SPORTS---Winter Activities In all Athletic Lines---SPORTS

JOHNSON-WILLARD FIGHT WILL HAVE NO PARALLEL IN PRIZE RING HISTORY

BIGGEST MEN TO FIGHT FOR TITLE

Willard Appears as Samson —Johnson Has Wisdom and Craft.

New York, March 29.—The history of the prize ring offers no parallel of the battle for the world's heavyweight championship in which Jack Johnson and Jess Willard will engage next Monday at Havana, Cuba. Big men have fought for this premier title of fistiana since the early days of the eighteenth century but never through the long list of champions from James Figg to Jim Jeffries have two fighters of the physical proportions of Willard and Johnson crossed arms in the roped arena.

Of the champions of modern times Corbett, Jeffries and Johnson all passed the six foot mark while Sullivan, Sherkey and Fitzsimmons were from one to three inches below this height. When the negro title holder and his challenger step into the ring, Willard will tower six feet six inches in the air while Johnson will stand five and a half inches below him. In weight these fighters are also far above the ring average of the heavyweight class. Willard will weigh close to 235 pounds which will give him an advantage of about twenty pounds over Johnson in the climbing and tussling which will doubtless play an important part in the battle.

Next to Jim Jeffries, the Goliath of modern ring times, Johnson is the biggest man who ever held the title. Jeffries weighed 220 pounds, and stood six feet one and a half inches in fighting shoes; Johnson is six feet one-half inch tall and weighs about 215 pounds, in condition; Jim Corbett scaled 187 pounds, at his best and was 6 feet 1 inch tall; Fitzsimmons was one and one-fourth of an inch shorter and fought at about 170 pounds; Sullivan stood 5 feet, 10 1-2 inches, and fought at 195 pounds; Tom Sharkey was 5 feet 9 inches, and fought his best bouts at close to 190 pounds.

Compared with these past heavyweight gladiators Willard appears as a Samson. Even when ranged alongside of Johnson the Kansas cowboy overshadows the negro title holder in almost every point of physical measurements. In addition to his 5 1-2 inches advantage in height and ten years difference in age he outweighs Johnson by twenty pounds. His reach of 83 1-2 inches against the negro's 76 inches, will also prove of exceptional value if properly used. In all the measurements of trunk and limbs, Willard shows an advantage in structure, muscle and chest expansion varying from two to four inches.

Johnson Crafty.

To offset these physical assets Johnson has the benefit of ring wisdom and craft cultivated during his long career as championship contender and holder. Just as Willard surpasses Johnson in every point of physical make-up the Galveston pugilist excels the Kansas boxer in all departments of the science of giving and evading glove punishment. With youth and power ranged against experience and skill, the battle is likely to develop into a contest in which ring strategy will equalize brute strength and courage.

Johnson's ring assets are well known but incertainty clouds Willard's prospects. In his short period of active glove battling he has never faced an opponent of the power, skill and experience of Johnson. The negro is no physical weakling even at the age of 38 years and while Willard must be accorded the advantage here it is likely that the champion's offensive and defensive skill in both boxing and clinching will nullify this to a considerable extent. In the closing rounds of the battle it is probable that endurance and courage will play an important part.

Willard has shown both these qualities but up to the present time has not been noted for aggressiveness or boxing ability. Whether he can rise to the opportunity will be demonstrated in the supreme test at Havana next Sunday. The future drawing powers of a new champion, towering far above many of his predecessors, adds a glamor to the battle which the promoters have had in mind since they began the preliminary arrangements some months ago.

Many Delays.

That the match making was not without its delays and upsets is shown by the fact that if the pugilists meet as scheduled next Monday exactly six months will have elapsed since the day Jack Curley and the other promoters of the big bout decided upon securing Johnson's signature to the articles of agreement. The big champion was in France at that time and Curley was entrusted with the commission to go find the Texas negro and secure his endorsement on the articles which had been signed by Willard a day or two previously. The syndicate which promoted the bout had picked Willard as the most promising of the white heavyweights to take the title from Johnson, and they still believe that the Kansan will prove the victor.

Curley arrived at Paris, France, early in November only to find that Johnson had gone to London, England. There Curley found him and after a good deal of persuasion succeeded in securing the champion's consent and signature. The moment Johnson signed his name to the contract, which stipulated that the contest should be scheduled for twenty to forty-five rounds, Curley handed $1,000 to Johnson, which was half of the amount to be allowed him for traveling and training expenses. This contract bearing the date of November 16 last, assures Johnson that his end of the purse, $30,000, shall be paid to him before he enters the ring and that in addition Johnson is to receive one-half of the net amount received from moving pictures to be taken of the contest.

Juarez First Selected.

Curley came back to America and completed arrangements to hold the fight on the race track at Juarez, Mexico, on March 6. Early in January, Curley received a cable from Johnson at Buenos Aires, and immediately wired him $1,000, the other half of the expense money, from New York and left for Juarez the day following. At that time and for several weeks afterward Curley believed that the bout would surely take place at Juarez but subsequently he had to change all his plans.

Willard left New York for El Paso, Texas, in January and began training at the Knaublack Ranch, January 25, where he remained hard at work for a month. Meanwhile Curley was disturbed with rumors that Johnson would not be able to reach Mexico in time. The negro and his party arrived at Barbadoes, B. W. I., February 8, and sailed from that port for Cuba three days later. On February 21 Johnson reached Havana, and kept the wires to Mexico busy with messages to the effect that he would not fight at Juarez.

Curley was persistent in his efforts to bring off the bout as scheduled and started for Havana, where he met Johnson on March 3. There he made arrangements to have the bout take place at Havana on April 3, but finally settled every detail for the decision of the world's championship at the Marianao race track next Sunday.

In the meantime Willard had broken up his training camp and started for Los Angeles, Cal., but was induced to return to Texas. He got to El Paso on March 11 and accompanied by his manager and handlers left for New Orleans en route to Havana the same day arriving in Cuba March 16.

Heavyweight Championship Bouts Under Queensbury Rules.

September 7, 1892—At New Orleans, La., Jim Corbett knocked out John L. Sullivan, 21 rounds.

January 25, 1894—At Jacksonville, Fla., Jim Corbett knocked out Charley Mitchell, champion of England, 3 rounds.

March 17, 1897—At Carson City, Nev., Bob Fitzsimmons knocked out J. J. Corbett, 14 rounds.

June 9, 1899—At Coney Island, N. Y., James J. Jeffries knocked out Bob Fitzsimmons, 11 rounds.

November 3, 1899—At Coney Island, N. Y., J. J. Jeffries won from Thomas J. Sharkey, challenger, 25 rounds. Tommy Burns won from Jack O'Brien, 20 rounds.

July 4, 1907—At Colma, Cal., Tommy Burns knocked out Bill Squires, 1 round.

December 26, 1908—At Sydney, Australia, Jack Johnson (colored), won from Tommy Burns, 14 rounds.

October 16, 1909—At Colma, Cal., Jack Johnson knocked out Stanley Ketchell, 12 rounds.

July 4, 1910—At Reno, Nev., Jack Johnson knocked out J. J. Jeffries, 15 rounds.

July 4, 1912—At Las Vegas, N. M., Jack Johnson won from Jim Flynn, 9 rounds.

June 27, 1914—At Paris, France, Jack Johnson won from Frank Moran, 20 rounds.

July 25, 1902—At San Francisco, Ca., J. J. Jeffries knocked out Bob Fitzsimmons, challenger, 8 rounds.

August 26, 1904—At San Francisco, Cal., J. J. Jeffries knocked out Jack Munroe, challenger, 2 rounds.

July 3, 1905—J. J. Jeffries, having previously announced his retirement, officiated as referee at Reno, Nev., and declared Marvin Hart champion when the latter knocked out Jack Root, 12 rounds.

February 23, 1906—At Los Angeles, Cal., Tommy Burns won from Marvin Hart, 20 rounds.

May 7, 1907—At Los Angeles, Cal.,

Match Game Tuesday

8:00 P. M.

Minn. Thresh. Co. vs. Grand Alleys.

GRAND BOWLING ALLEYS.

TRYING TO LAND 3D BASE JOB WITH SOX

Howard Baker.

Howard Baker is a recruit with the Chicago White Sox. He is trying to land the third base job, but it looks as if he would be beaten out by Breton. While Baker can outslug Breton, he is leaden footed on the defense, and on sharp hit balls as well as bunts is not up to the big league standard.

NORTHERN LEAGUE MEN HURLED FOR MILLERS

In a practice game at Memphis Saturday, two former Northern league players—Dumont and Fait—got into action. Dumont pitched good ball, but Fait showed up badly. The following from the Minneapolis Journal tells the story:

"What those Turtles did to the Millers this afternoon was as highly tragic as a blowout for a jitnet magnate. Seven to 2 tells the yarn, and with it goes the tale of the troubles of Rufus Fait, late of Fargo. Asthma Simpson, with her maidenly heart palpitating like the governor of a sawmill engine, never had anything on Rufus in the time he faced Bris Lord's artillerymen. It broke plumb tough for Rufus and what didn't happen he did himself.

"The game started with George Dumont pitching for the Millers and for five innings George, of Camden Place, held the enemy to two runs and four hits. Then Brother Fait went out to do the demonstrating and he did—did it right and proper. They combed Rufus. He retaliated by hitting them in the ribs or making them walk to first on four balls without any chance to lam his offerings. He tossed 'em high and low and threw one to center field on an attempt to heave out a runner at the second sack. Taken by and large, he had quite a sizable afternoon in the three innings in which he presided on the gum."

DARBY O'BRIEN AFTER WINNIPEG STAR PLAYERS

Duluth, Minn., March 29.—Darby O'Brien has had lines out for Swalm, Baker, Kirkham, Kirke and Bachant of last year's Winnipeg team. In answer to his inquiries but one reply has been received. Kirkham, the crack outfielder of the Maroons, wrote that he wanted $200 per month to play with the Sox. According to the present ideas of the local management, there is small chance that Kirkham, star though he is, will be seen in a White Sox uniform.

There may be some difficulty engendered over the signing of some of the Winnipeg players of last year. The team belongs to Pulford, according to the decision of the Northern league and the board of arbitration of the Association of Professional Baseball clubs. If Pulford does not sign these players, they may be free agents; but should Pulford declare that he is going to make use of them, there will be one of those queer technical points of baseball law.

Just why Horace Webb should allow other club managers to attempt to pick the stars of the Winnipeg team is something that appeals to some followers of the game as peculiar.

President John Burmeister of the Northern league is expected back in Minneapolis today. Several entanglements of the schedule will be taken up when large John throws open his roll-top desk.

24 HORSES TO RACE.

Detroit Driving Club Has Largest Entry List.

Detroit, March 29.—An average of nearly 24 horses to the race, the largest the Detroit Driving club has ever had, features the list of entries to the classics in the Blue Ribbon racing meeting here July 26 to 31. Despite the fact that the merchants' and manufacturers' $10,000 stake has been lowered to the 2:08 class, there are already 28 horses entered in the event. The chamber of commerce $5,000 stake has been reduced from the 2:13 to the 2:07 class and 26 horses are entered.

CIGARETTES AND GUM ARE BUMPED HARD

Chewing gum and cigarettes are receiving some hard wallops this spring. Coach Guy Nickalls of the Yale crew has put the ban on gum chewing. Nickalls says chewing gum is injurious. Yale oarsmen in former years were noted for their consumption of gum.

Along with this report comes the announcement that anti-cigarette talks by Ty Cobb are reforming boys in the south. The champion baseballer has been invited to address the boys of Jackson, Miss., high school on March 31. Cobb gave the boys of this school a talk last year and, according to Principal S. L. Bailey, there has been less cigarette smoking among the youngsters than ever before. They accepted Ty as an authority on the subject, whereas the same advice from any other source might be regarded as a mere preachment.

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NORTHERN LEAGUE SAFE; SWEELEY IN

Writes Owner Blume That He Can Play With the Duluth Dooks.

(By Art L. Wilhelm.)

Duluth, Minn., March 29.—Catcher Bert Sweeley of the Duluth ball club, will be back with the 1915 team according to word received from Faribault yesterday. Several weeks ago Sweeley underwent a serious operation and it was not thought that he would be able to play ball again this year but according to his letter he has recovered in beautiful shape and says in another month he will be as good as ever.

Two years ago Sweeley was a sensation but his work fell down considerably last season. It is believed here that he was not given enough work as Jerry Edmonds did most of the backstopping. Towards the end of the season he showed up brilliantly, winning several games by his tremendous wallops and by his nifty pegs second, breaking up the offense of the enemy.

Owner Blume plans to use him as first string catcher if he shows form and alternate Brammell in the outfield and as second catcher. Sweeley can play the game if he keeps in shape—Duluth knows this and hopes to see him in 1913 form this year. If he "comes back" the backstop problem will have been solved very nicely.

The third base problem is bothering Manager O'Brien right now. He is in the air as to the advisability of purchasing an old-timer or trying to break in a youngster. He has a chance to secure Red McAuley, a sweet hitter and a fine fielder, who was formerly with the Superior club but who played with Appleton last year. There is a possibility that Ted Leber, also well known here, may be on the third pillow this summer.

Kirkham and Swalm, released from Winnipeg in the franchise transfer, are very modest in their demands. Blume can use the two men very nicely and wrote them for terms. They asked a two-hundred-buck-a-month contract, 50 per cent of draft or sale price if they "go up," perfumed talcum powder on hot days, lemonade on tap at all times and some one to work for them when they were indisposed. There is nothing stirring A-TALL.

Around the Circuit.

Things are looking up about the circuit. Over at Superior, Summers is still dickering for the sale of his bat boys and has not named a manager.

At Virginia, Messrs. Coates and Finch are seeing to it that Manager "Jumbo" Sundheim will have plenty of material when he arrives.

At Fort William they have some fine material signed. De Rose, Fortier, Stevenson, Davis, Callahan and O'Donnell are expected to make the recruits hustle if they want to grab a berth. Eainer Paakki, a Finnish resident of South Gilles, Ontario, has written for a job. He says he used to play a game in Finland called "Go and Return," which was similar to baseball in that it was quite different and believes that he would be the Cobb of the new Cobbless Northern league.

At Fargo the fans are hearing from Colonel Unglaub who writes them not to be afraid as he is coming soon. Moorhead has decided to go fifty-fifty with Fargo again this year and the two towns will run a joint club.

Get This One?

At Grand Forks the Flickers are planning to put their usual strong team into the race early in the game.

Owner Harry Webb, Winnipeg, is busy with his park and Roy Patterson his new manager, is signing up a bunch of likely players. He has not taken a single member of the last year's Maroons.

Across the river at St. Boniface the local syndicate is getting along beautifully, their efforts now being concentrated on the erection of a suitable park.

That Pesky Schedule.

President John Burmeister is still out of the state and indications are now that the playing chart will not be adopted until the latter part of the week, as several changes will be necessary.

Fort William has three days in a row which rank as holiday games. This means that the Canucks will be forced to pool on three of the biggest days of the summer. This will be changed without a doubt.

Owner Blume would still like to open at home on May 4, but this is hardly considered probable now.

HARRY STOUT IS POPULAR REFEREE

Milwaukee, March 29.—Harry Stout of Milwaukee is becoming one of the most sought after referees in the west and he will officiate at two of the biggest bouts held in Wisconsin during the next month. He has been engaged to be the third man in the ring at the Pal Brown-Joe Mandot scrap in Superior on April 9, and at the Billy Murray-Jack Dillon setto at Hudson on April 6. Stout will also referee a number of bouts in Milwaukee during the next month.

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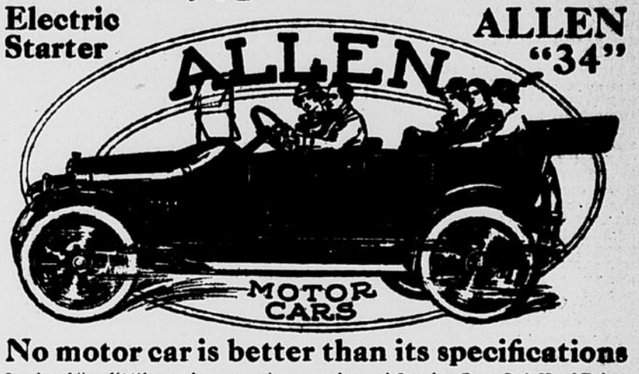

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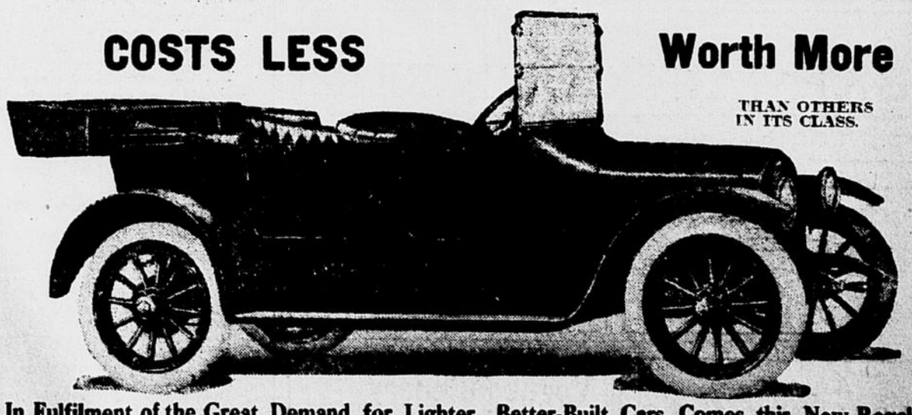

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