

BIG FIGHT IS STILL IN THE AIR; MARCH 17 IS THE PROBABLE DATE

Promoters of Willard-Johnson on Championship Event Admit Change in Date Is Likely, but Make No Positive Announcement; Delmont Starts Training Wednesday For His Fight With Ad Wolgast.

BY BECK.

MARCH 17 is the likely date for the Johnson-Willard fight. That date was originally chosen but when promoter Curley found out about the Panhandle and Southwestern Cattle-men's convention being held here next week, he advanced the date to March 6, Johnson agreeing to the change. The champion is now in Cuba and it looks impossible for him to get here in time for the bout on March 6 and have any time for training. The promoters have admitted that change in the date is quite probable but they are making no definite statement on that subject.

According to the Associated Press, Johnson reached Havana Monday morning with a big party. They secured quarters at a prominent hotel but a few minutes later, they were asked to vacate. Quarters were then found in a private house but no intimation as to its location was given until the party simply disappeared from sight. Johnson stated Monday morning that he intended to proceed at once to Tampa and then to Miami, where he would fight. He might have some trouble in getting through Havana territory in Mexico, he is said to have advised Gen. Carranza asking for a safe conduct, but no reply had been received up to Monday night. He had secured passage on a vessel which was to have sailed Monday from Havana to Progresso, but that sailing was cancelled. Johnson and his party then decided that he would char-

appear to be nothing definite about that bout at present.

Jim Gilmore, the Federal league pitcher, recently made it was said that Baa Johnson would never reach the coast for the opening of the Panama-Pacific exposition, but would be called back before he was half way by some bomb that would be exploded from Federal league headquarters. This is now in "Prisco" and we haven't heard any echo from the bomb. Wonder if the fuse got wet.

President Navin of the Detroit Tigers has the promise of Ty Cobb that the Georgia wonder will go along to the spring training camp of the Tigers this year and Navin figures that this means just as much more coin in the treasury from exhibition games. If Ty shows up without a fight he will cut down the space usually devoted to spring predictions about his "retirement."

Harry Wills, the negro heavyweight, says that the Thanksgiving fight with "The Champ" is a "baker's dozen" and that he is waiting 15 seconds before he started the count on Sambo in the second round. After then it was like a funeral dirge, declares Wills. The New Orleans heavy is trying to get a third bout with the Boston bean-cutter.

California may pass a bill to legalize pari-mutual betting on the racetracks of that state. The writer has watched the workings of the mutuels in western Canada for three years and has no hesitancy in saying that if there must be betting on the racetrack, then the mutuels are the thing. They will be used this year on the Fort Erie, Windsor, Woodbine and other tracks in the east.

"Kid" Payo, the popular local featherweight, won from Jack Lays, of Cleveland, by a knockout in the eighth round at Silver City on Saturday night. It was reported as a tough battle with plenty of mixing up to the seconds after which, Payo's advantage became evident.

Promoters of the Jack Johnson-Jess Willard, fight to be decided at Juarez, Mex., March 17, certainly are no pikers," says the Chicago News. A diagram of the various seating sections around the arena indicates. They show that the cheapest seats are in the grandstand, the "grand stand," which appears to be a block from the ring. Well, even Chicago promoters have never been noted for philantropy.

SLOUFGED START SOUTH.
St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 22.—The St. Louis Federals are off to their spring camp at Key West, Florida. Manager Fielder Jones and eight players made up a party that sailed Monday night. Others players will join at Key West and the team will then proceed to Cuba for a series of games.

DOG DERBY POSTPONED.
Nome, Alaska, Feb. 22.—The Solomon Derby, Alaska's famous dog race, was postponed from Monday until next Friday owing to severe cold weather.

SHOW WASN'T WORTH THE PRICE -- BY TAD



Lemon Kegg Is Northwest Champion His Brother, Orange Kegg, Also Fights

BY FRANK G. MENKE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—Lemon Kegg, brother of one Orange Kegg, is a pugilist and not what his name implies. And, from all accounts, Lemon Kegg, who fights under the ring name of Roger O'Malley, is one of the best featherweights in the United States. At present he's the champion of the northwest.

Lemon, who was born in Johnstown, Pa., 22 years ago, realized at an early age that the name of Lemon Kegg was something of a handicap. He realized it even more when he hustled into the ring name in 1916, just about the time when the word "lemon" was being used to describe joke fighters. Joke ball players and other kinds of false alarms in the athletic world.

"They call me Lemon and I am Lemon," mused Lemon Kegg. "There's no denying that. But I don't think I am a lemon as a fighter. But when some people yell 'lemon' at me and I don't get sore about it, those who don't know that my name is Lemon will think they mean that I'm a lemon fighter."

That it was that Lemon Kegg looked over a lot of fancy names that one could take upon one's self for prize ring purposes, and finally chose the name Roger O'Malley.

As Roger O'Malley, this Johnstown, Pa. boy has cut a wide swath in the pugilistic world in the past four years. His record is such that it entitles him to a battle with Johnny Kilbane, champion of the featherweight division, and Kilbane's manager, Sam Langford, in an early bout if he keeps on flooring the other aspirants to the featherweight title as he has in the past.

O'Malley, who is being managed by Johnny Cressley, of Toledo, Ohio, has mingled in 47 fights. He has a punch like a mule's kick. Twenty-five of his fights have been won, over the knockout route. In practically every one of his fights he has scored at least one knockout. O'Malley never has been knocked out and only three times in his career has he lost on decisions.

O'Malley is the type of fighter that the fans like to see in action. He goes after his man at the top of the game and he never lets up. He is a two-handed fighter, and he carries a terrific wallop in either mitt.

Brother Also is Featherweight.
Lemon Kegg, alias Roger O'Malley, has a brother named Orange Kegg. He also is a featherweight—a mighty good one. But he's not quite as good as his brother Lemon. This fellow Orange Kegg fights under his real name of Orange Kegg because an Orange Kegg is not as bad as a Lemon Kegg.

"Why were you boys named after citrus fruits?" was asked of Lemon Kegg, alias Roger O'Malley, once. "Named after I know," answered Lemon Kegg. "Only possible reason I can figure out is that father or mother

"Beck's" Amen Corner

BY "BECK."

JACK CURLEY is overlooking a bet if he don't make a deal with Walter Brookins, the aviator who is now in the city, to bring Jack Johnson from the sea to Juarez by the air-line route. The official and unofficial agents seem to have overlooked that probability.

ALIBIS ARE NOW BEING PREPARED for all the old-time sport writers who got on the wrong train at Reno and are not going to leave any room for a come-back if they pick a bloomer at Juarez. The favorite line of dope is the physical condition question—and that is what trapped all the wise guys at Reno. They are all strong for "if Johnson is in condition" this time so if Willard does win they can declare that the negro wasn't right. Jack Skelly, the old-time featherweight who is now running a cafe and sporting page in Yonkers, N. Y., seems to be laying the foundations for his alibi along new lines. A recent article from Skelly's mill is headed "Is Johnson Such a Wonderful Flatie Champion After All?" and Jack goes on to show where Johnson became champion through luck. If Jack beats Jess, then luck will remain with him. If Willard wins, then it is as it should be. Oh, yes, this alibi stuff is mighty handy.

SOME imaginative writer sent out a long story under an El Paso date the last Saturday to the effect that Jack Johnson would reach Juarez on Sunday morning and would box that afternoon with Jess Reeds, of Ireland, and two or three other old-time heavies. With Jack somewhere in the Caribbean sea at that time, it is small wonder that the fans are waiting for something definite before coughing up to the railroad companies for transportation to Juarez.

TEXAS BALLPLAYERS TRAINING; LINEUPS ARE BEING COMPLETED

San Antonio Has Secured a New Shortstop and Several Pitchers; Shreveport Has 20 Men on Roster; Other Teams in League Are Signing Men and Preparing for Busy Season, Which Is to Open April 8.

BY F. W. ROSEBAUGH.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Feb. 22.—The ballplayers are loosening up out at the park. Lovely days these. Old Sol's been on the job ever since G. Hog came out for his annual romp, and it looks as if Tradition is going to be handed a solar-plexus at any rate. We're hoping for the best, so that when the Cleveland Comanches and the St. Louis Cardinals roll into this old town of the festive tamale for their spring training stunts they will find the climate just as represented, with no alibis to offer. You bet These are busy days for the baseball color which has been hithering here, and every afternoon finds the local diamond dotted with men in uniform of all shades, colors, classes and condition—that is, the uniforms—working out the kinks in their arms and legs in shape for a strenuous season ahead.

Practically there is Louie Farbour in a Cleveland uniform of gray, darting around like a two year old, shaping up into championship form for his 1918 appearance with the Salt Lake team in the Pacific Coast league, and right beside him is Charlie McCafferty, Western Association umpire, likewise in baseball togeth, getting up speed and wind for the coming campaign. Frank Snyder, Cardinal backstop, never misses a work-out and Freddie Horstman, touted as a coming Ty Cobb, is showing up in truly promising style, so that Flint Mich, to which club he will return, will have a star outfielder whom nothing will stop from getting into the big show if present performances count for anything.

Balent is New Shortstop.
But coming in the Bronchos. They'll be the best thing if the dope works out all right. Cap Leidy has been one busy man getting a line on the players who will roll into town in uniform and form. Foremost among the deals put through the past week was the signing of a short stop, who, it is believed, will be the fastest man in the league, and the Texas League. He is none other than Mike Balent, formerly with the St. Louis Browns and later with Chattanooga, for whose 1916 president Benson admits having paid close to \$1000. Balent is a former star on the Texas A. & M. College team and also track man.

Several Pitchers Secured.
The host of exhibition games being given the local boss considerable work, and now that this hole has been filled, he is getting ready to give other stars. Experience is to be a big factor in the Broncho pitching corps. So long as league seasons have been signed, so far. Besides Jess Garrett, the former Dallas Giant, Harry Stewart, who pitched for Houston several years ago, and Ed Mitchell, last season with the Bronchos and who has been in the game several years, will take turn on the slab. Two other pitchers under contract are Ben Davenport and Oscar DeLottelle. The latter having been signed by Morris Block, who has disposed of his interests, and comes from the Ohio State league. A new first baseman has been signed in the person of Fred Smedcor, formerly of the St. Louis Browns.

As the dope now stands, which, however, is subject to change, the Broncho line up includes first baseman Edwards, catcher Francisco and outfielder Jack Huggan, promoter of the club, and league by Morris Block, besides Bill Brammell, catcher, and Frank Birch, Doc Hausenstien, McMahon, Crabble, Kibler, Kirkle, Conroy, Smith, Shofield, Allen, Knapp, Bailey, Ayers, Spencer, and Farrell. The last 12 named being on the Texas League roster, as issued by secretary Farrell last November and may have been released by this time.

Shreveport Has 20 Men.
All over the circuit the work of shaping up the teams is going merrily on. Shreveport has made remarkable headway in the brief space of time the Louisiana town has had since the league meeting at which she was admitted and is building up a team that is expected to give a good account of itself. With Lee Harvey at the head of the Danvers, as the Shreveport team will be known, now have 20 men under contract with others yet to be heard from and a grandstand with a 2000 seating capacity besides bleachers is in course of construction, to be completed the first week in March. The opening exhibition game is booked with the Cincinnati Reds March 14. Empire Wilson Matthews is assisting in training the Shreveport players.

No regrets are expressed at Beaumont over the loss of Leagy, which is good news at this end, for Section fans are certainly rejoicing over the landing of the old Broncho chief. The Otters

in the line up, while at Fort Worth Bill Nance is rounding out a bunch of hunting bear cats, with Hurd McMurray, former Broncho; Otto Melzer, ditto, and Howard Murphy and Harper as a nucleus. Ellis Hardy has signed Cliff Myers, a Virginia league pitcher, besides retaining Reilly, Wohlleben, Malmquist, (Cleveland) of last year's skipper, and now has lines out for other players to fill the places of Tanner, Carson, Jost, Hill and Clemons.

Pat Newman, who has been spending the winter at his home here, is preparing to leave for Houston to take charge of the Buffaloes, which will consist of practically the same players as last season. Galveston also will enter last season's team intact with the exception of Harwood, and Paul Seibert, as reported after a man who will fill Harwood's shoes to a nicety.

By March 1 it is expected every team in the league will be completed and the players on the ground ready to line up for the 1918 campaign, which begins April 8.

CALLAHAN LOSSES DECISION.
Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 22.—Frankie Callahan, the Brooklyn lightweight who got into the limelight recently by beating Joe Rivers, a Virginia league pitcher, and now has lines out for other players to fill the places of Tanner, Carson, Jost, Hill and Clemons.

Pat Newman, who has been spending the winter at his home here, is preparing to leave for Houston to take charge of the Buffaloes, which will consist of practically the same players as last season. Galveston also will enter last season's team intact with the exception of Harwood, and Paul Seibert, as reported after a man who will fill Harwood's shoes to a nicety.

By March 1 it is expected every team in the league will be completed and the players on the ground ready to line up for the 1918 campaign, which begins April 8.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
107 San Antonio Street
HARRIS KRUPP, Proprietor.

EL PASO & SOUTHWESTERN

SOUTH WESTERN

GOLDEN STATE LIMITED

Premier Train of the Southwest

Compare Our Service With Others.

FROM EL PASO TO--

KANSAS CITY 28 hrs.	CHICAGO . . . 42½ hrs.	ST. LOUIS . . . 40 hrs.
WASHINGTON 64 hrs.	NEW YORK . . . 65 hrs.	BOSTON . . . 67 hrs.

Round Trip Tickets to All Principal Eastern Resorts
Steamship Tickets to All Parts of the World

For Fares, Pullman Reservations, Schedules, or Any Other Information, Ask

RICHARD WARREN, General Agent, El Paso, Texas.	City Ticket Office Roberts-Banner Bldg. Phones 594-5851,	H. D. MCGREGOR, City Passenger Agent, El Paso, Texas.
---	--	--

BAGGAGE CHECKED FROM HOTELS AND RESIDENCES.

Experienced Smokers "Roll Their Own"

"Bull" Durham is not the smoke of novices or dabblers in tobacco enjoyment, but of connoisseurs, smokers of experience, whose tastes have been trained to a fine discrimination and appreciation of tobacco quality. These men—and their name is legion—prefer the fresh cigarettes they roll for themselves with mellow, delicious "Bull" Durham tobacco to any other kind. Their expert preference has made it smart, fashionable, correct, to "roll your own" with

GENUINE "BULL" DURHAM SMOKING TOBACCO

The delicate, rich, mellow-sweet fragrance of this leaf can only be retained in the bulk of tobacco in the "Bull" Durham sack, and enjoyed in the fresh-rolled cigarette. That is why "Bull" Durham hand made cigarettes have a distinctive, unique, delightful aroma, found in no other cigarettes and in no other tobacco. That's why "Bull" Durham gives experienced smokers throughout the world supreme enjoyment and wholesome satisfaction.

FREE An Illustrated Booklet, showing correct way to "Roll Your Own" Cigarettes, and a package of cigarette papers, will both be mailed, free, to any address in U. S. on request. Address "Bull" Durham, Durham, N. C.

THE AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANY

Ask for FREE package of "papers" with each 5c sack