsh was yet to be defeated at that weight before any new bantam champion could be announced.

Therefore it can readily be seen that there is going to be a hard struggle before the bantam champion is settled.

Griffith Making Good.

Clarke Griffith is one manager who demonstrated that the demands for lopped heads of leaders of baseball clubs are often uncalled for. Griffith resigned the leadership of the New York Americans last year after enduring about everything in the way of hammer throwing that any manager had to submit to. He accepted the management of the Cincinnati Reds, a team well made up, but which manager after manager had failed to properly put into the running. Kelly, Hanlon and Ganzel are some of the great baseball names that were humbled in the effort to put Cincinnati on the map with a lively, durable club, one that

accounts he promises to develop into a good ball player. In fact, Memphis has turned him over to a Carolina association club for development.

Davy Jones has a brother who as-

PIECH HITTING DIFFICULT

Looks Mighty Soft to Fan, but Just You Forget It.

The pinch hitter's life is far from being a continual bed of roses. To the casual observer it appears pretty soft for a man to sit on the bench every afternoon for seven or eight innings, with nothing to do but watch the game, and then be called on