

BASKETBALL PROVIDES THRILLS BUT AROUSES LITTLE INTEREST

Lack of Publicity for Stars May Be One Cause for Public's Apathy; National League Magnates Dine on Chocolate Caramels Brought into Meeting by Mrs. Britton, the Only Woman Chieftain.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Will you please step forward and tell us why basketball isn't more popular with the public and the sports press? It is a mystery to us—and to many thousands of others—why there is such little public interest in a game that provides so many thrills in football, calls for more skill and practically as much endurance as prize fighting, and which is almost as fast and furious as hockey.

Weaklings cannot play basketball. It is a game that calls for all there is in the body and the mind. It is a game where timidity of foot, alertness of brain, quickness of the eye and thoroughness of spirit are needed. It is a game for the red blooded lovers of athletic contests, yet they give it the go-by. Why is it?

Basketball is a very game to watch, especially when the game is between two evenly matched teams. And, at times, it becomes a tough game. But without it is clear.

Basketball is a great winter favorite in small college towns. The attendance at the games is always good. But in two college towns staged a game in some foreign city of a metropolitan nature it wouldn't draw even at 50 cents a head.

Doesn't Draw Like Boxing.
In New York city and every other town where boxing bouts are allowed, the "fans" will pay from \$2 to \$10 to watch a pair of low brow pugilists slug it out for 15 minutes. But in some towns where prize fighting does in 60.

Of course, in all the cities where there are Y. M. C. A.'s and similar institutions, there are basketball games between picked teams of those institutions. For the interest in the games rarely extends beyond the membership of the organization. To draw crowds even to those games the promoters usually have to promise a dance after the game as well as a "big" prize.

Too Little Attention to Stars.
Probably the reason that basketball is not more popular is because of little publicity is given to the stars of the game. Basketball, as a game has been given a lot of publicity in years gone by, but little attention has been paid to the individual stars of the game.

Baseball is popular because such men as Ty Cobb, Ed Collins, Tris Speaker, Larry Lajoie and Joe Jacobson have been flaunted before the public eye so much that it developed a desire to see these men perform. The individual prowess of Charles Brannan, Eddie Mahan, "Tacks" Hardwick, Harry Le Grove, Jimmie Foxx and others in the papers acted as the lure for football fans.

But who, outside of the little college towns, ever heard of a basketball star of a man or woman who rank in skill in their game as highly as Ty Cobb in baseball or the Pastry McFarlands in the prize game?

Magazines Dine on Caramels.
Chocolate caramels have supplanted

liquids as a refreshing influence during the meetings of the National League magnates.

The newspaper magnates in the Waldorf immediately after the meeting had concluded their recent meeting. Did they see empty beer and champagne bottles here, there and everywhere? Not all they saw was a box labeled "chocolates" containing three unopened caramels.

"What the—?" began the scribes in chorus when they were interrupted by Mrs. Helen Hathaway Britton, owner of the Leola Cardinals and the only big league woman magnate in this wide world.

"I brought these," she said, "for the boys. Remember that a woman is a great help in a room, where she can get her husband and her husband's friends to do as she wishes." Mrs. Britton brought them.

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PARI-MUTUEL MACHINE INVENTION

Bookmakers and Sheet Writers Are Eliminated by French Invention.

BY "BECK."
Recurring reference to "pari-mutuel" betting in connection with horse racing legislation recently passed, or now before legislatures of Texas, Arizona and various other states, has resulted in several requests for a description of this system.

Pari-mutuel betting first came into general use in France and the system there has been under the direct supervision of the government, which takes a percentage of all bets made, as is proposed in Texas. Eight or ten years ago a track in Kentucky gave the system its first trial in America. Other tracks have since adopted the pari-mutuel machines and have done away with the bookmakers. Down in Havana, where there has been winter racing for the past few years, the pari-mutuel machines and the bookmakers, but the machine is to rule supreme next winter, according to recent dispatches from Cuba.

Canada Association Uses Them.
The Western Canada Fair and Racing association was the first racing circuit to really take up the machines on this continent. They have had the machines on all but two tracks for the past three years and, if able to get more machines this season, will have them installed on all their tracks. The machines are also to be used on all but three tracks on the big eastern circuit, embracing Woodbine, Fort Erie, Hamilton, Windsor and such tracks during the coming season.

Several of the harness circuits have also taken up the machines and they are in use in several cities in the middle west where the trotters and pacers hold forth.

Recent legislation in the west will introduce the pari-mutuel machines through the pari-mutuel circuit.

Proceeds Are Pooled.
Avoiding any technical description, it may be said that the pari-mutuel is operated on the system of selling tickets of a given denomination, pooling the proceeds and paying the winners equally according to the number of tickets issued, deducting a small percentage for expense.

On most of the small tracks tickets are sold in denominations of \$1, \$2 and \$5. Any person can buy as many tickets as he may desire. Each ticket is sold for a certain horse. Let us assume that 150 \$1 tickets, 75 \$2 tickets and 45 \$5 tickets are sold for a certain race and that 20 of these tickets are issued on the horse which wins. The "pool" would then be \$425. The "expense" deduction is usually 10 percent. This would leave \$382.50 in the pool to be divided among the 20 holders of tickets issued on the winning horse. Each winning ticket would pay \$19.125 for \$1.

For "place," the total amount of the pool is divided among the holders of tickets on the horses which finished first and second, the money being split evenly with the third runner. The same method is followed with the "show" tickets.

No Sheet Writers.
There are no "sheet writers" necessary under the mutual system. A big board shows the names of the horses entered for the race. The operator pulls a lever opposite that horse's name and the figure shows opposite the number of tickets that have been sold on that horse. There are no "odds" and the only way that the "longshot" flier can pick his horse is to select the one on which the least number of tickets has been sold.

It has frequently happened that 95 percent of the tickets on a certain race have been on a winning favorite. In that case it is nothing unusual for a man making a wager to get back less for his ticket than he originally paid for it, as the amount paid in on losing tickets would be insufficient to pay the 10 percent "expense."

1 to 50 Odds Not Unusual.
In the same way, it has happened that the "place" ticket on a winning horse has paid better than a winning ticket. The "odds" are so low, however, that no favorite winner that no one would be tempted to bet where some odds posted on a bookmaker's slate. It takes a real red-hot gambler to go up against a 1 to 50 proposition and that is not uncommon under the pari-mutuel system.

The great argument used in favor of the mutuals is that the public makes its own odds. Right or wrong, bookmakers have been blamed for betting on horse racing because closely affiliated, for "queer" races. It has often been charged that bookies were "fixed" to lose with a heavily backed favorite or that a horse was doctored.

OLD GUARDS WIN FROM BANK TEAM

Berg Team Wins From the Houcks by Margin of 65 Pins; Bryan Has High Game and High Total.

The Berg team gave the Houcks three good games, the former having a margin of 65 pins on the match. Bryan was the bright star, taking the individual high with 215 and the aggregate high with 772.

This evening the Smelter league team will roll on the Curtis alley. Wednesday night's scores follow:

Sot. 1. Berg team—		
Ed Scherer	193	
A. Dummy	155	
J. M. Riddle	145	
B. Carter	124	
Joe Bryan	190	
Totals		610
Houck team—		
E. L. Clark	150	
W. Johnston	167	
D. C. Abbott	115	
Late White	150	
Totals		582

Old Guards—		
J. A. Weber	199	
H. G. Hines	121	
Joe Bryan	121	
Joe Bryan	121	
Totals		542

City National Bank—		
J. J. Barak	148	
H. M. Tuttle	128	
J. L. Anderson	117	
W. D. Stratton	141	
Totals		534

ATTEMPT MADE TO SUBSTITUTE SMITH

Relative to the report from the east that Jack Curley had offered "Gumbo" Smith a chance to fight Jess Willard in Havana, in place of Jack Johnson, a report which Curley denied, the New York Evening Mail, of Feb. 18 printed the following:

When Jim Buckley was told today of Jack Curley's denial of having asked Gumbo Smith to substitute for Jack Johnson against Jess Willard, the well known manager exhibited the following telegram:

El Paso, Feb. 15, 1915.
Jim Buckley, New York:
As per our previous talk, I am working and matching the Gumbo vs. Jim Johnson for March 5 at Juarez, and if we book up Jim we can be sure of a good attendance. Now, in case anything happens in getting Johnson to the battle ground in time it will be the Gumbo and Jess for March 6. On receipt of this letter answer by airtel letter whether you will accept of Gumbo in place of Johnson. There will be from \$6000 to 10,000 gate money here for the annual convention, and we will surely draw big crowds. Right or wrong, I do not look for any trouble for him to get here. Answer at once.
Jack Curley,
Chamber of Commerce, El Paso.

Under the mutual system, such things are quite possible, but it is argued that no person has the same interest to do this as under the bookmaking system.

SAYS WILLARD IS WELL DEVELOPED

Dr. W. A. Evans, Physician-Writer, Says Johnson Will Be Given Hard Fight.

Jess Willard is a splendid physical specimen and will step into the ring prepared to give Jack Johnson the battle of his career, according to Dr. W. A. Evans, of Chicago. Dr. Evans talks to more persons daily than any other physician in the United States in his "health hints" in the Chicago Tribune. He is here on his way to the coast and is visiting his brother, W. W. Evans.

"Willard is in splendid condition for the fight," said Dr. Evans. "He tells me he is 25 pounds over the weight that he usually fights at, but in my opinion he will harm himself if he attempts to train down to any such figure. As he stands now he will give the negro the fight of his life. He has become entirely acclimated and in his trouts he makes his sparring partners do most of the puffing as a fighting machine he is a wonder. I do not know what his ring skill may be, but I can say that he is one of the best developed physical specimens I have ever seen."

Johnson Must Train Here.
"Just how long it takes a fighter to become acclimated can be told only when he begins to train. But he must do a considerable amount of work before he is ready to enter the ring. When Jack Johnson arrives in Juarez he will have to put in plenty of hard work before his wind will stand a hard, fast and long fight. If he is training on a shipboard, as has been reported, so much the better, but no fighter can come from sea level to an altitude of about 3700 feet and be anywhere near his best. The length of time required to acclimate a man varies. But whatever the length of time, it is safe to say that Johnson will put in some good training in Juarez before he will be in shape to argue it out with Willard."

JOHNSON WANTS TO FIGHT JESS WILLARD IN HAVANA

Havana, Cuba, Feb. 25.—It is stated here that there is a strong probability that a fight for the world's heavyweight pugilistic championship between Jack Johnson and Jess Willard will be arranged to take place in Havana early in April.

Johnson having made all possible efforts to reach Juarez in time for the proposed fight there March 6, has decided to remain in Havana. He expressed confidence that Willard would consent to come here for the fight.

Johnson appeared Wednesday night in an exhibition bout with his sparring partner and a big crowd witnessed the bout. In a preliminary bout John Lester, of New York, defeated Dave Mill, of New Orleans.

WOLGAST AGAIN HURTS ARM; DUNDEE WILL FIGHT CROSS

New York, Feb. 25.—Ad Wolgast, former lightweight champion, injured his right arm again while training Wednesday and will be unable to meet Leach Cross, of this city, next Friday night.

Johnny Dundee, also of this city, has been substituted. Wolgast injured his arm in a bout with Freddie Welsh, world's champion, last November.

JACK CURLEY LEAVES FOR HAVANA; BATTLE MAY BE STAGED IN CUBA

Ostensible Reason for Curley's Departure Is to Bring Johnson to Juarez, but Orders to Pack Equipment and Be Ready to Move Were Left at Headquarters; Wolgast-Delmont Bout Apparently Off.

BY "BECK."
TOM JONES, manager of Jesse Willard, asserted to The Herald today that he believed the Johnson-Willard fight would be pulled off in Juarez.

"We are going to stick here until something definite is known," he said, "and I am sure that Johnson will be brought on from Havana for the fight. The people of El Paso have treated us too well for us to throw them down. Mr. Curley and I both feel that way. We are willing to stay here two months if necessary, in order to pull off the fight here."

"Willard will keep up his training, though he will not work hard. He will rest today and tomorrow, but will train again Saturday and Sunday. Next week we may all go out into the mountains for a hunt of a few days."

JACK CURLEY left El Paso for Havana, Cuba, this morning, ostensibly to bring Jack Johnson back to Juarez for the fight with Jess Willard. The bout, originally set for March 6, has been indefinitely postponed. Curley declares that the bout is not "off," but Jack Johnson has been "writing friends throughout the country, telling them to stop coming on coming to Juarez and that if the bout takes place at all it will take place in Havana."

At fight headquarters, in the chamber of commerce building, it was said that the clerks would remain here and keep things going until Curley's return. It is known, however, that orders were given by Curley to pack the office equipment, pay all local bills and have things ready for travel.

All of the funds on hand in the statement of Jack Johnson that Havana will be the scene of the fight, if there is one at all.

"I'm off to Havana to settle things with Johnson and bring him back," said Jack Curley, at the depot. "Fight headquarters will be maintained here and Willard will remain in training. We will not transfer the fight—unless we have to."

"We will fight Johnson at Juarez and no other place," declared Tom Jones, manager of Willard.

Mrs. Curley remains in El Paso for the present. The two clerks who have been busy at fight headquarters also remain, and though they deny that the office will be closed, it is stated that Curley has taken steps so that it will not be necessary for him to come back here if it is decided to transfer the fight.

Curley blames the Havana promoters for all his trouble and refuses to believe that Johnson and Jess Willard will fight in Havana. Silver City and Alhambra newspapers that he will not come to Juarez.

The only prospect of the fight taking place at Juarez is a mighty slim one.

Curley and his associates have sunk a big pile of money in making the preparations for the fight across the river. They have advanced \$2000 expense money to Johnson and it is estimated that their expenses are at least \$5000. Naturally, they have made every possible effort to have Johnson carry out his contract. They may succeed, but

it looks as though the negro is proving balky and that the fight will have to be transferred.

The Ad Wolgast-Gene Delmont bout, slated for Juarez on March 5, also appears to be off. Wolgast is evidently not at all anxious to come here and is said to have booked a fight for Milwaukee next week. The promoters are now looking for a substitute and have made an offer to Johnny Dundee.

Tucson has the jump on the other towns in the new Rio Grande Baseball association. Billy Guigley has wired John McCloskey from Oakland, Cal., that he has signed 15 "cracking young players" for the Tucson club and that their training will start at Oakland next week. Quigley also wired that his business agent started for El Paso Wednesday night and would be in Los Angeles today. This man will make the business arrangements for the club and will assist in the organization of the league.

Silver City and Alhambra also have things in good shape at the present time and, owing to the distance to Globe and the fact that Bisbee is very anxious to get into the league, it is likely that Bisbee and Phoenix will complete the circuit. Applications for protection by the National association are now being drafted and will be forwarded to secretary Farrell, at Auburn, N. Y., as soon as the signatures of the Tucson, Silver City and Alhambra promoters can be secured.

In the meantime, the business arrangements of the El Paso club are proceeding rapidly and five men have already subscribed for big blocks of stock.

GOLF TOURNAMENT OPENS AT HOUSTON

Houston, Texas, Feb. 25.—With 124 entries, the sectional golf tournament of the Houston Country club opened here today. Among the entrants for the first flight were "Chick" Evans, J. K. Bell, former Ohio champion; Jack Burns, former Canadian open champion; Fred McLeod, former national champion, and George Rotan, of Waco, Texas champion.

ADDITIONAL SPORTING NEWS ON LAST PAGE

Amateurs Take a Try At Willard Two Of Them Last a Second Apiece

By "TEX" O'ROURKE, Willard's Sparring Partner.

WILLARD'S CAMP. Knobloch Ranch, Near El Paso, Tex., Feb. 25.—Awaiting manager Tom Jones's call for volunteers, Bert Jackson, a 200-pound milt with a local reputation around Alamogordo, blew into camp to show Willard a few new tricks. He must have read something in the papers which gave him a wrong idea of what he was up against, for he waded into Jesse with the evident intention of getting it over quickly. Willard gave him every opportunity to make a showing, but the Alamogordo man blew up after stopping a light left to the chin and another to the forehead. "I'll say this for Mr. Jackson, he is still young and is fast and strong. If he sticks to the game and does not try to get ahead of me, there is no reason why he should not some day develop into a good fighter."

A feature of the afternoon was an impromptu sparring between "Tex" O'Rourke, the pride of El Paso, Pitt-em-out Farrell. This young gladiator was a victim of last night's bout. His friends persuaded him that he could put Willard out. We fitted him out with a pair of padded pummelers and elected him on. It was short and to the point, the point of Farrell's chin. He will at least have the satisfaction of telling his granddaddy how he fought the one time "chick" who is the victor to the finish. If he fails to remember that the "finish" came during the first minute, it will make a better story.

Going from the ridiculous to the real, Willard gave as pretty an exhibition with his trainers as one could wish to see. He took on Hermyd Savage, Monahan and years truly, winding up with a round of wrestling and medicine ball work, and finished so full of life that we could hardly hold him on the rubber table.

Jack Hempel has acquired the nickname of "Jumping Jack" on account of the fact that he is usually off both feet when he delivers a blow. Hempel's work always takes well with the crowd, for he fights all the time. His 170 pounds will not carry him far with Willard, but he is a comer, and in another year or two will probably be rated among the best of them.

Savage has not yet become sufficiently acclimated to flack a fast pace. His work, however, is excellent and he is already popular with the visitors. He is exceptionally clever, fast and tricky. Being hard to hit, he will give Jesse lots of target practice.

Instructor Hempel succeeded in drawing first blood with a right swing in the mouth as they came out of a clinch. Monahan put up his usual fast three rounds, but Willard was on

top of him all the time and Walter was too busy ducking to do much damage. Although they are the best of friends, they always finish the last round fighting in earnest.

Now that Johnson has shown his golden white interest in the coming fight has taken a sudden jump.

Among the new faces at the camp are those of Ed Smith, newspaper man of Chicago, and Ray Archer of Kansas City.

CLEVELAND TEAM SCORES WORLD RECORD IN SHOOT

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—A world record for rifle shooting was made last week by the Cleveland team, which scored 1000 out of a possible 1000 in the ninth match of the interclub championship tournament. The five marksmen put 100 shots into the bull's eye the size of a 16 cent piece at a distance of 25 feet with 22 caliber rifle.

"Beck's" Amen Corner

BY "BECK."

BASKETBALL fans will regret to hear that there is no chance of the El Paso high school team being able to compete in the A. A. U. series at the San Francisco exposition. Basketball happened to be the first sport on the long list of championship events and the series will close tonight. The fans who had the proposition in hand are disappointed but the Tigers have the satisfaction of knowing that the people of El Paso appreciate their good work.

MOTORISTS are now watching what promises to be another war between the Western A. A. and the American Automobile association, the two bodies which govern automobile racing in this country. And it's all because it rained in Frisco on Monday. The Venice Grand Prix is carded for March 17 and the W. A. A. granted a sanction carrying with it the exclusive racing right in California for the month of March. The A. A. A. sanctioned the Frisco races and the proposition to run the Vanderbilt race on March 6 is the cause of the trouble. Even our old friend Barney Oldfield, who dearly loves a chance to take a crack at the Three A.'s, declares he will lead a revolt of noted drivers unless the Vanderbilt is run off at Frisco before the Grand Prix race, there, which is carded for Feb. 27. Barney's contract with the Maxwell people runs out on Feb. 27 and he declares he will not sign another which might conflict with his participation at Venice. A number of other drivers have joined him and take a like stand. There is a nice little mess brewing on the coast.

RUMORS are thicker than money these days. The one that Johnson was at Chihuahua Wednesday got a lot of publicity but it didn't even raise a hope with the promoters. Johnson is a long, long way from Juarez yet or Curley wouldn't be wearing the look which says: "I'm worried, terribly worried, but you're not supposed to know it." A few more days like Wednesday and Jack will have white hair.

BAN JOHNSON, president and chief mogul of the American league, paid "Honest John" McCloskey a big compliment when in Butte, Mont., about ten days ago. Johnson was interviewed by the Anaconda Standard on baseball in general and in discussing the failure of the Butte club, Big Ban declared that "McCloskey is the man to make it go if anybody can." And Mack is going to make the game "go" in El Paso this summer.

JOE SHUGRUE is going to study law. Well, the New York lightweight should pass his final examinations in time to help untangling the legal trouble which will ensue if Johnson fails to arrive at Juarez pretty soon.

BASEBALL fans are coming to the support of the new El Paso club and the proposed Rio Grande association in grand style. The stock subscriptions now total \$1000 and it won't take very long to get the full issue subscribed. El Paso business men are showing that they know a good thing when they see it.

WHY?

If You Want 25 Cents the WINE at - 25 Cents the Bottle—
—Any Kind of LUNCH GOODS.
Keevil's

P. A. Takes the Razoo Out of the Jimmy Pipe

The one reason why P. A. has so many tried and trusty friends is because it's so gosh-ganged tasty and peaceful on the tongue. You can smoke it packed in your old jimmy-pipe or home-made cigarette just as fast and hard as you want to, from the time the sun peeps out till the little stars twinkle, and there's nary a trace of a bite or sting.

PRINCE ALBERT

the national joy smoke

is made biteless and stingless by a patented process controlled exclusively by us. You just charge a pipe or cigarette with this fragrant, satisfying tobacco and you will wonder why you held out so long and let your tongue curl up and crack every time you took your old jimmy pipe into your confidence.

Any store that sells tobacco can supply you with Prince Albert in the tidy red tin, 10c; tippy red bag, 5c; pound and half-pound tin humidors and that dandy P. A. pound crystal-glass humidor which not only keeps your supply in splendid condition, but is a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

R. J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO., Winston-Salem, N. C.