

1.56 ³/₅.

J. S. JOHNSON, OF MILWAUKEE, COVERS THE MILE ON THE KITE TRACK IN THAT TIME.

The report of Johnson's ride against time at Independence, Iowa, is generally scouted by the American Cycling Press, who base their opinions on the reputation of his trainer, Tom Eck, the professional, who is regarded as considerable of a "fake" by those who know him. We give below the details of the ride as published in the daily press:—

INDEPENDENCE, Sept. 22.—The 300 persons who went out to the Driving Park this afternoon to see the famous Minneapolis wheelman, John S. Johnson, attempt to break the world's record for a mile of 2m. 4 4-5s. with a flying start, were well repaid for their trouble. Six o'clock was the time fixed for the start, and promptly on time the cyclist appeared. A slight rain this morning put the track in excellent trim, and after it had been smoothed and planed it was in perfect condition.

Every preparation was made to have the performance strictly according to rule. The referee, Charles F. Tucker of this city, is an experienced wheelman, as are also the judges, who were John Evans and W. C. Littlejohn. As usual, experienced horsemen, familiar with the use of the chronograph, were selected as timers, being Sam Caton, of Dubuque, Ia.; John Secore, of Galesburg, Ill.; J. L. Doherty, of Clinton, Ont., and J. F. Martindale, C. A. Thompson, and O. O. Tibbetts of this city.

Two horses hitched to sulkies used to encourage the trotters in their work were selected to make the pace, one going to the half mile while the other accompanied the

wheelman over the latter part of the journey. The bicycle track is measured 1 1/4 feet from the pole, while the trotting course is measured 3 feet out from the pole, and in order to reconcile this difference the watches were started 10 feet back of the wire.

After a warming up quarter, Johnson went up the loop. The watches clicked, and he was off. He set a record-breaking clip from the start, covering the first quarter in 29 1/2s. The half was reached in 58 3-5s., and here the tired horse pulled out. A fresh one came in front of the plucky rider. The three-quarter pole was reached in 1m. 28 1/2s.

A drop of nearly 6 seconds is the record for that distance. It hardly seemed possible that the wheelman could keep up such a clip, but he never faltered, and finished the mile within two feet of the runner's sulky in the wonderful time of 1m 56 3-5s., a drop of 8 1/2 seconds from the record he started to beat.

Three rousing cheers greeted Johnson when he came back to the stand, and he was warmly congratulated upon the result of his splendid effort. This performance to-day gives Johnson all the world's records from a quarter of a mile to a mile, and demonstrates his superiority as a short distance rider. The track here deserves a great deal of credit, and the possibilities are that when the records are again lowered it will be over the Independence kite.

G. M. Wells, of the Wanderers, spent two or three weeks at Springfield training and racing with the Eastern cracks, and though he only brought back one prize still the experience he gained will no doubt stand him in good stead when he starts to get into shape next season. He was accompanied by F. J. Whatmough as friend and mentor.

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