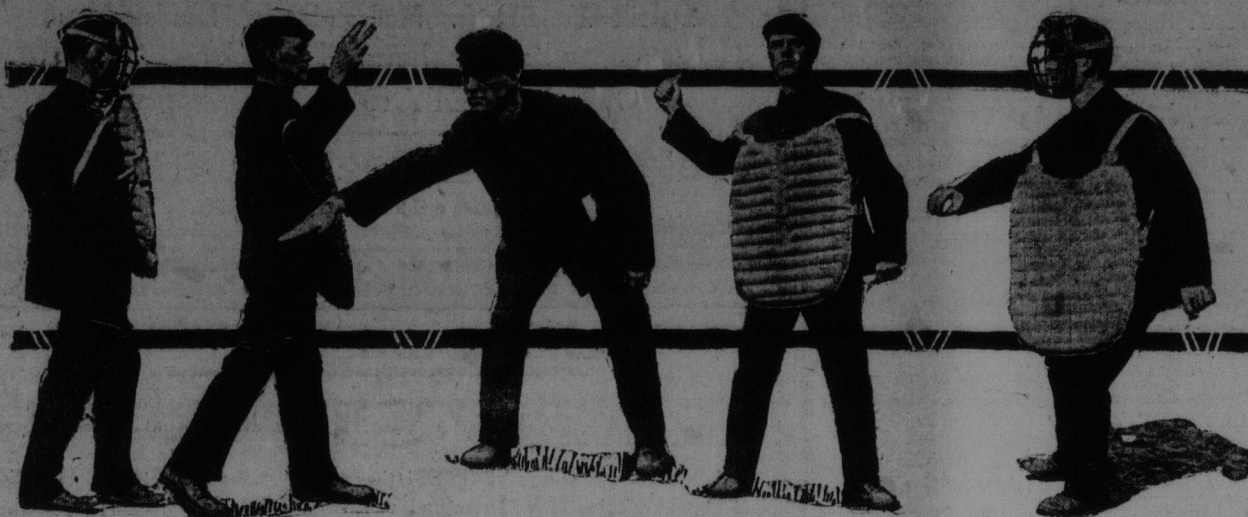


THE STANDARD'S PAGE OF SPORTS

"RUN YOUR OWN GAME," IS ADVICE OF SILK O'LOUGHLIN, BEST UMPIRE

SILK O'LOUGHLIN, AMERICAN LEAGUE UMPIRE, PHOTOGRAPHED IN ACTION ON THE BALL FIELD.



READY FOR BUSINESS!

"Be boss of the diamond," says Silk O'Loughlin, famous American league umpire.

"The 'best ump' is a tyrant on the field—in the opinion of players who like to 'start something.' He rules with a hand of iron. He won't stand for back talk. The lippy belligerent is hustled to the bench or clubhouse and is apt to hear 'That will cost you \$50.'"

And O'Loughlin's banishment and fines go, as many players have discovered. He is backed up in everything he does by President Johnson, the man who introduced the national game to polite society and who insists upon keeping it there.

Not only does the big mogul support O'Loughlin, but every other man he employs as umpire. It wasn't always thus, however. Time was when an umpire was regarded as a nuisance and a fit object for the coroner every time he gave a decision in favor of a visiting team. If the decision affected a favorite player or turned the tide of the game, the arbitrator would be surrounded by a crowd of threatening players whose talk would not be permitted in print. Incited by such actions, the crowds were not slow to toss things at the head of the unfortunate who had sunk low enough to act as judge of play.

The one act that put an effective end to assaults by spectators was the act of a St. Louis fan who threw a pop bottle at Umpire Evans and fractured his skull. Evans came within a thin blond hair of crossing the big creek, but a splendid constitution held him on this side.

The revolution of feeling caused by the bottle throwing carried wherever baseball was played and had its effect. Incidentally the war for clean baseball being waged by Ban Johnson and supported by the press taught the public to look upon reforms with favor and rowdism was frowned upon.

The advent of collegians and the forcing out of the old type of hard-drinking, hard-fighting players helped in the right direction. Newcomers arrived when the public mind was being molded along new lines and naturally fell into the new way.

But it was the stern unyielding attitude of the umpires that started the tide. Realizing the "big guy" was with them, they ruled with rods of iron and made the players like it. The better class of patrons liked it, and when managers realized this they appreciated that their receipts would be larger and so fell into the new way.

"An umpire, like a player," says O'Loughlin, "must think in advance. He must know each man's peculiarities, his strength and weakness. He must so plan that he is in the most advantageous position to render instant decision upon every play and

STRIKE TWO!

at the same time must not interfere with the play.

"He must plan what he will do, for instance, if when working behind the bat, with a runner on second, the batter lifts the ball. With the two-umpire system he should hustle toward the base to decide a play should one be made at that station, his fellow umpire watching the opposite bag.

"He must study the delivery of every pitcher, gauge his curve ball and note the jump of the fast ball. He becomes, through experience, able to know instinctively where a curve ball or fast ball will cross the plate or skim by it. I don't mean by this that an umpire can look at the ball as it comes to the plate and tell where it will go, but he can follow its flight with accuracy because he has learned the little tricks the ball thrown by each pitcher will perform.

"Running his own game does not mean surliness. It means the umpire is sent onto the field to represent the league, to decide plays and interpret the rules. He may not tolerate interference; he may not permit a player to show him up. He must retain his dignity and not permit an argument. He should not make his decision too quick or he may have to change it. It isn't a good thing to have to change decisions, and earn a reputation for being premature.

"Ball players are human, and when they realize a umpire is stern, but just, they are less apt to kick over the traces even in the heat of a hotly contested game than if they have reason to believe they can gain anything by attempting to bullyrag. Of course umpires make mistakes, not being infallible, but on the whole their decisions are correct, as the players admit when off the field, although sometimes they find it hard to do so when the battle is raging."

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HE'S SAFE.

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Just why there should not be successful midsummer racing here this year is more than has been satisfactorily explained. The fact that the Fredericton Park Association lost some money last year on their midsummer meeting is no reason why midsummer racing should not be successful here this year. There has been successful midsummer racing here in the past when American horses were admitted, and there is no reason why there should not be again this year. The other tracks in the provinces are believed to be ready to make a season's racing and the Fredericton Park Association has never stood in the background in recent years when there was anything going on.

A meeting of the directors of the local association will probably be held in a day or two. A conference was held at St. John yesterday between representatives of the Fredericton Park Association and the St. John track, but the meeting was postponed until a later date. In the meantime H. J. Fleming, president of the St. John Driving Club, the owners of Moosepath Park, has expressed himself as ready to do his part in carrying out any programme the tracks agree upon.

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JEFF THINKS JOHNSON'S TITLE IS FAIRLY SAFE

The few persons who still argue that James J. Jeffries, the former heavyweight champion, was not "right" when he lost that memorable bout at Reno last Independence Day to Jack Johnson, the Galveston negro, and look to the Californian to make another try to regain his lost title have little chance of witnessing a second battle between the two ring giants.

Men who are in touch with the pugilistic situation insist that the ring followers have seen Jeffries fight his last battle. Their statements are verified by the former champion, who says emphatically that under no conditions will he re-enter the ring to don the mitts.

Unheralded Jeffries arrived in Chicago several days ago on his way to New York, from which port he is scheduled to sail for Europe on May 4 on the George Washington. A ring promoter who was in Chicago when Jeffries arrived from Los Angeles with his wife had an audience with the former champion. Jeffries made known his plans for the future.

Before he was in Chicago many hours as army of interviewers waited after him. Their questions bore the old fighter. Jeffries was as uncommunicative as ever. Aside from his trip abroad and its purpose Jeff had little to say.

"I am out of the game for good," was all he would say. Boxing on the west coast is a bit wabbly just now and some of Jeffries' interviewers wanted to know what he thought about the situation out there. He said: "I don't know whether there will be any more long fights in California. There are so many loopholes in the law that it is mighty hard to convict."

Jeffries is a great fighter," he said, "and I don't know of any person now who would have a chance with him." The old "dope skeleton" was also raked up and introduced. "I have always refused to answer that question," said Jeffries, "and I continue to maintain that attitude. Johnson beat me squarely. I am through with the fight game and I want the sporting public to leave me alone. The alfalfa farm is good enough for me."

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Someone ventured to ask Jeffries if he thought there was any boxer available to secure Johnson's title. He commented to answer the question after a moment's hesitation.

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