SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS TOMORROW—PHILLIES VS. NORFOLK—MACKMEN PLAY COLUMBIA

BETTING ODDS ON JOHNSON BECAUSE HE IS CHAMPION

Ring History Shows Contenders Always Fight at Short End of Wagers—Negro's Condition Will Determine Result of Battle With Willard.

BETTING ODDS 3 to 2 ON JACK JOHNSON

HAVANA, April 2.—Betting on the Johnson-Willard fight is almost at a standstill. The Johnson adherents refuse to give the odds the followers of Willard want. They are willing to wager on the champion at 3 to 2, but refuse to make any bets at odds better than that figure.

Willard's followers, however, are holding out for 2 to 1 or better. Four race track gamblers, unable to get better than 5 to 2 for their money, have cabled $10,000 to New York to bet on Johnson if they can get odds of 3 to 2.

The ticket sale is sprucing up, but still will have to spruce up a great deal more if the promoters are going to realize anything for their work.

Fight fans who believe Jack Johnson will successfully defend his heavyweight championship title against Jess Willard at Havana Monday afternoon base their predictions on this argument:

If the white man has any chance whatever of winning the title from Johnson, why is the champion a 2 to 1 and a 2½ to 1 favorite in the betting?

No matter how logical or legitimate the question may seem, it must be remembered that, in previous world's championship matches, disregarding the condition of the titleholder, the contender in all cases has been on the short end of the betting. In figuring bets on a fight—or, in fact, any sport—it seems to be customary for backers of the champion to lay odds.

Back in '92, September 7 of that year, to be exact, James J. Corbett knocked out John L. Sullivan in the 21st round at New Orleans. Corbett, a much younger, stronger and considered to be the cleverest heavyweight in the world at the time, was pitted against a "has been," as it were, a man who did not have the patience to get into shape. He was fat and flabby and in no condition to fight at all. Gamblers knew this. Still they placed odds on Sullivan to win. Why? Sullivan was the champion.

The next time the title changed hands was at Carson City, Nev., March 17, 1897. Five years of prosperity had told on Corbett. He had lost all of his cunning which won for him over Sullivan. Gentleman Jim did not have a punch—that was proved in his fight with Sullivan. The latter dropped from sheer exhaustion in the '92 bout.

And once again the title holder was backed as the favorite over the contender, Bob Fitzsimmons, a terrific hitter and reputed to be able to kill an ox with one punch, was Corbett's opponent. Fitzsimmons' punching ability was not considered in the betting. He was the contender and short odds were placed on him. Corbett lasted less than 14 rounds. Fitzsimmons making the solar plexus punch famous by knocking out his opponent by that route.

Then came James J. Jeffries, the greatest fighter who ever put on a glove. He had been knocking his opponents out with a regularity in the West while Fitzsimmons was engaging in theatrical work. The latter continued his footlight stunts until a week or two before his match with Jeffries at Coney Island, November 3, 1899. Fitzsimmons was in poor shape to defend his laurels; still he was the prime ringside favorite. The gamblers did not think about the respective conditions of the principals. Fitzsimmons was the champion, hence the favorite. He lasted 11 rounds.

The next championship fight of importance from a betting standpoint was in 1910, when Jeffries, a physical wreck, came out of his six years' retirement with the hope of returning the title to the white race, after Johnson had beaten Burns for the crown.

Johnson was not the favorite. He ruled a rank second. In this case, though, the big black was the champion, but Jeffries was the retired title holder and a white man, and this fact led the gamblers to back the white man as a favorite. After 10 rounds of moving picture fighting Johnson landed his famous uppercut in less than five more rounds.

Now there is Johnson, champion, and Willard, contender, matched to box at Havana. As before the title holder is the favorite, and as proved in the past the betting has little or nothing to do in indicating the probable winner of the match.

Johnson's condition is the chief factor.

JOHNSON TRIES TO RUB OFF FAT RATHER THAN WORK; STILL CONFIDENT

Negro Champion Predicts Knockout in an Hour. Critics See Undercurrent of Uneasiness—Willard's Splendid Condition.

HAVANA, April 2.—Jack Johnson thinks he will win from Jesse Willard and that he will win quickly. Johnson feels so sure of it he has ceased worrying at all. In a private interview with two newspaper men last night Jack made it plain that there was no doubt in his mind that he would be returned the winner.

"Come out in the morning when nobody is around and see me get rubbed down," he said.

The rubbers went at him after his road work and were with him for fully an hour and a half. It was plain from the treatment given that Johnson is trying to get rubbed into shape rather than work off the flesh that is so hard to shake. Vaseline is used freely on the big black, almost a pint daily being massaged in. This he thinks is soothing to the muscles and keeps them pliable and free. It never has occurred to him that vaseline might be a flesh builder.

"You didn't like my work yesterday, eh?" said Johnson. "I am in good shape just the same, and am thoroughly satisfied with my condition. Feel what you say it fat. It's firm, isn't it? That shows that I am in good shape.

"I'm all right and capable of going at the same old top speed. What makes me so sure that I will win is just this: Willard hasn't the experience to cope with an old timer like me. I will make him do everything he doesn't want to do. I know he doesn't like to be feinted, and I will give him an overload of that right from the start. I wouldn't be surprised if I win in a few rounds.

"Jess is strong, you say? I don't know that he is, but I'll bet you something that he isn't as strong as either Sam McVey or Denver Ed Martin, the strongest men I ever met. Willard has what I call fictitious strength, and he doesn't know how to use it. He can't stand rough usage. I am sure of that, and this is going to be a rough fight. A big punch is no good unless it is backed by skill. The fighter with a big wallop must know how to get in well enough to use it, and Willard never will get in on me. He is clumsy and slow and doesn't break well. Jess has lots of weak points for a man fighting for the title.

"My friends in the United States must not worry over my condition. I'll go as fast as ever, and be the one standing up at the finish. Yes, I feel certain of a knockout inside of an hour."

Johnson was sincere in every word he said and emphasized his remarks with sweeping gestures.

He even stopped rubbing to make a point in his talk. It looks from the inside of the training camp as if Johnson is getting three times as much body massage as an ordinary man in training. It is evident he is trying to rub off the flesh and take no chances of road work weakening him at this stage of his training.

There may be an undercurrent of worrying but the same, as Johnson asks many questions about his opponent, even though he seems to know all about him.

Willard worked in the rain before a big crowd and thought it did him good. His work was much better than the day before. Jess is just beginning to taper off now and will do little more glove work. He is certainly in wonderful condition in every respect, and his friends think if he keeps up courage and heart and doesn't fall in the pinch he is a sure winner.

There was a mild riot at Johnson's camp yesterday. It rained and the champion didn't work. About 400 paid to see the work-out and they raised a rumpus when no money was given back. The management agreed to give rain checks, but the crowd wouldn't take them and broke the gates down. The police finally had to pull their guns to subdue the rout. Johnson was laughing all the time. It is impossible for the big Negro to take anything seriously.

JOHNSON BETS $1000 EVEN

Wagers He Will Stop Willard Before 25th Round.

HAVANA, April 2.—To emphasize his declaration that he will go after Jess Willard from the tap of the gong opening Monday's championship battle, Jack Johnson today bet $1000 to even money that the fight would not go over 25 rounds.

JACK JOHNSON IN 1910 AND AS HE IS TODAY

Increase of Eight Inches in Girth and Heavier Leg Since Jeffries Fight.

JOHNSON OR WILLARD? WHAT RING MEN SAY

"Jack Johnson was never in better fighting condition in his life than he is right now. He is even better than when he fought Jeffries."—Bob Armstrong.

"I never thought Johnson was one-tenth as good as I have found him since I became a sparring partner."—Colin Bell.

"Johnson is too fast and too shifty for Willard and will have no trouble in beating him."—Steamboat Bill Scott.

"Willard will finish Johnson before the 20th round. A powerful right-hand swing will do the trick."—Tex O'Rourke.

"No man can stand up under the battering of Willard."—Jack Hemphill.

"There will be a new champion next Monday, and his name is Willard."—Jim Savage.

Since July 4, 1910, when Jack Johnson succeeded in defending the heavyweight championship against James J. Jeffries, retired titleholder, the big black has greatly changed physically. Lil' Artha has increased 17 pounds in weight, weighing 209 pounds five years ago, and tipping the beam at 227 today.

The comparative measurements below indicate that Johnson has filled out beyond the "marvelous athletic specimen" stage. At Reno, where Jack knocked out Jeffries in 15 rounds, his waist measurement was 30 inches. Today it is 38, which shows a remarkable difference in five years.

The 2½-inch increase at the calf is another marked increase in Johnson. Whether this additional leg weight will handicap Jack's footwork or affect his speed, only the battle of Monday will decide.

Although Jess Willard is one inch smaller than Johnson across the chest (normal), he has an expansion of 3½ inches.

The compared measurements of Johnson at Reno and today follow:

1910.		Today.
32	age	38
6 ft. ¼ inch	height	6 ft. ¼ inch
209	weight	227
72 inches	reach	73½ inches
37½ inches	chest (normal)	40 inches
42¾ inches	chest (expanded)	43½ inches
30 inches	waist	38 inches
16 inches	biceps	15 inches
17¼ inches	neck	17½ inches
8 inches	wrist	8½ inches
23 inches	thigh	25½ inches
15 inches	calf	17½ inches
9½ inches	ankle	9¾ inches
No. 11	size of shoe	No. 11

WILL WELSH STOP FIGHT IF WILLARD IS BADLY CUT?

Bettors Are Greatly Disturbed Over New Question

HAVANA, April 2.—A new point was raised in the Johnson-Willard fight talk today and the betting element discussed it seriously. It was this: Can Referee Welsh stop the fight if Willard is badly cut up and staggering blindly around the ring?

Both Jack Curley, Willard's manager, and Tom Jones, pilloting the white hope, registered emphatic denials. They declared Welsh had been selected because he had never been known to stop a fight. There is no danger, according to Curley and Jones, that Willard's chances of going the entire distance will be spoiled by Welsh if his face is being ribboned by Johnson's blows.

Notwithstanding this assurance the Willard bettors were much worried. They fear that the negro may slash away at the white man until the Havana police enter the ring and call a halt. Curley pointed out that the Havana police have done a bull fight or two and never took an active interest in the prevention of bloodshed. Nevertheless, the men putting the coin on Willard to stick for the entire distance carried furrowed brows.

Philips Nips Neithamer

Last night's match game of pocket billiards at the Philips parlors, resulted in an exciting victory for R. Philips over G. Neithamer, 125 to 95.

PENN CREWS IN TRY-OUTS FOR RACES WITH YALE TOMORROW

Coach Vivian Nickalls is giving both the varsity and the junior eights the last work-outs for the Yale regatta. The varsity oarsmen are — Chickering, bow; Gotham, Woll, Pepper, Harley, Merrick, Littleton, Marcy, and Foster, coxswain. The juniors are—Borie, bow; Geis, Perrot, Schellens, Scott, Kayll, Hildebrand, Shoemaker, and Weirick, coxswain. Below is Captain Merrick, of the varsity.

PHILLIES AND NORFOLK PLAY SECOND TODAY

Mattison and Jacobs Show Good Form in Box—Infield Work Poor.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

NORFOLK, April 2.—The Phillies and the Norfolk team will play another game here this afternoon, after which the Moran crew leaves for three games in Washington.

In yesterday's game Mattison and Jacobs pitched good ball against the Virginians, but weird fielding was responsible for all the runs. The Phillies had several opportunities for double plays, but the infield barrier dropped easily.

For five innings the game was worth watching, but in the sixth Pitcher Cochran, who succeeded Humphreys, ascended, passing four men and allowing a double which gave the Phils three runs. Luderus' clout sent Weiser, Cravath and Paskert over in marathon order.

supplanted Cochran, but he also showed the effects of the Prinz Eitel uprising by walking five men and hitting one.

Massengale, the last of the local pitchers to perform, went in before the Phils stopped crossing and finished the game, but suffered bombardment throughout the closing chapters. In all the Phils received nine bases on balls in the sixth inning, three of which forced runs over.

Bowie Entries

First race, maiden fillies, 2-year-olds, 4 furlongs—†Regina, 112; †Blume, 112; Pleinone, 112; Irra Waddy, 112; Miss Philbin, 112; Cuddles, 112; Casco, 112; Queen Apple, 112; Petra, 112; Atake, 112.

†Whitney entry.

Second race, selling, for 3-year-olds, 5½ furlongs—*Diffident, 99; Bonj Mora, 104; Energetic, 105; Kewple, 105; Fair Helen, 105; *Fly Home, 107; Meelicka, 110; Rebecca Moses, 110.

Third race, 3-year-olds and up, 5½ furlongs—*Stubborn, 100; Lady Spiritueile, 100; *J. B. Harrell, 102; Best Bib and Tucker, 102; *Dixie, 106; Margaret C., 105; Hectograph, 105; Nerus, 109; Estimable, 110.

Fourth race, selling, for 3-year-olds and up, 6 furlongs—*Eagle, 98; *Joe Finn, 105; *Briar Path, 106; Coy, 108; Progressive, 111; Squeeler, 114.

Fifth race, selling, 4-year-olds and up, 6 furlongs—Toddling, 102; *Captain Elliott, 102; Free Trade, 105; Yodeling, 105; Fitzgerald, 107; Inlan, 107; Ortyx, 108; Anavri, 110; Kayderoseros, 110; Paton, 113.

Sixth race, selling, 4-year-olds and up, 6 furlongs—Cannock, 105; Brandywine, 107; *Parlor Boy, 107; Martin Casca, 110; Sir Dyke, 110; Uncle Mun, 111; Colonel Cook, 112; Rodondo, 113.

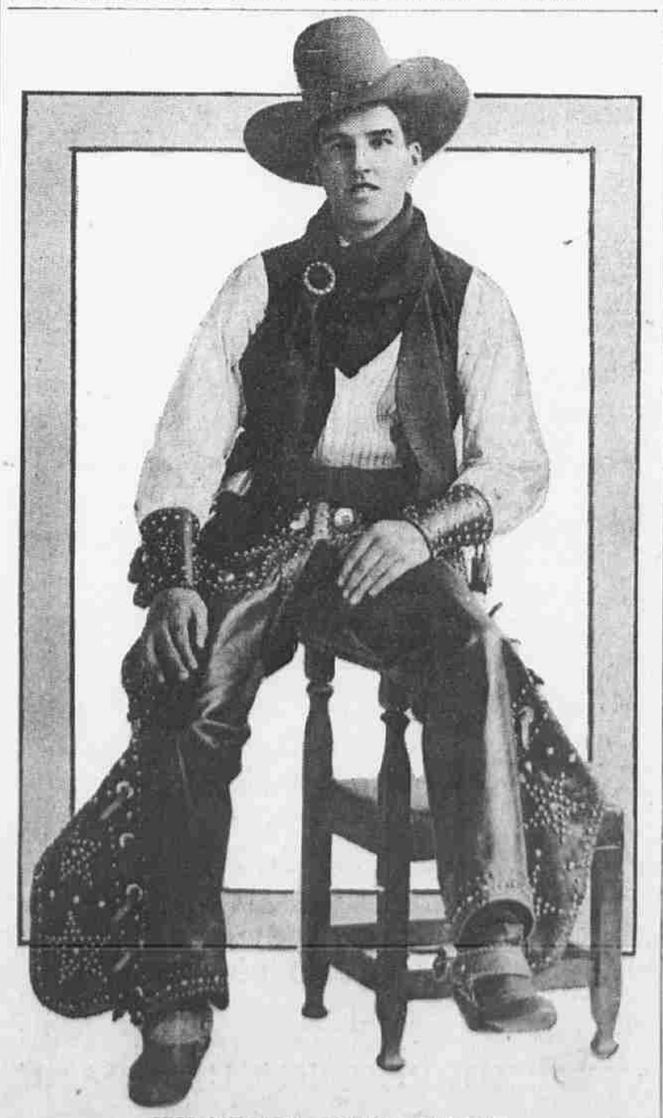
Seventh race, for 3-year-olds and up, 1 mile and 20 yards—*Zodiac, 100; Bundle of Rags, 100; *Abbottsford, 103; *Trovato, 104; Beau Pere, 106; *Hermuda, 107; Ravenal, 109; Weyanoke, 115.

Weather clear; track fast.

*Apprentice allowance claimed.

Mack Beaten in Close Game

In a game that was close and interesting throughout, J. McCahan beat A. Mack, 100 to 97, at the Columbia Parlors last night.



JESS WILLARD, COWBOY PUGILIST

COUNTRY CLUB AT SHORE ARRANGES GOLF TOURNEY

Atlantic City Players Ready for Spring Meet—Schedule.

The Country Club of Atlantic City announces Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 29, 30 and May 1, as the dates for its annual spring tournament.

Qualification will take place on Thursday, April 29, and will consists of 36 holes, medal play. The time of starting and pairing of each player will be announced on Wednesday evening. Contestants not reporting to clerk of course by 11 a. m. will be disqualified.

Five sixteens will qualify—The first sixteen will qualify for the Governor's prize, the second sixteen for the President's prize, the third sixteen for the Atlantic City prize, the fourth sixteen for the Northfield prize and the fifth sixteen for the Absecon prize.

In case of ties in qualifying round, the committee will draw lots to decide which sixteen the contestants will play in.

The first and second rounds of match play will take place on Friday, April 30, and the third and final rounds on Saturday, May 1. All matches will consist of 18 holes.

On Saturday, May 1, an 18-hole medal play handicap will be played, for which entry must be made not later than 11 a. m. of that date. The score turned in must be the first 18 holes played by the contestant on that date. Players in the semifinal and final round of tournament are not eligible for the handicap.

A special consolation event will be arranged on Friday, April 30, for the defeated eight of each sixteen, so that the contestants attending the tournament will have an opportunity for competition during the entire three days.

The privilege of the course, without charge, will be extended to all contestants from Wednesday, April 28, to Sunday, May 2, inclusive.

LOCAL POLOISTS TO PLAY AT SAN FRANCISCO TOMORROW

Committee Also Decides to Play Other Postponed Matches.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 2.—The committee in charge of the universal polo tournament of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, in progress here, decided yesterday to rearrange the schedule of games. Five games a week will be played on the exposition field, the Monday games at San Mateo and the Friday games at Burlingame.

The polo matches, postponed this week because of the soggy condition of the fields will be resumed tomorrow, when the Philadelphia Country Club four will meet the Midwick, Pasadena, Cal., team.

On Sunday the San Mateo and Cooperstown, N. Y., fours will meet.

SKATER MARTIN MAKES RECORD

Covers Mile at Charleston W. Va., in 2 Minutes 52 Seconds.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., April 2.—The mile against time, two half-mile races and a final of one mile featured the roller-skating races here last night. Roland Cioni, the world's champion, although he won the half-mile event, did not enter the final mile event, which was won by Wayland Kearns, of this city, on a foul. Fred Martin, of New York, skated a mile unpaced against the local 15-lap ring record of 3 minutes and 5 seconds, and reduced it to 2 minutes and 52 seconds. In the first half-mile event Martin won from Steve Shipley, of Baltimore. Kearns was second to Cioni in the second half-mile event.

AMATEUR SOCCER CUP GAME ON TOMORROW

Putnam to Play Off Tie With Puritan Y. M. L.—Other Important Games Scheduled.

The Allied American Football Association has some important soccer games scheduled for tomorrow. First the semifinal tie for the amateur cup championship at Washington Park between Putname and the Puritan Y. M. L., preceded by the Peabody vs. Viscose postponed First Division game.

At Marcus Hook, where the Veteran A. A. and Edgemoor will play an extra game to decide the championship of the Third Division. These clubs played their regular division games and tied at 23 points, and are obliged to play this extra game to decide the championship. Gold medals will go to the winners and silver medals to the runners-up.

Another championship game will be played at Audubon, N. J., when Ascension will meet the Audubon team and the winners will be the champions of the special division.

NORTHEAST HIGH CREW READY FOR REGATTAS

Capt. Gardiner Hopeful of Winning Trophy — Temple Baseball Nine.

Candidates for Northeast High School's eight have been practicing on the Schuylkill for the last week, and Captain Gardiner is certain he will lead a winning crew this season. The Red and Black oarsmen are anxious to cross the line first in the American Henley Regatta and Schuylkill Navy Regatta, scheduled May 22 and June 19, respectively. Central High School and West Philadelphia High School also are entered in these events.

Present indibations point to the make-up of the varsity crew as follows: Shoaler, bow; Kirth, No. 2; Tietz, No. 3; Bailey, No. 4; Lupton, No. 5; Hamill, No. 6; Sickel, No. 7; Captain Gardiner, stroke, and Solts, coxswain.

Two other boats also have been chosen, and the three crews expect to practice daily until May 8, when the first race of the season will be rowed against the Princeton Frosh at Princeton. Changes in the first boat may be made before the opening event.

A baseball team has been organized again in the law department of Temple University, and Manager Lanceano, 1480 South 12th street, has started booking games with local high schools and independent teams. The nine is composed of most of last year's players, with the addition of Lanceano, Thistle, Hagan, Hillard and McHenry. The team will line-up as follows: Mitchel, left field; McGuire, right field; Doyle, centre field; Moore, third base; Thistle, shortstop; Shultz, second base; McHenry, first base; Hillard, Hagan and Silverman, pitchers; Boyd and Lanceano, catchers.

The annual freshmen track and field triangular meet of Northeast High School between the teams representing the two annexes and the main building will be held at Northeast Field, 26th and Somerset streets, next Wednesday afternoon. Coach Bachhold expects good time in some of the events, as the first-year men have been training faithfully for the event. Fray will captain the main building team, Dysart will lead the Howard street annex, while the Fourth street annex will be under the captaincy of Shelby.

Brown Prep has a quartet of good pitchers this season, and the followers of the institution are confident that the twirlers will prove their worth as winning slabsters. They are Twaddell and Schraeder, right handers and Green and Reigart, portsiders. The first named is a veteran of last year, and it is expected that he will shoulder the burden of the mound work. He is also one of the best hitters on the team.

Egg Harbor Nine Formed

EGG HARBOR CITY, N. J., April 2.—The boys of the local high school have organized a baseball team and elected Wilbur Weeks as manager. A series of games has been arranged with Hammonton, Tuckerton, Pleasantville, May's Landing and Vineland.

YALE-PENN CREWS READY FOR CONTEST

Squads Had Strenuous Work-outs Yesterday in Preparation for Events.

Penn and Yale crews, which will compete in the dual regatta tomorrow afternoon on the Schuylkill River, took two strenuous work-outs yesterday. Each coach gave his men time trials in the forenoonand hard, steady work in the afternoon. Neither coach would tell the time made in the trial. Yale's varsity beat the junior varsity about two lengths over the course of a mile and 550 yards, over which tomorrow's race will be decided, in the morning trial, while Penn's first crew showed marked superiority over the juniors. Again the rival crews rowed at different hours, so the men had no opportunity of trying each other out.

Each coach gave his crews about five miles morning and afternoon, making ten miles for the day's work. Each still professes to be confident of the result, although Vivian Nickalls, Penn's coach, talks with more confidence than does his brother, Guy, who is Yale's instructor.

The crews are all to be boated in American-made shells, rigged with tholepins, which is English. American coaches prefer rowlocks, which are supposed to be an improvement over tholepins. The recognized advantage of the tholepin is that it helps a crew to keep together, since all in the boat will notice the instant every man is not in perfect accord in his stroke. An oarlock makes no sound, and when they are used it is up to the coxswain to keep his crew together.

The crews are centre seated and use clogs instead of stretchers, and fixed tholepins in preference to the swivels. Nickalls holds the fixed thole to be "the most effective means to resuscitate Yale rowing, believing it is the method for oarsmen having as little rowing experience as the majority of Yale candidates."

The average weight of the Yale varsity eight is given as 176 pounds and that of the second eight at 174 pounds.

MACK'S LEFTHANDERS TO OPPOSE COLUMBIA ON DIAMOND TODAY

Bressler and Pennock Will Try to Wipe Out Defeat of Yesterday—McInnis-Kopf Team Scheduled to Play Richmond.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.]

COLUMBIA, S. C., April 2.—Today promises to be a big event in the ruling city of South Carolina. For the second time in two days a squad of Connie Mack's Athletics will engage the local club on the diamond.

The fact that Ira Thomas' division lost yesterday has whetted the populace here for more diamond blood, and they mean to turn out by hundreds this afternoon to see what their array of talent can do against the squad Harry Davis has in charge.

In order to surpass the work done by the other section of the Mackmen, Davis will use Bressler and Pennock, the two left-handers today, although they worked three rounds each in the Savannah game. The line-up of the Athletics will be the same as usual.

Last night the Mackmen played the movies almost off the boards; then turned in for a long bunk rest. This squad will not be able to leave for Asheville until tomorrow morning.

The McInnis-Kopf bunch is scheduled to play the Richmond, Va., team today.

YALE-PENN MEET TONIGHT

Postponed Aquatic Duel to Be Held in New York.

The Yale-Pennsylvanian swimming meet which was to have been held at the College of the City of New York Wednesday night was postponed at the eleventh hour yesterday, and will be held at the same place tonight instead.

The City College authorities found late on Tuesday that they could not give up their pool to the college swimmers for Wednesday night, and wired both Yale and Pennsylvania to that effect.

This change made the Columbia-Yale meet at the New York Athlete Club last night the first of the series of three meets necessary to settle the intercollegiate championship, for which Columbia, Yale and Pennsylvania are tied.

HOUCK TO BOX KRAUSE

Willie Houck, of Mount Airy, and Johnny Krause, of Nicetown, will box in the final at the Quaker City Club Monday night. In the semifinal Tommy O'Dare meets the tough Happy Davis. In the third bout Tyrone Costello will meet Eddie Bratton. Johnny Morgan and Joe Scanlon will clash, and the opener will show Tommy Cannon against Charlie Weber.

"FANNING" WITH GRANTLAND RICE

The Glory of the Game

Swift comes the laurel to each brow—
Swift as the flashing triple fares;
But yesterday, unknown—and now
The glory of the game is theirs;
From Bush to Big League in a night,
Famed heroes of a virile plot;
But they shall come unto the height
No quicker than they are forgot.

We are somewhat surprised that Johnson and Willard are both so confident of winning. Usually in a case of this sort where two eminent pugs meet both are absolutely sure that the other man will win without any great effort.

The experts are still picking Johnson to win. And a number of these are the same experts who picked the Mackmen to beat the Braves four out of five starts.

Belated Chance

We shall soon see whether or not 1914 used up all the Upsets extant or whether any holdovers were left for 1915.

If Willard had met Johnson last year there could have been only one answer. It was only necessary to meet a champion in any line last season to achieve renown. The rest was a purple-tinted pipe. It isn't often that two Upset years come together, but it may be the impetus obtained last year may still be sufficient to carry Willard over the line.

Late Books Received

"Beating Back"—By John J. McGraw.
"The Castaway"—By Robert Beecher.
"The Fighting Hope"—By Jess Willard.
"The Long Watch"—By K. M. Landis.

The last betting was at even money that Judge Landis would render his decision at least a week before the European war was over and the revised map of Europe had been warmly approved and indorsed by all concerned.

Old and New Batting

"There are nothing like as many good batters today," says John McGraw, "as there used to be from 12 to 20 years ago. And one reason is that present-day batters are inclined to step away from the plate rather than to step out boldly and swing on the ball."

This is probably true. But there is also a reason. Fifteen or 20 years ago batsmen were not called on to face spitball or knuckle ball or emery ball pitchers, where the zigzag curve was liable to break in any one of seven general directions. The old-time batsman knew about what he had to face—a fast ball or a curve. But the batsman of today isn't quite as eager to face a curve attached to an uncertain direction that even the pitcher can't foretell.

Another Point

There's still another reason for the lack of first class hitting. Twenty years ago there were pitchers as good as those of today—in quality, but not in quantity.

The game held nothing like as many stars as it holds now. The Yanks have been well down in the second division for several years and yet when a rival club meets them the opposing batsmen are forced to tackle high class pitching every day in the week.

Fanning Bee

Dear sir—

Please answer this: Last season the Giants were weak at third, in the box and back of the bat. Since then McGraw has acquired a star for third in Lobert; has added a star pitcher in Perritt and a star catcher in Smith. In addition to this you can make a guess that he will again have his team moving with the old fighting spirit. What chance have the Braves against this?

F. L. J.

That's one part of a reasonable argument. On the other hand Stallings never built up his club last year until July. From that point on he traveled at a .700 clip. Since then he has added Maqee, a star fielder and .300 hitter. If he can travel at a .650 clip he can win a pennant. So his club can still slump 100 points from its July-October pace, 1914, and finish in front.

What Odds Have You?

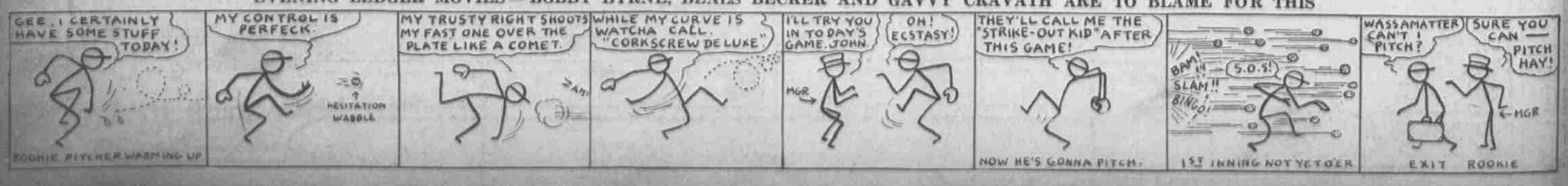
Sir—I am willing to make a bet that within six months Governor Whitman will make Dix and Sulzer look like statesmen. What odds do you want?

With Apologies

(By Any Umpire.)

The melancholy days have come—the saddest of the year;
When bottles hurtle past the bean and curses soak the ear;
When even politicians as they ply their bally muss
Are poised out as honest in comparison to us.

—Holty-Tolty.

"If Willard can fight at all he should trim Johnson easily."—Jim Jeffries. Well, Jeffries ought to know as well as any one else how easy Johnson is to trim.

EVENING LEDGER MOVIES—BOBBY BYRNE, BEALS BECKER AND GAVVY CRAVATH ARE TO BLAME FOR THIS