

Curtain Up on Grand Circuit

Red Sox Pass New York

St. Lawrence Outdistanced

INSIDE STORY OF BIG FIGHT

Jeffries Was Sure He Would Win Until Fight Moved to Nevada—Gov. Dickerson a Factor.

New York, July 25.—Certain very wise sporting men who saw the Jeffries-Johnson fight at Reno, Nev., have come home with a story of attempted intrigue that is reproduced here for what it is worth. We will let one of the persons tell the yarn in his own way:

"You see when the Jeff-Johnson fight was first broached the men behind the gun, or rather the fellows with the coin, planned to frame it so that the negro would be down. Some of these chaps told Jeffries that he needn't be afraid of Johnson even if he had been idle for five years, and that all he had to do was to make a bluff at training and gather in the purse. If Johnson threw the fight it was a sure thing to bet a million on Jeffries with an ace in the hole and the sporting public at large not a bit the wiser. So when the fighters got together they signed secretly with Rickard and each got \$10,000. Rickard had some wise gazabo behind him with ready money who were bent on making a cleanup that would exceed anything of the kind on record in the sporting world.

"I understand that Jeffries wouldn't go ahead with the fight unless he was sure that he could win, and I'm told that after the secret confab with Johnson and Rickard in Hoboken Jeff was ready to bet his life on the result. Everything went along as smooth as glass until Gov. Gillett of California got a tip that the fight would be fixed and that Johnson would go to the mat for the knockout count. When Gov. Gillett received this real tip from a good man that something was doing he wouldn't stand for a frameup for the benefit of sure thing gamblers and just barred the fight from California.

"The moment Jeffries heard of this he was on the point of declaring the fight off, and would have done so but for the assurance from Rickard that everything would be all right at Reno. The word was passed to the sure thing syndicate and odds of 10 to 6 on Jeffries were renewed with confidence. There was a fortune waiting to be snapped up, but nobody wanted the Johnson end. Then came an interview between Rickard and Gov. Dickerson of Nevada. The latter said that he would not interfere with the fight so long as it was on the level, but the moment it took on a queer look he would have the State police in the ring and would clear the arena.

"With thousands of dollars in gate receipts and moving pictures in the balance Rickard assured the Governor of Nevada that there would be no frameup and that the best man would win on the square. And when Rickard said this it's a fact that 10 to 6 on Jeffries disappeared. It is also true that Jeffries began to show signs of worry and pitched their tents in a field near the trotting park. This morning the usual parade was witnessed by a large crowd from town and country who were well pleased with the showing made. This afternoon was the day of the trotting park. The Grand Falls ball team will play two games here on Wednesday and on Friday the locals will meet the Fredericton Tartars.

"Cobb has at last won his long fight for batting supremacy over Lajoie, leading him now by six points. Speaker is still a contender for the honors, and is more likely to carry them off than Lajoie, whose losses have been steady for the past month. Cobb is also regaining his prestige among the leading run getters and base stealers, his work for the week placing him upon an even basis with the leaders.

On the National side, Graham of Boston, has advanced to third position in the class list of hitters. This list, too, has undergone considerable change. Hofman and Zimmerman of the Cubs, and Mathewson of the Giants, giving way to Wagner of the Pirates, Bresnahan of the Cardinals and Burns of the Reds, whose batting has greatly helped out his pitching of winning games.

PIRATES AND CUBS IN FINISH

Catcher Kling Says Champions are Hardest Team for Chicago to Beat and Will Finish Strong.

John Kling, catcher of the Chicago national league club, has an idea that the Cubs and Pirates will be the teams that will fight it out for the pennant in the end. He is of the opinion that McGraw's men are traveling a bit faster than they should, and that when it comes to the hard grinding finish the Cubs and Pirates will be the only ones in it.

"That Pittsburg team," says Kling, "is by far the hardest aggregation in the national league for us to beat. It is a peculiar team, and in baseball peculiarly there is always one team in a league that can give you more trouble than all the others in a bunch. In the national league the Pirates are certainly the hoodoo of the Cubs.

"Everything Clarke's men try against us works. They get a man on first base and the hit-and-run signal is given. Maybe we catch it and I signal for a pitchout. What happens? The Pirate batter throws his stick at the ball and hits it. It goes floating to the outfield for a Texas leaguer. Luck? Why, the Pirates have more luck against the Cubs than they have against all the other teams in the league combined. That's why I find it so difficult to beat them.

"Take Hans Wagner, for instance. He is off form. That is when any other team is playing against the Pirates. He falls to hit and he falls to pick up the boundaries. But the moment he comes along he's a changed man. He can hit the ball a mile and cut off enough base hits in an afternoon to ruin any man's batting average.

"I know I have more tough luck against that gang than against any in the league. With a man on first I out-guess the runner. I know he is going to steal. I signal for the pickout and the chances are I drop the ball. The man is away, but the way it goes all during the game.

"If the Pirates try anything against us they get away with it. If they try the same thing against another team they fall. The Pittsburg team against the Cubs is stronger than against any team in the league. That accounts for our trouble in licking them."

WOODSTOCK ENJOYS CIRCUS AND BASEBALL

Woodstock, July 25.—Howe's great London shows arrived here yesterday afternoon, and pitched their tents in a field near the trotting park. This morning the usual parade was witnessed by a large crowd from town and country who were well pleased with the showing made. This afternoon was the day of the trotting park. The Grand Falls ball team will play two games here on Wednesday and on Friday the locals will meet the Fredericton Tartars.

COBB LEADS BATTERS IN AMERICAN

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How Baseball's Biggest Stars Just Happened in the Game

(By Pat.) This story might be called "Kicked Into Fame and Fortune," but it has to do with the accidental discovery of three of the greatest second basemen the baseball world has known, and is an attempt to tell how they have risen to the heights of being numbered among the best in the game, from obscure positions in life, which they might still be adorning but for their accidental discovery.

The men are Evers, of the Naps, Johnny Evers, of the Cubs, and Larry Doyle, of the New York Giants. I think everyone will agree that these three are the real goods among the big league second sackers. But they didn't begin life as ball players.

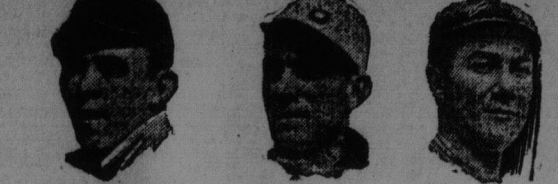
Johnny Evers worked in a collar factory in his home town, Troy, N. Y., and he was paid \$4 per week for his labors. Lajoie drove a cab at Providence, R. I., and Doyle was a bricklayer in the Illinois coal mines.

Evers' story, as he tells it himself, is one of the real romances of baseball. Johnny decided early that he was worth \$4.50 per week, and he so formed the manager of the collar factory. Instead of the salary increase the youngster was slipped the boot.

This happened one morning just before the noon hour shutdown, and Evers hiked out to the Troy ball park to watch the Troy team practice. A fellow named Bacon was managing Troy then, and he asked the youngster if he wouldn't like to practice. Evers got into the practice and his work was so impressive that he was signed on the spot.

Jack Hardy, who occasionally breaks into the game for Washington now when Street feels the need of a rest was watching for Troy that season, and his work so impressed the Chicago national team that he was drafted. Evers was sent along for good measure, tagged to be returned if he couldn't hit the big league gait.

The rest of it is history. Evers, Doyle and Lajoie were developed into what many believe to be the greatest second basemen the game has known. No man in base ball can think and act as quick as the little second sacker of the Cubs, and it was Johnny's noodle which beat the New York Giants out of a pennant. Hardy is now change catcher for the Washington club in the American league.



JOHNNY EVERS. LARRY DOYLE. LARRY JAJOIE.

Lajoie played ball on the lots around Providence when he wasn't busy soliciting trade for his cab, and his work impressed a Providence man who got the big Frenchman a try out with the Fall River team of the New England league.

Larry was a first baseman then. Phil Gier was also with Fall River at the time, and Gier was one real sensation. The Philadelphia Nationals wanted Gier, and the Fall River management threw in Lajoie for good measure. Larry stuck.

At first Larry was kept on first base and then sent to second, where he quickly developed into one of the real wonders of the game, and in a team composed of mighty swatters was right up in the first fight with the bush club. Gier is now playing in the west some place, but Larry is still one of the sensations of the game.

He has lost neither his cunning in the field nor his skill with the bat, as is attested by his yearly batting average. The Frenchman is known as the most graceful man in base ball. He makes the most difficult stops and makes them so skillfully that half the time the fans don't realize or appreciate just how difficult the play was.

When Tom Kinsella, owner of the Springfield club in the Three I league, discovered Larry Doyle, the future New York Giant star was working in the Illinois coal mines and playing Sunday ball with a small team. With the Springfield team Doyle became the sensation of the Three I league.

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NELSON, KING OF TROTTERS, DEAD

Famous Stallion Was 27 Years Old When He Died on Owner's Farm—Trotted at Moosepath.

Nelson, one of the most remarkable and best known trotting and breeding stallions in the country, who once held the old-fashioned high-wheel ed sulky record, and later the bicycle sulky record, has died at Sunnyside farm, Waterville, the stock farm of his owner, C. Horace Nelson. He trotted all over the country, and won many fast miles in his twenty-seven years.

Nelson was foaled in June, 1882. His sire was Nelson Rolfe, 2:21 by Tom Rolfe, 2:33 and his dam, Gretchen, by Gideon, 2:45. He was bred by C. H. Nelson, who trained and drove him himself in all his important races and exhibitions.

Even as a colt Nelson attracted attention by winning in fast time the two-year-old stake at the Maine state fair at Lewiston, which in those days was an important trotting center. The next year he won the three-year-old stake at Lewiston and established the half-mile track stallion record of 2:26, which was not broken for many years. As a five-year-old Nelson set the New England five-year-old record.

In 1890 Nelson was shipped to the eastern Maine state fair at Bangor, where he lowered the half-mile track record to 2:15 1/2. From Bangor he was taken to Kankakee, Ill., where he lowered the world's mile stallion record to 2:12. Two days later on the same track he clipped half a second off this record, and two days after this, at Rushville, Ind., trotted in 2:11 1/2.

Loved to Travel. It was one of the most notable features of Nelson's record that long train rides did not seem to upset him. His owner who always rode in the car with him, said Nelson loved to travel, and that he would look out of the grating over the half opened door at the country flashing by.

One week after his performance at Rushville Nelson cut his record to 2:11 1/4 at Terre Haute, and 12 days later at Cambridge City, Ind., to 2:10 3/4. From there he was shipped to Maine, and after a week's rest went to Chicago, where he was the lion of the national horse show.

Nelson was taken west again the next fall, and old horsemen tell of the enthusiasm that greeted him everywhere. At every track at which he appeared his stall was decorated with flowers. It is said that no horse had made such a conquest of the country.

This was the day when trotting was at its height and running races were incorporated in the programmes as novelties.

After this Nelson raced little. He was too fast for the best steppers, and for exhibitions he could be used only. At Grand Rapids he lowered his record to 2:10. The next fall Nelson again was driven in exhibitions all over the country, and at Trenton, N. J., lowered the half mile track record to 2:11 1/4.

In the fall of 1893 he established his record of 2:09 at Rigby park, Portland, Me., which is now a desolate strip of waste land overgrown with weeds.

St. John sports will remember the appearance of the famous stallion on the local turf when he clipped the Moosepath record by some seconds.

ST. LAWRENCE SAVED BY THE TIME LIMIT

TIGERS ARE CREEPING UP TOWARDS FIRST

Boston, Mass., July 25.—Thunder clouds made the playing field so dark that today's game between Boston and St. Lawrence was called after the end of the sixth inning with the score of 6 to 2 in favor of the local team. Pelly's wildness was mainly responsible for his team's defeat. Score by innings: St. Louis, . . . . .001001-2 5 2 Boston, . . . . .202020-6 5 1

Batteries—Pelly's and Stephens; Collins and Kleinow. Time—1:29. Umpires—Connolly and Kerin.

New York, N. Y., July 25.—Score by innings: Detroit, . . . . .11010103-8 16 1 New York, . . . . .10021000-4 8 3

Batteries—Willett and Stange; Vaughn and Criger. Time—2:06. Umpires—Dineen and Evans.

Philadelphia, Pa., July 25.—Score by innings: Cleveland, . . . . .10000012-4 8 0 Philadelphia, . . . . .00100100-2 7 0

Batteries—Young and Eastery; Bemis; Plank and Donohue. Time—1:42. Umpires—Egan and O'Loughlin.

Second game—Score by innings: Cleveland, . . . . .00000000-0 4 4 Philadelphia, . . . . .00012010x-4 8 2

Batteries—Joss, Harkness and Bemis; Morgan and Lapp. Time—1:33. Umpires—O'Loughlin and Egan.

Washington, D. C., July 25.—Score by innings: Washington, . . . . .00002000-2 6 2 Chicago, . . . . .02010010-4 10 0

Batteries—Belling and Berkendorf; Walsh and Sullivan. Time—1:45. Umpire—Perrine.

Second game—Score by innings: Washington, . . . . .1120001x-5 10 1 Chicago, . . . . .00000001-1 7 2

Batteries—Egan and Berkendorf; Smith, Lang and Block. Time—1:50. Umpire—Perrine.

ST. JOHNS DID NOT BEAT THEM; OH, NO; ONLY 29-3

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