

M'COY HAS LARGE-SIZED NOTION OF HIS ABILITY

Demands Large Purses for Bout, But Finds That the Promoters Refuse to Be Marks—Fight Gossip by Jim Corbett

By James J. Corbett.
Former Heavyweight Champion of the World.

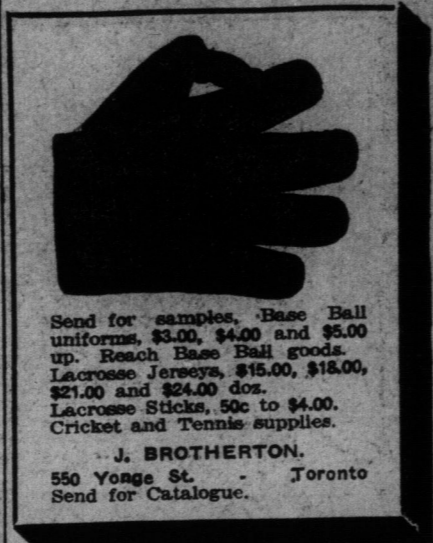
NEW YORK, May 2.—(Special to The Sunday World.)—Furry what a few weeks will sometimes make in the plans and demands of a boxer. Take the case of Al McCoy, the latest claimant of the middleweight title. Until he landed flush on George Chip's jaw, knocking Klaus' conqueror cold in less than a round, McCoy was satisfied to box any old dub for anything promoters would pay him. But since that time Al's estimation of the value of his services has taken a sharp upward jump.

Possibly the suddenness of the whole affair has turned Jack Dougherty's head. The veteran trainer is McCoy's manager, and it is now his boast that he is a "union" manager, and that he wants the union scale for his fighter—whatever that scale may be. Jack was up to see a theatrical friend of mine recently about getting some dates for his boy—it seems the new "champion" didn't turn out to be the sensation banked on in his first venture, and unless a new deal can be arranged it will be a case of having to fight for the money instead of getting it via the softer method of stage exhibitions.

I understand Jim Coffey asked Dougherty for his terms to bring Mc-

Coy to the coast to box Billy Murray twenty rounds, and that Jack's demand staggered the California promoter. Also a Pittsburgh matchmaker made Dougherty a liberal offer for a six round return go between McCoy and Chip, with the same result. However, it is thought that Jack will come to his senses before long. He will find promoters are not exactly crazy, and that there is no great demand to see McCoy—just now at any rate. Al will have to show more than he has before taking such a stand. If he would agree to the Murray match, no doubt Coffey would give him a fair guarantee with the privilege of taking a percentage of the receipts, and he ought to get a tidy sum out of it, even in defeat, for Murray is a big card out that way, where they regard him as the coming champion, and the best man of his weight since Stanley Ketchel.

There is no changing the public mind about the McCoy-Chip battle. Nearly everyone who saw it feels that Al was pretty lucky to get that punch over, and it is a sure thing Chip would rule favorite in a return bout. Of course the betting would not affect the result of the match, and Al might be able to repeat. Dougherty professes confidence, and says Al is not afraid of Chip. If he is sincere he ought to



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give George another chance. Chip knocked out Frank Klaus, and repeated six weeks later, proving himself a good sport. McCoy would find that consenting to a return bout with Chip would prove an exceedingly popular move.

Willie Ritchie may box Freddy Welsh in New York City early in June. The lightweight champion intends to play some theatrical dates before coming to this city, but if satisfactory arrangements can be made with local promoters he would not be averse to cancelling a few weeks in order to box the British champion. Billy Gibson, matchmaker for the new Stadium A. C., is hot on the trail of both boys, and if they are willing to listen to reason Gibson will soon be in position to offer Gothamites a fast treat.

Gibson is banking on Welch's acceptance if Ritchie agrees to the bout.

MACK PREDICTS YANKS CONTENDERS

Says Frank Chance Has Good Club and That They Will Be There.

PHILADELPHIA, May 2.—Connie Mack predicts that the Yankees will be up with the pacemakers in the American League a greater part of this season. Mack figures that, if Caldwell, Keating, Cole and Fisher can pitch as well as Marty McHale, Chance would begin each game with a "Y" break.

Mack discussed the Yanks from every point of view. He said that Malen, Peckinpaugh, Walsh, and Sweeney were finished ball players, who would add strength to any club. He seemed to like the looks of Holden and Cook, but thought they were longer legs than they were long arms. The men evidently want to resent some of the unfair criticism that has been levelled at them, and that makes them doubly dangerous.

After everything Freddy's manager has said about Willie, and his fear of meeting the English champion, it is hardly thought that Welch will balk at the proposition.

It would make a great match, and local fans would willingly contribute the prices it would be necessary to ask for the meeting between these two stars of the lightweight division. American sports appreciate that Welch is about the only serious obstacle in Ritchie's path, and the sooner the question of American or English lightweight superiority settles the better they will be pleased. Naturally they want Ritchie to win, but if Welch should come out on top the fans would take their hats off to the clever little Briton. Of course, there is that "no decision" ruling in the way of a decisive verdict, but ten rounds ought to be enough to furnish a pretty good line on the result of a bout over a longer course.

Ritchie wrote me recently, stating that he would likely box in New York within the next few months, and as I know he doesn't believe in playing favorites, and is willing to box anyone a promoter who pays his price selects for him, there is a splendid chance of the match being made.

Look the following epistle over carefully, friend reader, and tell me what you think of the rabid individual who mailed to me last week. The "gent" claims Sacramento, Cal., as his home, which explains his admiration for Billy Murray:

"Dear Sir: As a native Californian you ought to boost California fighters more than you do. You are a native son, and ought to boost for other native sons. I read your article in The Enquirer every week, and I am surprised that you have so little to say about Californians. Billy Murray, the best middleweight fighter since Stanley Ketchel, is a native and yet you haven't had a word in his favor since he won the championship of the world by beating Jimmy Clabby, which he did, altho the referee called it a draw. Clabby was the recognized champion, and Murray made him pack up and go to Australia right after the match, which proved that Clabby would go to the other end of the world to dodge a return fight. I suppose you are like others from California who have left home and lived in the east—you have no use for the place where you made your reputation.

Now, what do you think of that? True, I have had little to say about Mr. Murray. Not having ever had the pleasure of seeing the young man box, I have to take everything regarding his skill second-hand. However, I am inclined to take your word for it, as a respondent regarding Murray's championship claims. The San Francisco papers named Referee Jim Griffin for calling the Clabby-Murray bout a draw, claiming that the verdict rightfully was Clabby's. However, I was not there, and cannot say whether Griffin was right or wrong—according to my way of figuring points in a boxing match. But I know Griffin very well, and have respect for his judgment, and the chances are the battle must have been a pretty even thing when he called it a draw.

But my correspondent says in epistle that I "have no use for California," still have a fondness for the place of my birth and boyhood days, and make it a point to visit the coast at least every year or two. At the same time my Sacramento friend must remember that I have lived in the east for nearly a quarter of a century, and have a few friends in this section also. However, I have always prided myself on my impartiality in the matter of expressing my opinion of boxers, and their skill. It makes no difference where a boxer hails from. If he has the goods, I am always only too happy to give him the credit due. Naturally it pleases me to learn that a California boy has made good in the prize ring. I would be less than human if I didn't, but at the same time I will never allow prejudice to make me unfair in my criticism of his opponents at any time.

Be fair, old pal, even if it hurts. Billy Murray is no doubt a great young fighter. Time will prove whether he is all what you claim for him. And I will root for him to make good just as hard as you will, take it from me.

Jim Coffey, a young heavyweight, of whom I have had occasion to speak favorably several times, knocked out Jim Flynn in four rounds at the Stadium A. C. last week. Coffey had every advantage over his adversary and would probably have won the fight under any conditions, but he resorted to unfair tactics several times, which did not make him any new friends or admirers. Several local critics have censured Coffey for his rough work, but it seems to me the referee was the one who should have been put on the grill. It was his duty to see that the men lived up to the rules, or if not to disqualify the offender.

Billy Gibson is Coffey's manager, and has arranged a match for his fighter with Bombardier Wells, to take place in England next month. If it were not for the fact that Wells has proved in several bouts in this country he is physically unable to take any great amount of punishment, I would surely pick him as the winner over Coffey, who is at yet in the hands of the novice class, altho a youth of considerable natural ability.

Wells is far and away the clever-

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RUBE WAS A HERO IT KILLED HIM

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 2.—Not baseball or discipline caused the death of Rube Waddell, after a hard fight with the dread disease, the white plague, in a manner. That's the only way one can explain his many quick defeats at the hand of men much less skilled than himself.

Hickman, Ky., and grew to like the old town and to be liked by the inhabitants. During the big flood last spring Rube jumped to the front and captained the workmen in the forty-eight hour fight to save the levee. He was taken ill and it developed into pneumonia, and he was sick through the last season and unable to play much baseball. In the fall he grew worse again and was rushed off to Texas by the Cantillons. The ranch life failed to bring him back, and he died in the fall of 1913.

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