

# THE LEADING AMERICAN BILLIARD EXPERTS

## ONE OF THREE MEN TO ATTAIN HONOR

By WILLIE GREEN

"Well, I have been playing billiards a great many years, but less me if I knew when or where or how the game originated," remarked "Banker" John Horgan, one of three men who have the distinguished honor in the billiard world of having won both pool and billiard championships.

George F. Slosson, one of the most finished billiard players the world has known, when commissioned to delve into the history of billiards as an authority, wrote that the origin of the game was shrouded in mystery, but was known to have been played, in a crude way, before the birth of the Savior. Billiards is mentioned in "Anthony and Cleopatra," back in 1607, yet going further back in time Slosson found that Cathire More, a sub-king of Ireland, as early as 148 A. D., speaks of billiards and billiard balls of brass. In the "Confessions of St. Augustine," born 430 A. D., mention is made of the game of billiards. From then until the fourteenth century Slosson could find very little about it. It is mentioned in Spencer's "Mother Hubbard" tales in 1591, and about this time the French made it an indoor table game by playing it on a square table with pockets at each corner, and one in the center of each side, as at present in the pool table. There was a little cone in the center of the table known as the "port," and an arch of ivory known as the "port." As early as 1734 these features had disappeared, though at this late date something similar is played in pool with pins and bottle. About this time the "mace" or "mace," first used began to be replaced by the cue used at present.

### RECOMMENDED BY PHYSICIANS

Slosson finds that along about the time of Louis XIV billiards came into fashion, the king's physicians having recommended the playing of the game to Louis as an exercise after eating. At first the bed of the billiard table was made of oak and sometimes marble. Slate became used about 1827. The billiard table is said to have found its way into America through the Spaniards, about 1570. The English style of game was first adopted by the Americans. All match and tournament games are now played on 5 by 10 tables, while smaller ones are used in homes. It is only within the last half century that billiards and all its paraphernalia have made giant strides. It was in 1855 that Michael Phelan, known as "the father of billiards," introduced the celebrated combination cushions, made of rubber cloth. The tables were then 6 by 12, with side pockets.

### IMPROVEMENTS RAPID

In the sixties the tables were reduced in size, but both professionals and amateurs were so skillful that to avoid the monotony of long runs the size of the table was again reduced and the pockets cut out, caroms coming in, and three instead of four balls. After the war and the Americans mastered all these handicaps, and then came the balkline, first 8 inches, then 10, 12, 14 and finally 18 inches. And now we have three cushion caroms, cushion caroms, rubber and mace, and three ball game. It is conceded that billiards is far superior in point of skill and science to any game played. The game is purely mental, while billiards give physical exercise as well as mental, physicians declaring that the game is restful to the mind and a health giving tonic. In the United States the paternal home is considered incomplete without its billiard rooms.

### "BANKER" JOHN HORGAN

John G. Horgan, the subject of this sketch, was born in New York state in 1857. He began playing pool some 25 years ago, and was the champion of the world from Tom Hueston, in St. Louis, in 1906. He began billiards about 10 years since, mostly at three cushion billiards. He was champion of the world at that style from Joe Carney, in Denver, in March, 1912. He defended the title against Carney in San Francisco a few months later, and lost it to Alfredo de Oro, in this city, in May last.

Horgan is one of only three players who have won the championship in both pool and billiards. The three are Horgan, De Oro and Hueston.

### BILLIARD STARS

"Albert Frey, James Malone and Alfredo de Oro were the stars at pool 25 years ago," said Mr. Horgan, discussing the players of the game. "De Oro is the present champion. Malone is out of the game and Frey died in 1889."

Horgan played for years in the big eastern pool championships. He has won De Oro, Keogh, Clearwater, Hueston, Sherman, Eby, Weston and others. The first tournament for three cushions for the Lambert family trophy took place in St. Louis in 1907. The trophy has been won by Harry Cline, John Daly, Tom Hueston, Alfredo de Oro, Fred James, Joe Carney and John Horgan in turn. Horgan, Daly, and de Oro held the emblem the longest. It is now held by De Oro, and is still in competition.

### OLD TIME EXPERTS

"Whom do I rank as the world's greatest billiard players?" said Mr. Horgan. "Why, Frank and Jacob Schaefer, Billy Catton and Eugene Carter, not mentioning Vignaux and other foreign players of note. Frank lives probably was the greatest billiard player that ever lived. He was very steady and possessed a most wonderful stroke. But Schaefer, 'the wizard,' was the daddy of them all for genius and execution. Catton had great reputation as a nervy money player; Carter a great game player, excelling at cushion caroms and three cushions. Vignaux, 'Frenchman,' was a great player, is still alive, and is playing a great game in Paris at the age of 75 years. Willie Hoppe, the present balk line champion, is very steady and much on the order of Frank. Iva, George Sutton is famous for big runs and high averages and he was probably the best at delicate, close nursing of the balls."

### LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

Mr. Horgan called attention to the fact that Schaefer and Hueston, as well as of other characteristics from father to son. He spoke especially of sons of Jake Schaefer and Billy Catton. Young Schaefer and young Catton are making rapid strides in the game and are today formidable opponents of the more experienced and seasoned players. "It seems to come as naturally to these boys to play billiards as it would to a merchant's son to become a merchant or a musician's offspring to gain fame in music."

### LAST OF STRAIGHT RAIL

"The last real game of straight rail billiards was played right here in San Francisco," continued Mr. Horgan. "It was some quarter of a century since, and the game, played in the Metropolitan billiard parlors, was between Jake

Schaefer and J. F. B. McCleery of San Francisco. McCleery won the bank. Made 15 billiards and missed. Then Schaefer took the cue and ran out the 1,000 each night, without a miss. That settled it. Straight rail was too easy, and the balk line followed. Willie Hoppe, the present champion at balk line, like Ives, surpasses in steadiness, has wonderful control, and is even better than was Schaefer when it came to steadiness of play.

### THE DION BROTHERS

"Two great French-Canadian players were Cyril and Joe Dion. Joe lost his reason and was sent to Bloomingdale asylum. His brother Cyril had a billiard table placed in the asylum for Joe's entertainment, and I have often heard that he was very active in the game. And it was the belief of friends and physicians that the mental exercise was most beneficial to the unfortunate billiard star."

"Right here in San Francisco today at the Graney academy, are a number of most excellent cue artists. Joe Carney, John Daly, Frank Ely, William Sigourney, Ben Saylor, Tommy Hueston and Sam Lazarus. And there is Chick Wright and Clarence K. Jackson, who is now playing an engagement at Wright's."

### BIG MONEY GAMES

Speaking of money ventured in billiards, Mr. Horgan said that there was less cash staked today than in the olden times. "When Ives beat Roberts on the 17 points, and it is said that large amounts changed hands, but perhaps the most exciting money game ever played was that between Captain John T. Reeves and David Johnson, the former in an old time billiard expert, the latter a youthful sport, a dashing sportsman who, when two horses raced took the money on one and wagered on the other. As a youth he plunged on Checkmate for the Saratoga cup, taking down \$23,000 on the victory of that horse. Thousands were staked on the game started, and the betting continued at all stages of the game. Even when Reeves was leading, Johnson's friends stuck to their man, who won by 17 points, and it is said that the money won on that game of billiards proved the foundation of large fortunes of several of the lights of the eastern betting ring of today."

### HORGAN IS MODEST

Mr. Horgan is not disposed to talk of his own achievements with the cue. He is a handsome specimen of physical manhood, with ponderous frame and eyes that appeal in their softness of expression. He talks in a low voice, and he did not know, and said that in his play is as deliberate as might be expected. When asked where he got the title "Banker," Mr. Horgan smiled and said, "Unless, as some of my friends have told me, I resemble Pierpont Morgan and used to wear a full dress suit down at the Arlington, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and in the evening I would drop in at the Arlington, togged out in spiketail. The society boys down there backed the look like any of them I won some games and some money," said Horgan, with a bland smile.

### GALLAGHER'S BAD BREAK

"Down in St. Louis there is a good story, repeated to this day, about the kicking of 'Gray' Tom Gallagher, a newspaper man and quite an expert billiard player, and the late Wayman McCleery, an amateur champion, who was a member of one of the greatest families in the mound city. McCleery and Gallagher would frequently get together, and when they did a crowd would assemble to listen to the kicking. The spectators would enjoy the game and laugh vociferously at the energetic kicks of the players. One day McCleery said to Gallagher: 'Tom, these guys are having a lot of fun at our expense. Let's go all the way. The first one of us to kick will pay the other a forfeit of five dollars.' Gallagher promptly agreed, and then the men banked for first shot. McCleery's ball landed close up to the cushion and Gallagher's was away off—several inches. 'You're not banking very well today, Tom,' remarked McCleery. 'Banking!' shouted Gallagher. 'Do you expect a billiard ball to climb a hill like there is in the center of this old table?' Tom paid the forfeit and the game proceeded without further kicking.

### DE ORO'S HOT TEMPER

"But Gallagher and McCleery were not in it with De Oro. He's a good fellow until he gets a cue in his hand. Then he is a regular Jekyll and Hyde. Once in Syracuse, when I was playing De Oro, a traveling man, a friend of mine, bet on me at evens, though he should have had odds. I had nine

points to go when De Oro missed. My friend let up a yell of delight at De Oro's misfortune. De Oro threw his cue to the floor and went right up into the amphitheater and bawled out my friend. 'You are no gentleman to cheer when a player misses!' he fairly shrieked. 'I won the cue, but I took no chances at that rare opportunity.'"

Horgan's early career. John Horgan was "raised" in the classic town of Elmira, N. Y. Seven years of Elmira proved sufficient for Horgan, and he went to New York to become champion. He did not win the championship right off the reel, but embarked in the tea and coffee business in London, Eng. derby week, 1893, drifted to Brooklyn, where he worked in a billiard room for a time and then returned to New York, the championship still in mind. He finally landed in Chicago in 1894, where, with Billy Catton, he opened up a billiard hall. It was in that year that Horgan won his first championship at Buffalo. The same year he won the Canadian championship from Stubbs at London, Ontario.

In 1897 Horgan defeated the crack poolplayer Elmer Haight, by a score of 200 to 175. In 1898 he beat "Cowboy" Weston at Port Huron and repeated this achievement the following year. In 1899 Horgan defeated Grant Eby, Daly, Weland and Tenness in the Illinois state championship. In 1900, after 11 years of calculating, effort finally won the world's championship diamond medal at pool. After that he defeated Jess Leon and then turned the medal back to the donors of the trophy.

### HORGAN'S STYLE OF PLAY

John Horgan plays billiards scientifically and, like successful men in other lines of sport and business, is cool and calculating at all periods of the game. He is not a "mouse" in the championship battle there would have been some dozen or more of the fair sex in the audience. There was only one challenger at the ringside for Billy Jordan to introduce. Can it be that boxing is on the wane?

### Southpaw Not Efficient In Infield

Whether or not a southpaw is efficient in the infield, except at first base, is a much mooted question. Hal Chase was tried at second by New York this spring but failed. Argument pro and con has waxed hot for years. Inasmuch as the Portland Northwestern league "lightning" infield boasts of the only dyed in the wool southpaw second sacker in fast company, "Kid" Mohler, he will be of intense interest. Mohler, for years playing manager of the San Francisco Pacific Coast leaguers, out of class AA, but a few months ago, he began his athletic career as a southpaw second sacker, but is under a disadvantage in the majors.

### IN TRAINING

"That's a great boy of mine," "Yes." "He's hired all the tough youngsters in the neighborhood to stand around and call him abusive names." "That's his planning to be a alum missionary."

### RECORD SCHOOL MEET

Although many cities of this country have public school athletic associations or organizations whose sports usually occur annually, none can boast of the organization perfected by the New York public schools athletic leagues, whose annual exercises in Central park included 10,000 individuals in white shirts and dark trousers, who were through in fifteen the high school and middle school, exemplifying the exercises in which 50,000 pupils in one school there are drilled in an every school day.

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## AFTER THE BATTLE

By WILLIE GREEN

I thought I had a mortal clinch to win the lightweight crown. But now I'm willing to admit that Ritche did me brown. 'Tis ever thus in halcyon days to see our hopes decay. I'm lucky, Bo, to be alive to fight some other day.

Much has been written about the smile that would not come off. (Ask Rivers about the tenth round.) "Young Ad Wolgast" was like Oliver Twist in Friday's go with young Mr. Hail player, a musician or a poet. More—Oliver more cruel; young Ad more grudging. I'm glad I beat Joe Rivers, and put fresh zeal in the mov. For I ain't every day a man can pick up an eighteen pound.

Just to keep the wolf of hunger from gnawing at my door. —WILLIE RITCHE. Boxers are imitators. There was a time when they were known as the "short-haired fraternity." Now one can never distinguish a fighter from a football player, a musician or a poet. Tim McGrath fed Shasta water to Rivers between rounds but for once the great remedy failed.

Strange that none of the Ritche adherents thought to shout to him in the heat of battle: "Remember the Alamo." Well, anyway, Eddie Graney's new suit must be all right. It attracted some attention, even in the heat of battle. I told him where to hit him and how to land the punch. And believe that Josie Rivers tried to take my hunch. But how was Joe to do it when Ritche would not stand.

And take that right hand wallop I told my man to land? —SPIDER KELLY. If some one had shouted "mouse" at the championship battle there would have been some dozen or more of the fair sex in the audience. There was only one challenger at the ringside for Billy Jordan to introduce. Can it be that boxing is on the wane?

Whether or not a southpaw is efficient in the infield, except at first base, is a much mooted question. Hal Chase was tried at second by New York this spring but failed. Argument pro and con has waxed hot for years. Inasmuch as the Portland Northwestern league "lightning" infield boasts of the only dyed in the wool southpaw second sacker in fast company, "Kid" Mohler, he will be of intense interest. Mohler, for years playing manager of the San Francisco Pacific Coast leaguers, out of class AA, but a few months ago, he began his athletic career as a southpaw second sacker, but is under a disadvantage in the majors.

In other words, he coincides with the big league precedent that the left-handed throwing second and third sacker and shortstops are not successful.

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## GUNBOAT SMITH MOST LIKELY OF MOST WHITE HOPES

Suggestion Made for Eliminating All Save One of Heavy Weights to Select Real Champion

By JEFF THOMPSON

NEW YORK, July 5.—While it would be premature perhaps to promote Gunboat Smith to the battleship class just yet, he certainly is entitled to be rated as an armored cruiser, and in the present "white hope navy" there is no higher rating.

If any white man is entitled to be called champion of the heavy weights I do not see that any had with a better claim than this hard hitting young Californian.

Smith has every attribute of a champion save one, only mechanical skill, and that is merely a matter of learning. He hits like the kick of a mule, he can take and assimilate punishment, he is as game as a pebble and is a natural fighter. On the records he has a better claim on the championship than Luther McCarty had.

It is said by some that he is too light, but a brief review of ring history shows there is no merit in this contention. There have been as many champions, if not more, who fought under 190 pounds than over that figure. As a matter of fact, added weight about 190 pounds, as likely to be a handicap as a help.

Aside from the question of who is or who is not champion, it is interesting to note that the schemes have been advanced for bringing about a definite settlement of the problem. "Billy" Gibson and "Packer" McFarland, while discussing the heavy weight question some time ago, made the suggestion that a commission consisting of sporting writers of the country be organized to determine which of the big men were entitled to consideration as championship possibilities so that they could be matched for a series of fights that would result in one of them being awarded the title.

"Tom" O'Rourke now sends in the suggestion that the sporting writers of America, where the championship is held, select six men for such a tournament. He believes the field of heavy weights in England, France and Australia should be taken into consideration in making this selection. "Give a tournament with a purse of such denomination that it could be split up into amounts to suit each man for his labors and declare the winner the champion," he concludes.

Marcel Thomas, the French water weight, has introduced a French custom here which may have consequences too fearful to contemplate. After he had been handed a fine lacing by young Hickey he threw his arms around Hickey's neck and kissed him. Think of such doings with such beauties as Ben Nelson, Kid Eroid and Leachie Cross in the ring!

Joe Jeannette was accused of faking his contest with Jim Clarke at Memphis the other night. Jeannette was boxing a good many years and this is the first time he has been accused of deliberately withholding his best efforts. It is a musician or a poet, the contest, also acted as referee, and in the final minute of the bout stopped it, declaring that Jeannette was not doing his best. It is a musician or a poet, the contest, also acted as referee, and in the final minute of the bout stopped it, declaring that Jeannette was not doing his best.

Collins led up an average of 377 at Shibe park against the western hurlers, batting most effectively in the St. Louis series and least so in the setoffs with the Naps.

Speaker, in the games at Fenway park, amassed a percentage of 373, having a record of .750 in the Detroit series, .812 in the St. Louis series, .800 in the Chicago series and .821 in the Cleveland series. The man who won the Chalmers American league trophy last year got 19 safeties in the games against the western teams, while Collins procured 29. E. Trowbridge scored 14 runs to Tris' 13. Cobb, in the games against the eastern teams, made the same number of hits and runs as Speaker, but went for 10 times more. Jackson's record was 10 tallies and 14 safeties in 49 Journeys to the platter.

Collins led the quartet in timely hitting, driving in 10 runs as against nine for Cobb, seven for Speaker and six for Jackson. Cobb showed the way in long distance punching, his nine lengthy blows being good for 18 extra bases. Speaker got nine long clouts that yielded 14 extra bases, Jackson eight that yielded 14 and Collins seven that yielded 12.

Of these four men the one hardest to pick to no evidence is Speaker. He drew 14 passes and was winged once. Jackson trudged 12 times, many of the gifts he received being purposely awarded. Cobb got eight passes on balls and was hit once and Collins secured six complementaries and was hit twice. Oddly enough, Mack's second sacker passed through the 1912 campaign without once reaching first on a casualty pass.

In the inter-sectional clashes Cobb struck out seven times, Speaker three and Jackson and Collins each twice. The Cleveland war was whittled by Joe Wood and Walter Johnson, the Philadelphia by Willie Mitchell and Joe Lake.

These figures show that Collins and Speaker did to the western pitchers and what Jackson and Cobb did to the eastern artilleries:

EDDIE COLLINS At bat 63 times, runs 14, hits 20, doubles 3, triples 5, homers 1, run batted in 10, bases on balls 6, hit by pitched balls 2, struck out 2, batting average .373.

TRIS SPEAKER At bat 51 times, runs 13, hits 19, doubles 4, triples 5, runs batted in 7, bases on balls 14, hit by pitched ball 1, struck out 9, batting average .373.

TY COBB At bat 61 times, runs 11, hits 19, doubles 2, triples 5, homers 2, runs batted in 9, bases on balls 8, hit by pitched ball 1, struck out 7, batting average .311.

JOE JACKSON At bat 49 times, runs 10, hits 14, doubles 5, homers 3, runs batted in 6, bases on balls 12, struck out 2, batting average .338.

Jennings picks Wagner as a batting model for the players. Hugh has a number of batting poses and when explaining a point to a player he illustrates it with photographs of the National League star.

"Wagner is an awkward fellow; he is an awkward batter, but he has that finishing touch that makes a slugger. If he can get 100 of my players to grasp 'that finishing touch' they will be much better hitters than they are now," says Jennings.

"I do not expect any of them to become Wagner, but what I want them to do is pattern after Hans.

"It would be useless to tell them to follow Cobb. Ty does so many things in the spur of the moment; he does so many things that other players could not hope to do, that I couldn't expect any recruit to do."

Revival of Old Games in The Windy City

After a lapse of 744 years, the Taiten games, the greatest fete of the ancient Gaels, will be revived in Chicago on July 6 at Irish games to be held there. The program will consist of tossing the caber, three standing jumps, standing high jump, running hop, step and jump, hand vault, 55 pound weight with following, throwing 55 pound weight over the bar, throwing the 28 pound stone, Irish rounds, hurling 16 pound hammer and raising and striking the hurling ball. The games have been traced back to 3500 B. C. They were last held in 1169 in the reign of Roderick O'Connor, last king of Ireland.

THOMPSON TO CONGRATS Fred Thompson, who bettered the all round record of Jim Thorpe, will compete in the all round amateur athletic meet to be held in Los Angeles on July 10. Thompson has an athletic career in Occidental college of Los Angeles.

BOY SCOUTS STRONG Last year's census of the Boy Scouts' association showed that in the United Kingdom and the overseas dominions there were 173,158 scouts, as compared with 161,750 in 1912 and 128,906 in 1910. There are 15,000 workers in the movement.

REFFERES KEEP BUSY Philadelphia Referees' association (soccer football) established a record for this country in the 1912-1913 season by officiating in 664 games. It is made up of about 50 members.

## New Idea in Equipment

Plan for Speedometer

A new idea in motor car equipment was evolved by a recent purchaser of a well known six cylinder car, who ordered the speedometer placed on the rear of the front seat, facing the occupants of the tonneau. The owner, a Montreal man, employs a chauffeur and always rides in the rear seat. He has his own ideas as to what speed should be maintained in city traffic, and therefore had the indicator placed where it could be constantly under his watchful gaze. In placing the speedometer in the tonneau, the indicator tube more than six feet in length was used because of the distance of the dial from the front wheel.

Among other novel ideas on this car is the placing of the electric horn midway between the two headlights in front of the radiator. Two push buttons near the tonneau door are connected with the horn and the speedometer light, so that the owner is able to apprise pedestrians of the car's approach in case the driver falls to give warning in time.

COLLINS COMING, SO IS SPEAKER

Philadelphia and Boston Stars Close on Heels of Cobb and Jackson

During the first tour of the east by the western clubs of the American league the baseball statisticians heralded daily the achievements of those eminent sons of swat, Tyrus Raymond Cobb and Joe Jackson, the purveyors of dope evidently forgetting that Edw. Trowbridge Collins and Tristram Speaker were striking telling blows for their teams and doing even more valiant work with the willow than the two whaling westerners.

The Georgia Peach hit at a 311 clip on the trip, the city in which he enjoyed his least success in manufacturing hits being Philadelphia. The Quaker City also was a hoodoo town for the clouting Clevelander, who hit for .256 on the jaunt. Jax' batting average shrank when he faced the Washington pitchers, but went up when he batted against the Boston boxmen.

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JOE JACKSON At bat 49 times, runs 10, hits 14, doubles 5, homers 3, runs batted in 6, bases on balls 12, struck out 2, batting average .338.

Jennings picks Wagner as a batting model for the players. Hugh has a number of batting poses and when explaining a point to a player he illustrates it with photographs of the National League star.

"Wagner is an awkward fellow; he is an awkward batter, but he has that finishing touch that makes a slugger. If he can get 100 of my players to grasp 'that finishing touch' they will be much better hitters than they are now," says Jennings.

"I do not expect any of them to become Wagner, but what I want them to do is pattern after Hans.

"It would be useless to tell