JACK JOHNSON MAY BE CLOSE TO AMERICA, BUT HE'S FAR, FAR AWAY FROM FIT FIGHTING FORM

RETURN OF JOHNSON TO BOXING SHOULDN'T **BE** TAKEN SERIOUSLY

Ex-Champion and Present Exile Has No Opponents and at Forty-four Years Stands Small Chance of **Returning to Fighting Trim**

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

THE news that John Arthur Johnson, former champlon heavyweight pugilist, had arrived in Havana, Cuba, is not much of a surprise, for the dusky warrior for years has been working up a determination to return o his native land and answer the charges which made him a fugitive from justice. Johnson is close to the United States-as close as he over has been since escaping the indiciment brought against him in Chicago in 1912. He toured Europe, welcome in some countries and not so welcome n others. In England be was asked to depart after playing in the principal cities with his theatrical troupe. They grow tired of him in Paris. and at the end the big black located in Barcelona, Spain, where he was to have been fairly well fixed.

Now he is close to the shores of America and plans to go to Mexico City to margage in five boxing contests. That is the story which flashed over the wires, but it is believed he soon will come back to his native land nd serve a prison sentence if that will insure his freedom in the future.

Jack has been a man without a country for nine long years. He has en a compulsory exile, cut off from his home and friends-a fugitive who was "wanted" by the police. But there never has been a moment of his exile that he did not long to return to America. Perhaps the fact that he couldn't return made the longing all the keener, and those who met him on the other side were deluged with questions about the old scenes and old acquaintances.

It is said that the best Jack got was a little the worst of it when he fell afoul of the law, but no grief was expressed when he left the country for foreign shores. Jack had a faculty of getting in bad with the authorities and never being able to get out of trouble.

HE WAS arrested on a white slave charge in Chicago and faced a long term in prison when he was released on bail. He es-

caped into Canada and from there sailed for Enviand. He never has been back

Prosperous in Chicago as Cafe Proprietor

TOHNSON was getting along nicely in Chicago before his last jam with the police. He owned a big cafe on the South Side where colored elite used to gather. The furnishings were magnificent and Jack took special pride in telling his friends all about the cuspidors, which were made of silver and cost \$70 each. Business was good because the champion was popular and everything was done on a cash basis.

But trouble came to the presperous cafe and soon the owner was among those missing. Jack had no desire to don a striped suit and qualify as a sophomore in the state penitentiary. He put up \$35,000 in cash as a bond and then made a clean getaway.

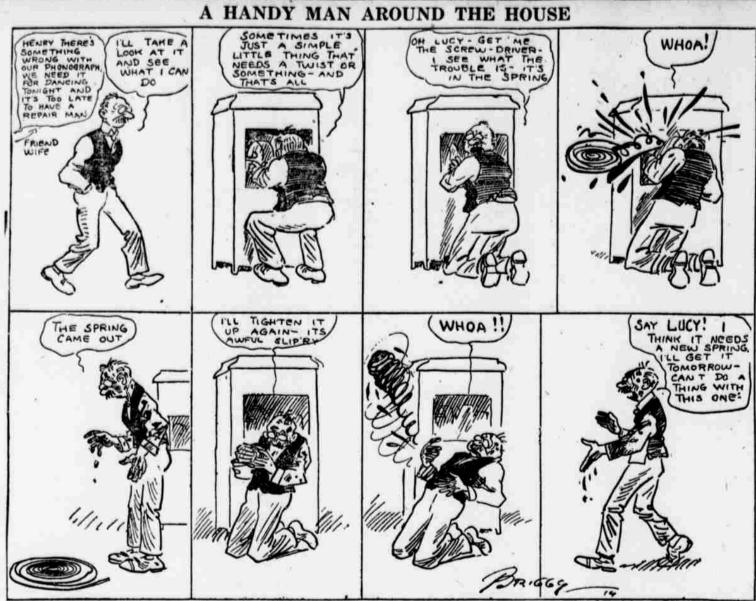
Jack is a shrewd person. He knew he would be closely watched, so made his plans accordingly. At that time a colored baseball team was touring the country and Jack joined it as trainer. Dressed in old, shabny clothes and wearing a cap pulled down over his eyes, he looked like a typical roustabout, and finally worked his way fito Canada. From there he took a steamship for England and decided to live there until he played out his string.

However, he had a penchant for getting into trouble and soon was a frequent visitor in the courts. He drove a big racing car, had an utter disregard for the speed have and the authorities soon grew tired of him. Jack was making lots of money in England, for in addition to his theatrical troupe he sold automobile accessories, such as headlights and tires, advertised them from the stage and the public felt honored to buy from him. He also was a traveling agent for one of the most popular cars in England and his sales were enormous.

It has been said that Johnson was broke, but such is not the case Economy never was part of his routine, but he always had some money laid aside and saved it for the well-known rainy day. He was considered a wealthy man in Spain, for Lieutenant Ben Clime, who saw him in Madrid less than a year ago, said Jack was one of the influential citizens and a favorite of the head-waiters. A guy must have money to be affluent with the coars of the big cafes.

JOHNSON has always loved jettels, motorcars and other expensive luxaries, and never denied himself any of these. His pace has been a rapid one, but his keen shrewdness kept his account on the right side of the ledge)

Too Old and Too Fat to Fight



ALL-STAR FIVE SPRING FOOTBALL Lee Wins Squash Racquets **DRILL FOR PENN MEETS ST. JOE Championship of Merion**

O'Brien and Passon Will Defeats Albert Mills in Deciding Match of the Maj. Pickering Announces Annual Handicap Tournament By the That Two Weeks' Prac-Make Debut With Alltice Will Be Held Scores of 15-7, 18-15, 18-17 Scholastics Tonight

Full Strength Tonight

"We have been playing," Grated Poll-koff early this morning, "In all sorts of Iti luck, Not once have we been able to Out of Court

In tack. Not once have we been able to play with our full strength. Some one had to attend a banquet, keep an im-Out of Court Cincinnati, March 12 .- The suit

NO RISE IN PRICE OF AMERICAN GOLF BALLS

Women's National Title

Tourney Slated for June

The women's national golf cham-pionship, which will be decided this year at the Shawnee Country Club, will be played the third week in June.

will be played the third week in Juna. In previous years the national tilt has been scheduled for the fail of the year but the club and the women players have suggested that the event be slated for June. With Mrs. Clar-ence H. Vanderteck, the 1916 cham-pion, and Miss Mildred Caverly, the 1917 runner up, Mrs. Ronald H. Bar-low, Mrs. Caleb F. Fox and other Philadelphia women as probable em-tries there is a chance that the next woman golf champion will be a Philadelphian.

FAIL TO NAME COACH

Again Columbia Authorities Fail to Solve Rowing Problem

New York, March 12 .- Although the

Last Year's List of U. S. Makes to Remain, but Foreign Styles Show In-

crease

KNIGHT AFTER RECORD

By PETER PUTTER

THE new revenue bill has just one ray of light in it and that is that golf balls will not cost any more this year than they did last year. But this has been arranged in such a way that the dealer carries the tax and does not pass it on to the player.

There has been discrimination against the manufacturer of sporting goods For instance, the taxes on automobiles and talking machines and a lot of things jumped from 3 to 5 per cent, but in the case of sporting goods manufacturers it went from 3 to 10 per cent and if that is not discrimination just what is in or Public Lenders in Monday's Even-ing FURLIC Lenders in the number of the golf course architects, is coming to Philathat is not discrimination just what is it? Briggs cartoon in Monday's Even. It o make up the deficit to make up the deficit Donald Ross, the best of the solf course architects, is coming to Phila-delphia the middle of next month to improve the Whitemarsh Valley course. delphia the middle of next month to improve the Whitemarsh Valley course. The club has felt for some time that some of the holes can be improved, either by trapping or by changing. Some of these holes are the third, fourth, fith, seventh and the long eleventh. The rest of the coles may they should be taxed more than any other class of manufacturer. As a rule the consumer pays the tax. The manufacturer passes the buck to the dealers and jobbers and they to the retailer and the retailer to the con-

the retailer and the retailer to the con-sumer and as there is no one left the consumer pays. Fortunately the dealer will pay the 10 per cent this year and golf balls will not cost any more than they d'd last year.

Foreign Balls Expensive

Columbia University committee on ath-

Foreign Balls Expensive Foreign Balls Expensive Foreign Balls Expensive Foreign balls, like the Radio and the Silver King, have gone up, for Radios will cost \$1.05 and the Silver Kings \$1.25. Spaiding had \$2 balls last year This year there will be four—the Thir-ty. Forty, Fifty and Sixty, and the only difference between the first two and the last two will be that the new balls will have a tougher cover. The softer-covered balls had only one add vantage, and that was that they could be driven farther; but what was that they could be driven farther; but what was that they could was cut to pieces? Last fall the writer qualified in the second flight at Atlantic City and played one of these soft balls, wet at the end of the round that ball City and played one of these soft balls, yet at the end of the round that ball

was a wreck. The only American-made ball that has

The only American-made ball that has gone up in price is the Co'onel, some types of which have jumped from eighty-five cents to a dollar; while the seventy-five-cent ball has gone up to eighty-five cents. But the other makes remain where they were.

Nineteenth Hole Costly, Too

New Brunswick, March 12.—Rutgers will send a swimming team to the intercol-jegiates, to be held in New York on March 26. Captain Lukens, who was champion of the mary in hoth the 100 and fifty-pard swime last year and has not been beaten this season. will enter both events. The Wright & Ditson balls, will be sold for the same prices we paid last year, and other makes will bring the 1918 prices. With a 10-per-cent tax on dues and with prices at the nineteenth hole

Princeton Five Easy for Male

Harvard Scrubs Down Varsity

Cambridge, Mass., March 12 - The Har-ard baseball candidates worked out of loors yesterday afternoon, setting a new ecord for the file of leaving the cage. Soach Duffy's firsheitring players were eaten, 4 to 3, by the second team, which his asable to bunch this asainst Pitcher Erb.

Rutgers Enters Swimming Champs

New Haven. Conn., March 12.- Tale c ated Princeton by a score of 22 to 10 1 Intercollegiate League basketball gat re last night.



the national joy smake

Now he is back to the scene of his greatest defeat, in Havana, where Jess Willard relieved him of the heavyweight championship after twenty-six rounds of grueling lighting. Jack now says the bout was a frame-up; that he laid down for \$30,000 and a promise of immunity from the Chicago courts. This never has been believed, for every one at the ringside is willing to take an oath that the bout was on the level But even then-three years ago Johnson wanted to get back to be

old home. Perhaps the promoters did promise to do something for him when the match was signed, but Jack should have known better than place any dependence on those persons. Making promises is their long ult. Perhaps he has fallen for some more of that immunity stuff in signing for those "five fights in Mexico City.

But the question now arises, Can Johnson come back as a boxer? At Hayana, before the Willard fight, he admitted he was forty-one years of age. The record books had him at thirty-nine, but Jack admitted he cheated a couple of years on his age. He could not get into condition then, and it is unlikely that he can do it now, at the age of forty-four.

When he first reached Havana, in 1916, after a roundabout journey from France to Buenos Aires and then to Cuba on a fishing sloop, Jack worked hard and apparently was making a desperate effort to get himself right for the fight. Without any warning, however, he soon knocked off the more strenuous features and confined himself to very light work.

It may be that he saw he could not get into condition and gave it up as a bad job, trusting to his ring generalship and experience and the possibility of Willard's inexperience to get by. Whatever the reasons, he certainly did not train as he used to train and his daily workouts a week efore the fight were jokes.

JOHNSON cannot be considered seriously as a baser at present. He is too old, he cannot possibly get into good physical shape and, anyway, who can he fight? As Jimmy Isaminger says, he has six battles in prospect-five with unknowns and one with the district attorney in Chicago.

Johnson Made Philadelphia Debut in 1903

IL ARTHA made his debut in Philadelphia in 1903, hopping off a fast freight by request. He had boxed in the West and had a good record. However, there wasn't much work for him here, so he signed to box for Lew Bailey at the old Broadway Club. Johnson received \$25 for his first battle and won easily. After that he became a great drawing card and used to meet two men a night, boxing each three rounds.

Jack trained in Lew Bailey's basement and was a frequent guest at the homes of his friends-especially at meal times. Bill Butler was his principal means of support, and he made his home his headquarters. However, Johnson's memory was short, and when he gained fame and won the championship those old friends were forgotten. Jack gave them the gate when they tried to see him at his hotel.

"Johnson was a great man in the ring," said Lew Balley, "but on the outside was as gentle as a lamb. He was deathly afraid of dogs and would as the street rather than pass one. I had a white buildog that caused ak lots of annoyance. One day I turned him loose, and when Johnson aw him he tore down the street and didn't stop until he had covered three ares. He wouldn't return to the house until the dog had been chained in the back yard."

Johnson's last appearance here was on May 19, 1909, when he boxed k O'Brien at the National. Philadelphia Jawn, realizing it was a wonal bout and would draw a big gate, gambled with the club and paid on \$5000 out of his own pocket. O'Brien, incidentally, received almost the as much for his share.

STORY is told of Johnson the day after the fight. He was A walking along Broad street and saw a big automobile in a window. Entering the store, he asked the price.

"Four thousand dollars," said the clerk.

"I'll take it now and drive away with it," replied Johnson, taking the money out of his pocket. The sale was made,

I SALASSAN

portant date, or was out on account of cinnati Reds, against the Cincinnati sickness. But we have plugged ahead haseball club for back salary which he and believe we have overcome the jinks, "Tonight we will have our entire strength on the floor against St. Joe. In ddition there against St. Joe. In

strength on the floor against St. Joe. In addition there will be three substitutes on hand, all of whom are capable of stepping in and playing without weak-ening the team. O'Brien, the star North-cast player, and "Chick" Passon, the former Southern captain, will make their first appearance, and with them in the line-up we expect to win. Passon and Freeman will play forwards, Leopold will jump center and O'Brien and either Hamilton, Sweet or Vorgelin will be at Hamilton, Sweet or Vorgelin will be at guards."

Driscoll and Halas Discharged

CHASE SUIT DISMISSED

Play Harrisburg Tech Chicago, March 12.—Ensten "Paddy" Dris-roll and Ensign George Halas, football and baseball stars at the Great Jackes Training Station, were released from active duty yes-ierday. Halas has been signed by the New York Americans, while Driscoll will report to the Chicago Nationals. Play Harrisburg 1ech Even though they were defeated in the first two games, the All-Scholastics are in demand all over the state. Man-ager Polikoff has arranged to play Harrisburg Tech at Harrisburg March 21; Lansford High, the 224; Allentowa Prep, the 28th, and Reading High, the 29th. It is probable that a game will and the state of work high.

Al Mamaux Back Again Brooklyn, March 12 - President Charles II. Ethleta, of the Brooklyn ball club, announced yesterday that he has see level the signed contract of Pitcher Al Mamaux. played with Hazleton a week later. The St. Joseph team is one of the best

The St. Joseph team is one of the best in the city and has lost but one game all season—that to Canden High several weeks ago. Since that time they have been unbeatable, and are now clamoring for a gime with either Central High for a gime with either Central High for a philadelphia to settle the thirty-six games. scholastic championship of the city.

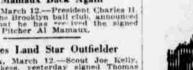
Sherwood A. A. Journeyed to Steison Mis-blon last hight to play the second team, but the first in was without a game. Sher-wood went in maint the first team and was defoated 44 to 19. Stetson Beats Sherwood

Clifton Heights Loses Cilition Heights lost a hotly played game to Standard Roller Bearing Company's five last night at Ciliton, by a 26-to-25 score. It was the first defeat for Ciliton this year.



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you'll want to get a

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you'll want to get a photograph of yourself breezing up the pike with your smokethrottle wide open! Talk about smoke-sport! You

Right now while it's good going get out your old jimmy pipe or the papers and land on some P. A. for what ails your particular smoke-

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appetite!