FULTON, WILLARD'S NEXT OPPONENT, AN UNKNOWN AMONG RINGSIDE FOLLOWERS

BASKETBALL "BUGS" KEEP THE INDOOR GAME ALIVE

Small Halls in Philadelphia Do Not Permit Cage Promoters to Make Success From Financial Standpoint

Year after year the cage game holds with in this city during the frigid months, and if there were s, actous halls which the teams could play there would be even more interest taken in the ime than there is now. Also better players would be developed. With so any leagues playing in church baseents, attics and in awimming pools, the players don't come along as fast as they sould in larger halls or courts.

From a financial standpoint basketball en't a paying proposition in larger cities, but this never deters promoters. There always some one willing to take a chance. Some lengues exist one year, ome go two or three, but that is about the limit. The Eastern League has been smaling for seven years and the Amerbest League has been in business for 14 years, and is the oldest organization in the country. Many changes have been worked in the American League since Its

eranisation, however.

Philadelphia is practically the home of basketball and Pennsylvania at this time is the home of eight-tenths of the professional basketball players of the professional casketball players of the country. With the Eastern League hold-ing forth in this section; the Pennsyl-rania State League traveling over the rough roads in the coal regions, and the Western Pennsylvania League. western Pennsylvania League doing hasiness in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, the money chasers are pretty strong in this state. The New York State League and the Interstate League are the only other places where they may exhibit their skill. Leagues do better in the smaller cities for there is more genuine enthusiasm in smaller towns and the halls are larger and better to play in as a rule. In most of the smaller cities the games are played the State armories, and it is a small armory that won't seat 2000 persons. For several years the New York State League

BASKETBALL is the sport which inter-gests the greatest number of Philadel-club winning all the time and just nat-

ever was in New York State.

And in the coal regions they are doing something to try and hold the interest, for the rules demand that at least three local players should be members of each club. This virtually limits a club to two out-and-out professionals. Wachter brothers, Suils, Inglis, Tome, O'Leary, Nolls, Joe Evers, Curlette and others who established reputations in the New York State League are playing on State League teams, and the Nanticoke club, run by Wachter and O'Leary, tops the league. This league is having trouble among its managers. Because of the desire to win some clubs are offering players on other teams more money to jump. They may not be able to leave their own club, but they become dissatisfied and are of no value thereafter. they become dis

Getting right close to home, there is plenty doing. Besides the Eastern League, we have the American, Indus-trial, two Interclub Leagues, Bank and Trust League, two amateur leagues, two Juvenile leagues, seven church leagues and a lot of smaller organizations, besides some leagues formed inside of clubs who have their own courts. All told, there are about 23 leagues playing in Philadelphia right now.

All of the above leagues will play the intercollegiate rules. The Intercollegiate, A. A. U. and Y. M. C. A. rules are all one this year. For years the heads of these organizations have been trying to standardize the rules and they have succeeded in a great research. standardize the rules and they have succeded in a great measure. Universal basketball rules are bound to come. One of these days the men behind the professional sport will get together with those who contral the destinies of the amateur bodies and agree on one set of rules. This may be in the distant future, but it is bound to come. It was a difficult thing to find two school teams playing the same kind of rules in the same kind o ing the same kind of rules in this sec-tion last winter, but there will be no such trouble this winter, as nearly every school will play the collegiate game.

GOAL AVERAGES MAY DETERMINE LEAGUE WINNER

Bethlehem Soccerists Not Prolific Scorers as Disston in American League

RACE RESUMED JAN. 8

When the second half of the American occer League season starts on January i Disston will have the advantage of a four-point lead over Bethlehem. Disston has won from each of the remaining five dabs, including the steelworkers, while the latter team gained its points at the espense of Boys' Club, Victor and the Rangers, the weak clubs of the league. The game with the Hibernians still is to

Although there is little doubt in the minds of soccerists that Bethlehem is the strongest team in the circuit, the the strongest team in the circuit, the trenton 9 8 529 Jasper, 4 12 250 points lost to Disston on November 29 may cost the up-State eleven the cham-pionship. Bethlehem and Disston do not meet again until February 5; meanwhile the weaker clubs will be played and val-uable points obtained. Even should the steelworkers defeat Disston, the Tacony-Hes would still be in the running, since be one of the other clubs of the lengue, but even the Hibernians, should upset not even the Hiberni either of the leaders.

In the event of a Bethlehem win over Diston and form prevailing in the re-maining games, the teams would be tied at points, and the championship would so to the one with the best goal average. This is where Disston has a decided advantage, for its average at present for are games is 26-1, while Bethlehem's, in four games, is 15-2, and the fifth game is with the Hibs.

The American League race in recent Years has been merely a two or three-cornered fight, and until that condition is remedied the blue ribbon of local soccer games will not receive the patronage it should.

Bob Wilson, the Wanderers' right halfback, as entirely recovered from the illness that as confined tim to his home for the past math, and when the Ailled League campaign a resumed on January 8 he will be again on the field. George Wilson will, in all likelibed, return to his position at inside left at the same date.

With these two men back in the game the amateur Cup holders should forge rapidly to the front in the first division of the Allied tests. The team is now thed with St. Culantel for fifth place, but the league leading furnam and Falls elevens are only three bears as the company weeks of the face will see be made up.

Tener Is Optimistic

Tener Is Optimistic
YORK, Dec. 28.—Fighting baseil make the season of 1916 the bigthe history at the game from the
it of both pflaying and attendance,
to President Tener, of the National
in his first prognostication since the
Cinchmati was signed. It will be
season for the players. Tener asseasise they were shown such cona by the club owners in the settleit the men are sure to play at top

trially stopped going to the games. There is just as much enthusiasm now in the mining regions of Pennsylvania as there ever was in New York State.

THIRTY CUBS AND WHALES WILL GO SOUTH TO TRAIN

Charley Thomas Turns Eye Toward Toledo Club

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.-Charley Thomas, president of the Chicago Cubs, appeared likely today to transfer his baseball activities to Toledo. When he is dis-possessed of the Bruins by Charles Weeghman, Thomas plans to secure control of the Cleveland American Association club and transfer it to Toledo, is was

reported.
Thirty players will make the spring training trip of the amalgamated Cub-Whale teams, Charles Weeghman said to-day. He expects to weed out a bunch of the players he has on hand.

TRENTON TRIUMPHS OVER READING, 23-20

Fogarty's Field and Foul Goals in Last Three Minutes of Play Mean Victory

Club Standing

TOMORROW NIGHT'S SCHEDULE.

TRENTON, Dec. 28.-Trenton nosed out Reading in the last three minutes of the roughest basketball game of the local season last night by a score of 23 to 20. Three minutes before the game ended the score was a tie at 20, but during the space which clapsed before the gong sounded Fogarty received a pass under the basket from Getxinger and tossed the goal. In an effort to prevent the tally Haggarty fouled Fogarty, and Joe promptly landed the foul toss and won the match.

The contest early developed into a close guarding o.e. both teams doing some re-markable blocking. The fact that but one field goal was landed during the first half, that one by Boggio, 15 seconds be-fore the half ended, is evidence of the closeness of the play. The first half resolved itself into a con-

The first half resolved itself into a con-test of foul tossing between Sears and Fogarty, with Sears having a shade the better of the contest. He landed 10 out of 13 shots, while Fogarty pocketed 8 out of 12. The half ended with the score: Reading, 12: Trenton, 8. Referee Brennan was hooted by the crowd for his apparent indifferent work,

and on more than one occasion the contest got beyond his control and bordered on football.

Wrestlers in Draw Match

NEW YORK. Dec. 28.—Alex Aberg, world's Graeco-Roman wrestling champion, still builds his title ludar. The throne, however, was badly rocked when the champion and the Musical Marved clashed in a scheduled finish tussie at the International Tournament that night, but Aberks wonderful strength held off defeat during two hours and 49 minutes of furious wrestling. The centest was stoused at 1 a, m. today in accordance with the law. The unknown grampler held the upper hand throughout the match.

Dooin Drawn for Jury Service Charles S. Dools, former manager of the Phillies and now a catcher for the New York Gianta is summoned for farry service in Common Pleas Court No. 1, beginning the first Monday in January.





The Beacon basketball team, a semi-professional organization, has been giving the fans in Northeastern Philadelphia a series of clever cage exhibitions at Disston Hall and also at Beacon Church, Cedar and Cumberland streets. Reading from left to right, the men in the photograph are: Standing—A. Duff, forward; James McDowell, president; H. Randell, manager; H. Hazlett, centre. Seated—P. Tigeart, forward; C. Blair, guard; Wil liam Livingston, guard.

TRINITY CLUB MEN TO RACE IN STARR FIVE-MILE EVENT

Brooklyn Team, Winner of 1915 Trophy, Again to Bid for New Year's Day Laurels

Entries are pouring in for the fourth annual handicap five-mile street race to be held New Year's Day under the Joint auspices of the South Street Business Men's Association and the Theodore Starr Club. According to the arrangements, the event is to be started at 10:59 o'clock.

From present indications, the number of contestants will surpass those of the previous years, and included in the en-tries received to date is the famous Trinity Club of Brooklyn, which last year showed the way home for the team year showed the way home for the team trophy. This same team last week finished second in the junior national championships. The team is made up of the fastest distance runners in New York. The race this year will be run over the newly laid wooden blocks, which should make the going better. Many of the Philadelphia clubs and individuals have already sout in their blocks.

As an added attraction this year, everrunner finishing the entire course will be presented with a bronze survivor's medal. The prizes, which will number medal. The prizes, which will number 50 in all, are of handsome design and studded with diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds.

Entries close today with William L.

already sent in their blanks.

Charr, the Theodore Starr Club, Starr Garden, 6th and Lombard streets, or A. A. U. headquarters, 1422 South Penn Square, and Louis N. Goldsmith, 1811 Chestnut street.

The Boston A. A. will conduct an intercity wrestling tournament at Boston on January 17. The classes will be 115, 125, 135, 145 and heavyweight. Many of the local A. A. U. grapplers are entered.

Tinker's Tentative Team for Next Year Joe Tinker, whom rumor has placed at the head of the Cubs-Whales combina-tion, has picked the appended tentative team to represent Chicago in the Na-tional League next season:

FIRST BASE Saler SHORTSTOP THIRD BASE .269 OUTFIELDERS CATCHERS ,240 ,309 ,326

PITCHERS

Tufts to Play Princeton

MEDFORD. Mass., Dec. 28.—The Trifts foot-sil schedule for 1916 shows a number of new olicese on the list, including Indiana Uni-erativ, Princeton and Syracuse. The sched-le follows: Sertember 30. Worcester Tech at ledited, October 7. Hayvard at Cambridge; leabler 14. Frinceton at Frinceton; Cetober 21, looson College at Medford; October 28, Indiana tate at Indianapolis, November 14. Massachu-etts Aggies at Medford; November 11, Spring-eld 1. M. C. A. College at Springfeld; No-ember 18, Boudoin at Medford; November 23, yracuse, at Buston.

Swedish Coach to Visit Here

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Ernest Hierthers t one time prominent in this country as

Cornell Chess Team Wins

LEGAL LIGHTS WHO ENDED BASEBALL WAR

WHEELER COMPANY EMPLOYES TO FORM **BIG ORGANIZATION**

Thomas J. Callahan Is Power Behind Move-Soccer, Baseball and Basketball to Be Promoted

Thomas J. Callahan, who is the athletic enthusiast at the Wheeler Company, 18th street and Allegheny avenue, has announced some interesting plans for the coming year. According to the scheme of Mr. Callaban an athletic association will be formed and various branches of sport

In an interview today Mr. Callahan said: "The boys of the Wheeler Com-pany have been interested in athletics for a long time and we have made some at-tempt at organization, but never quite realized that ambition. The time is not far distant, however, before we do have governing body, and then I predict big

"We have played baseball and this year soccer appealed to a number of the men.
As a result of the interest in the English pastime a crack eleven was formed. MacLaren, a wiry Englishman, is the heart of the soccer team, and he has been instilling the fight in the boys. Broadley is managing the details, and doing very well, while Linderman and Healey are stars of the first water. This year are playing independent games, but hope to become a member of the Industrial Soccer League next year.

"We have, "continued Mr. Callahan, "We have, "continued Mr. Callahan, "already made arrangements for a good baseball team. Last year we played in-dendent games and will do so again this time. Maybe in 1917 we will be strong enough to play in the Industrial League. I hope so. In basketball we are doing a bit, but we are not as strong as some other manufacturing plants, but hope to George Bonhag has not turned pro-fessional as has been hinted. George is advising the athletes at Hamilton In-stitute, not coaching them.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Cornell scored the headers in the first round of the Triangular College these League vesterday. The match against the University of Pennsylyania quartet, on four boards, resulted in favor of the Ithacans by the score of 25 to 15.

LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONS DO NOT LINGER LONG AT TOP

Average Reign of Titleholder Since McAuliffe's Time Is Three Years—Joe Gans Held Crown for Six Years

No sport witnesses the passing of champions with greater frequency than does the price wing. rounds in 1908. Gans was then 34 and Nelson eight years younger. Had it been anybody else but Nelson his fent of winning at that age might have excited some comment, but in view of the Dane's unique career the same thing might have happened with the Battler.

Nelson's career at the top was of short duration, however, and when Wolgast, in full bloom of youth and strength came siong the durable one was knocked from his perch. His age then was 28; Wolgast's 22. Apendictie, damaged arms, broken han does the prize ring.

Billiard players are stars when their hair is silvered with gray; hall players are in harness when their years have exceeded 40, and Jockeys have families while still in the saddle. Howers never seem to be crowded out of the spotlight by young blood.

Age there often improves upon skill and

they seem to live out a generation at the pinnacle of their careers. Look back into the history of Queenaberry and learn the fate of exponents who have endeavored to defy the ravages of time. Take the lightweight class, where the

his perch. His age then was 23; Wolgast's
22. Apendicitis, damaged arms, broken
hands and sundry other misfortunes
hastened Wolgast's end and in two years'
time another had usurped his throne,
Willie Ritchle, at 21, turning the trick
against a rival but three years older.
Strangely enough, Ritchle's reign at
the top covered a period no greater than
that of his immediate predecessor. It is
commonly conceded, in the light of subsequent events, that Ritchle never really
lost his title to Weish. A canvas of the
fistic population in America would develop favorable sentiment for Ritchle
from at least 90 per cent. passing show is swift and ever changing in personnel. From the days of George Lavigne, who assumed the title upon the retirement of Jack McAuliffe, one of the

retirement of Jack McAuliffe, one of the few who realized when he was through and quit undefeated, remarkable changes transpired with astonishing frequency. With the exception of Joe Gans, Wol-gast's finish at the age of 24 isn't any-thing to marvel over. Every lightweight champion since McAuliffe's time has passed out before attaining his 30th year,

passed out before attaining his 30th year, and save for the great negro champlon, none lingered at the pinnacle for a longer period than four years.

Lavigne at 25 popularly conceded premier distinction among the 133-pounders when McAuliffe shed his ring attire for simple retirement. He blazed his name from coast to coast of America and across the Atlantic, but was shorn of his honors at the age of 25. Frank Erne, at the age of 24, then ascended to the pedestal and for three years he beat back each attack on his crown. each attack on his crown.

One day at Fort Erie, when Erne was 27, Joe Gans smote the Buffale boy on the jaw in the first round and Gans, 23, became lightweight champion of the world. This time the title remained un-altered for six years. There wasn't the crop of lightweights then that infested the country several years later and Gans was obliged to accept engagements in the welterweight class, and while he was whipped several times, it never was at the cost of his title.

vaulted to the top at 21 was reduced to
the ranks at 23.
Welsh was 28 when he had the good
fortune to be at home when fighting for
the championship, and now is approaching 30. It is believed that Welsh never
would have won the title except under
the system of boxing in England. This
belief is supported by Freddy's career
since, during which time he has been
outpointed as many times as Al Palzer
is whipped.
But, while conditions favored Welsh, But, while conditions favored Welsh.

even at the expense of a far better fighter, he is accepted as champion and will remain so until somebody wins the title, which isn't at all probable in view was coniged to accept engagements in the was welterweight class, and while he was of his desire to escape a meeting when whipped several times, it never was at the crown is involved, and it would be interesting to know how his reign will compare in length with his predecessors.

velop favorable sentiment for Ritchle from at least 90 per cent.

Since being relieved of his title in London Ritchle opposed Freddy under conditions more favorable and the Briton was administered a lacing. The decision of Referee Corri, however, gave Welsh Ritchle's title and a fighter who had vaulted to the top at 21 was reduced to the ranks at 23.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION TO LEAVE CLEVELAND

Ban Johnson Says Indians Must Have Clear Field

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.-The American Association team must be taken from Cleve-land, according to a statement made by President Johnson, of the American League, before leaving for the Forest City to discuss with bankers there the baseball situation. Magnates of the American League will gather in Cleveland either Wednesday or Thursday to dispose of the question involved in the affairs of the major and minor league clubs which are being handled by a committee of bankers for Charles Somers.

VINCOME TEAM IN NIGHT SIGNAL DRILL

Eleven Works Out Under Arc Lights at 53d and Walnut Streets

Unable to get a gymnasium for practice last night the Vincome football team. which meets McClure on New Year's Day for the championship of Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, resorted to

neighborhood of 53d and Walnut streets. This was the first occasion on which the Vincome players were together since their last game three weeks ago at Northeir last game three weeks ago at Nor-ristown. Manager MacDonald, however, has arranged to conduct the work-outs indoors hereafter, except on the morn-ing before the game, when the Vincome team will practice on the Strawbridge and Clothier Field, the scene of the game the afternoon following.

Managers of the two teams will meet

Managers of the two teams will meet at the playing field tomorrow afternoon to arrange for handling a probable crowd of 500. The demand for tickets is so great that provision will be made to put the pasteboards on sale at some downtown agency. It is the plan of the managers to provide 1000 reserved chairs for the sidelines.

for the sidelines.

In the lineap of the Vincome team last night were the players that are scheduled to start the championship battle on Saturday. Harold Lentz, one of the most sendon, the control of the most sendon. day. Harold Lentz, one of the most sen-sational players to be turned out by a local school, directed the play from the quarterback position. The Vincome team-work will be built principally around Lentz, as he is a punter and drop kicker of note, a brainy leader, an accurate forward passer and a remarkable runner with the ball.

Most of the time was spent in wearing the rust off the plays used by Vincome during the past season and developing an open attack, which will be used extensively. The Vincome boys have fashioned their attack after the style adopted by Fonter Sanford, the famous Yale player and for several seasons hast coach of the Rutgers College cleven.

Artie Ball Is Dead

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Artic Ball, the great shortstob of the famous Rultimers Cricles of the late 1972. Is dead at his home in Hyde Park, Ball had been out of bossbill since about 1915. He was 41 years oil. He went into professional baseball at Indonated as the control of the Salary of the Salary to Jack as a strength of the Salary to the S

FULTON, OPPONENT OF JESS WILLARD. **MYSTERY FIGHTER**

Career in Ring of Mammoth Minnesota Heavyweight Is Unknown

MATCH HAS BEEN PANNED

Fred Fulton, the mammoth Minnesotan, who will get an opportunity to meet Champion Jess Willard in the latter's first match since returning the crown to the Caucausian race, is a man of mystery-a complete stranger-so far as his pugilistic ability is concerned. However, although a championship match, no matter how one-sided, is a value of news, New Orleans papers have "knocked" instead of boosted the scrap. As expected, publicity given the fight is far from flattering to Willard and the March 4 match in general, as the Kansan is coming in for many a roast for passing up Frank Moran and Jim Coffey in favor of a comparatively unknown novice. It is admitted on all sides that neither Moran nor Coffe. Moran nor Coffey would have a possible chance with Willard, so it appears that the promoters made a wise move in getting Fulton, but the press is not looking at the matter in that light. The ability of Moran and Coffey is known, but as Fulton is a novice and has not competed in any big bouts his mettle is more or loss a mystery.

Fulton is a novice and has not competed in any big bouts his mettle is more of less a mystery.

When it comes to deciding between known quantity which is insufficient and an unknown quantity it apparently it good policy to take a chance on the unknown. The prospects of success may be one chance in a hundred. It certainly is better than no chance at all.

That Fulton has shown less than any man who ever obtained a chance to fight for a championship cannot be denied. The Minnesotan has the longest reach of any man in the ring today. With his arms apread out he spans \$4% inches, more than an inch longer than that of Willard. Fulton is a whale of a man, but the only advantage he has on Willard is reach. Fred stands is feet 4 inches, two inches shorter than Jess, while the champion has the better of 23 pounds in weight, Fulton tipping the beam at 230 pounds.

Eddie Revolr will tackle the veteran, Kid Broad, in the wind-up at the Doug-las Club tonight: The program follows:

First bout—Frisco Legs vs. Kid Streedle. Second bout—Sec-saw Kelly vs. Jim Wit-Third bout-Young Howard vs. Al Fox. Send wind-up-Temmy Cranston vs. Joe Ful-Wind-up-Eddie Revotre vs. Kid Broad.

Scraps About Scrappers A letter for Hock Bones is awaiting claim in the Sports Department of the Evening Leelers.

ABSENT-MINDED ABNER-Anyway, His Mother Didn't Raise Him to Be a Watchman!-By WALT McDOUGALL

This trio of attorneys drew up the articles of the "peace pact" which was signed by the representatives of the Federal League and organized baseball. They are, left to right: John M. Galvin, Cincinnati, representative of the National League; S. M. Swarts, St. Louis, Federal League attorney; Judge George H. Williams, St. Louis, representative of the American League.

