

IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

Bicycle Record for One Mile Has Been Lowered by McDuffie.

COLUMBIA LOOKS LIKE WINNER TO DATE

Yale is Taking a Brace and Hopes to Regain Some of the Laurels It Lost During the Past Season—Cal Wagner on Pugilism.

The Shamrock started for this side Thursday with the hope of all Britain centered upon it for surely they never before contemplated such a boat race as would stand in the way of the public getting a good line on the two yachts, which are to take part in the great international races on this side of the brine in October. The Shamrock, after a single attempt with the old Britannia, went to Fairport and was fitted out with a keel for the trip across the Atlantic. The English yachting papers in commenting on the trials all bemoan the fact that the challenger did not have a better competitor. Some went so far as to aver that the trial was no test at all and proved nothing. At the same time they all agreed, upon the basis, probably, that patriotism was a big ingredient, not only in yachting, but in other sports, that the challenger had shown undoubted ability as a sailor on all points of the wind.

Reading between the lines, however, it is evident that the yachting authorities of the old world are by no means satisfied with the turn matters have taken. They are not well satisfied that the Shamrock has shown itself fast enough to beat the American yacht despite the fact that it is so easily beaten in the trials. It is to be regretted that more real trials cannot be given it, but the fact that it must come to this country to be fitted out for its final trial is taken by most of the newspapers as a good reason for a lack of trials. The captain of the Shamrock is unusually noncommittal with regard to its chances. He thinks it a good boat, that is evident, but is not so enthusiastic as the skippers of former cup-hunters have been. Taken as a whole, the situation, even from an English standpoint, looks very favorable for the Columbia.

The failure to complete the Columbia's steel spar in time for the races scheduled for last Saturday, and the breaking of the mast in the trial heat with the Defender Wednesday, have been a sad disappointment to American yachting. It was hoped that in the race that was scheduled for Wednesday the Yankees should build their hopes and plans, and to some extent, at least, decide which really is the better boat. The races thus far have been disappointing. The new yacht line certainly shown superiority so far as it has been tried, but not enough to make it a sure thing, or to justify the sporting portion of the community in laying any odds on the final outcome. It was generally expected that Wednesday's races would furnish a line upon which some calculations could be made, but the unfortunate breaking of the mast made this impossible, although the Columbia was at the time showing its heels to the Defender.

Floating upon form, so far as known, is decidedly unsatisfactory, despite the fact that clever yachtsmen think the Columbia's chances are the better upon the present showing of both boats. The facts of the matter are that neither vessel has shown any speed or fame which would entitle it to rank above the other, and that only the final trial in October will demonstrate beyond a doubt the superiority. At any rate it is hoped that the Columbia will have its full quota of accidents now and be in good trim for the finals.

At the Buttonwood cycle track, New Bedford, Mass., Eddie McDuffie, on a chainless, recently established a new world's record for the mile of 1:12.5. On July 19, Harry Eikes succeeded in riding the mile in 1:31 flat. McDuffie had finished his New Bedford mile with his powers well in hand and had since repeatedly expressed confidence in his ability to do the mile in time considerably faster. After Eikes' time had been announced McDuffie decided to go for the record again as soon as suitable arrangements could be made, and on Saturday, July 29, at the New Bedford track, he was shown knocking three seconds off the record at one clip, a feat which has not been equaled for several years. McDuffie rode the same chainless machine he had first used and followed the same tandem motor race. The conditions were very nearly perfect, and from start to finish McDuffie kept within a few inches of the rear wheel of his pacer, except for an instant in making the last turn to the home stretch, when the motor got a few feet away from him. He quickly recovered the lost distance by a magnificent burst of speed and finished the mile amid the wildest enthusiasm.

The first quarter was made in 23 seconds, the second in 23 seconds, while the third was negotiated in the remarkable time of 20.35 seconds. The rider could not quite hold this terrific pace. The last quarter was made in 22.5 seconds.

Twice holder of the diamond skulls and

twice amateur champion of the Thames is the proud distinction of B. H. Howell, the young Yankee who is studying at Cambridge. He is the holder of the amateur record for the Diamond Skulls course, having lowered Ten Eyck's record figure of 1896 last year.

These victories have left Howell nominally the amateur champion of the world, although it is doubtful if good judges if he is the superior of Ten Eyck. If Howell returns to this country his appearance meeting with Ten Eyck will be a memorable affair. Although having actually lost this proud title to an American that American is really an English bred. The fact that Blackwell, the former English champion, has met Howell in the final of each of these races is a monument to Blackwell's pluck and persistence and in the eyes of the sportsmen is indeed a worthy feat in itself.

There was recently held in Holland an international rifle match in which the United States was not represented, and in which the team representing England, whose rifle shots were considered almost invincible, finished at the bottom of the list, being beaten by teams from France, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Norway and Belgium. The result was a great surprise to the shooting world.

The defeat, however, may prove a very valuable lesson to England, or any other country, for that matter, which persists in holding to one style of rifle shooting. In England the man who can shoot well in the lying position is likely to be successful in prize shooting, but the standing position is wholly ignored. In fact, it is untaught in the system of rifle firing and consequently English riflemen are not strong shots, as a rule, in the off-hand firing position; consequently under those conditions, they were easily handtripped.

It is well known that English soldiers are splendid rifle shots in the lying position, but skill in that style of firing does not make them reliable shots in any other position. The National Rifle association of Great Britain is being urged to encourage off-hand rifle shooting standing. It would seem that the value of off-hand firing, as followed so extensively in this country and even in the indoor gallery shooting so popular in America are now recognized as a very important training. In fact, the majority of those who have studied the rifle thoroughly believe that skill in off-hand shooting is the most important.

Now that the proverbial luck has deserted Yale its well known pluck is asserted itself. In every turn this season, plans are being laid to bring back the old-time prowess of the Blue and they are being entered into with a will. An entire reorganization is promised before another season of training begins, and if the result is not because of the lack of hard and earnest endeavor. The foot ball eleven is the first to receive attention, as the wearers of the peewee are the next to enter the field. Captain McBride will not permit his candidates to receive any special favor during the summer, but is encouraging individual practice among the men at their homes by sending each of the six odd a foot ball with which to improve his abilities in his chosen position. There is a great deal of practice in the field and positions, a round dozen tackles, five guards, four at center, five quarter-backs, twenty-one half-backs and five full-backs. This is a gratifying showing and speaks well for Yale's perseverance under the circumstances.

A similar showing is expected for the other sports and the plan to engage professional coaches for each separate squad meets with the approval of all followers of college athletics, and those of Yale in particular. It is to be hoped that when Cambridge and Oxford visit this country next year Yale will present as powerful an aggregation as that which represented Harvard in the recent games in England. In that case the Englishmen will be beaten thoroughly and decisively.

Cal Wagner, general traveling passenger agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, who has been watching sportsmen with a critical eye since the boyhood of most sportsmen of today, has witnessed the evolution of the prize fight from its bloody form under the old London prize ring down to the modern scientific contest of today, muscle and nerve in recent conversation on prize fights as they once were. Mr. Wagner said:

"The fights as they used to be under the old London rules were no real contests in which the best man won. The ring was so large that a man could run all around it and a man who was handy on his feet could hit a big man out before the other one could find him. But sometimes they had very great fights in those days. Why, I saw a man once knocked off his feet as far as two or three yards, and then he slid on the grass as much farther. Men used to keep on fighting with a broken arm. They fought on the green turf with their bare knuckles, and as it was an advantage for a fighting man to have a big hand, they used to have a way of hardening the knuckles on a board. Men used to get hands on them like hams."

"But for real fighting to win the Marquis of Queensberry rules are much better. They make a man stand up and fight or get licked."

There is no getting away and running all around a big ring. "America is the home of the best fighting men in the world. This country has got the best material for ability. Australia, where Creedan and Fitz came from, every man is an athlete and all the young fellows get plenty of practice fighting. They have fighting in every public house there every Saturday, and they have some pretty good fights, too. Creedan and Fitz both had that kind of practice when they were abroad. There is something lacking in the foreigners. They don't have the kind of ability it takes in this line."

"I believe Jeffries is the coming man. I believe he is better than any man in the world, unless it is Corbett. If Jim and Jeff come together I would almost put my money on Jim. There is one thing you can be sure of, all of Jeff's fights until he gets licked will be perfectly straight. I don't believe he will lay down for anything. The public isn't onto in jobs of dividing the money. Nowadays they say, 'Winner gets \$7,000, loser \$3,000.' Well, when a man knows that he is losing or wins, he is not going to fight the way he would if he knew it was win or lose all. Lots of men will lay down for \$3,000, rather than take a great deal of punishment and run the risk of getting a worse beating. The Maher-Fitzsimmons fight in New Orleans was that kind. The whole purse ought to go to the winner; then there would be a real fight every time; that is, unless there was some sort of a side agreement that the public wasn't onto in jobs of dividing the money. 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