

# SPECIAL SPORTING SECTION

## INSIDE STORY OF JACK McLEAN'S RECENT TROUBLE

Backstop of the Old Tatars Was Too Good a Man to be Given His Release

CINCINNATI HAD TO KEEP BIG LARRY

An Illustration of How a Star Player Can Get by if He is a Bad Actor

Larry J. Casey, one of the baseball experts of the Boston Traveller, in a special article on The Baseball Player's Life in the August number of The Baseball Magazine, gives the following inside information on the troubles that Jack McLean, the old Tatar backstop, had early this season with Clark Griffith, the peppy manager of the Cincinnati Reds:

Take the case of Larry McLean, the tall backstop of the Cincinnati Reds, and one of the best in the game. Larry, before the opening of the season, signed a contract with the Cincinnati club, stating that he would forfeit his salary and whatever bonus he was offered, should he fall off the water wagon or be reprimanded once during the season by his manager. Larry signed the contract, thinking it would be an easy thing to live up to its requirements. He reported for the spring training trip in fairly good shape and Clark Griffith made him captain of the team. Larry's new duties as leader, and the responsibility attached to the job, seemed like a tonic to the big fellow, and his good conduct was a marvel to his friends.

The First Clash.

Thinking little about the contract and its clauses, Larry was given a rude shock when informed of it by Clark Griffith. It was then he started to do some tall thinking. Griffith had given orders for the entire squad to meet in one of the banquet rooms of the Hotel Eastman at the Springs, immediately following their defeat at the hands of the Red Sox. The manager wanted to show his players their weak points. Larry at once saw the chance to smash that contract, but being advised by a friend to take things easy, he broke off an engagement he had and attended the meeting. The next day the Reds were again defeated by the Red Sox and Griffith was in anything but a pleasant frame of mind as he left the grounds after the game. He again gave orders for every man on the team to report at eight o'clock in the banquet room for a lecture.

Larry had an engagement for the evening, and informed Griffith of the fact. Griffith was so over the loss of the game and informed Larry that he would have to be on hand. Larry was also hot and a few words passed between the two. Larry refused to take the advice of his friends and kept his engagement. He returned to his hotel soon after 11 o'clock in company with a friend. The hotel clerk handed him an envelope as he was about to go to his room. Upon opening the envelope Larry found he was suspended for a few days, something never heard of before, a player suspended before the season was opened. It was just what he was looking for. Clark Griffith, on seeing Larry the next morning, told him to pack his belongings and hike to Cincinnati. Larry and Griffith had a hot session for a moment, the big catcher winding up by yelling Clark would not hit safely in a pinch two or three times in succession often gains a reputation along this line which the records fail to bear out.

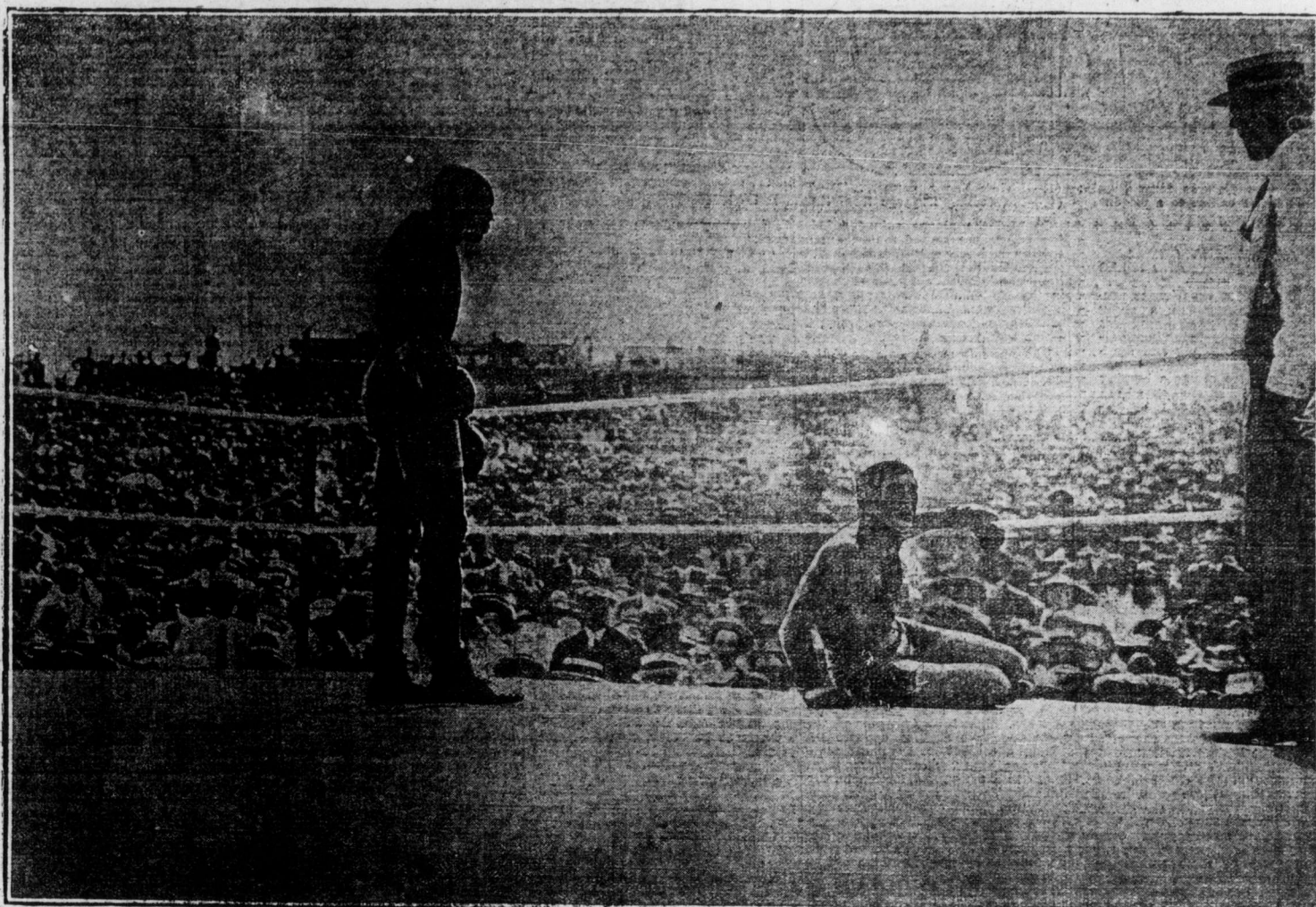
Friends of both took a hand in the affair at this time, and the trouble was patched up. Larry appearing at the training park the next day in uniform and going behind the bat. Then things went along smoothly for two days, and then the big backstop had another spat with Griffith. This one proved more serious than the first. Griffith was determined to get rid of the big fellow, and wrote to Garry Herrman to that effect. Larry, on the other hand, asked Griffith for his release and was refused. The manager, instead, offered to sell him to any team in the league. No team, however, cared for the big fellow's services and Griffith was forced to lay back and await developments.

Wanted to Go to Boston.

McLean then asked Clark to trade him and was invited to make his own trade. The big fellow approached a well known Boston fan who was stopping at the hotel, and asked him to see manager Donovan of the Red Sox in regard to a deal. Donovan, however, laughed at the idea and informed Larry's friend there was nothing to do in the trade line.

Larry was a very crestfallen catcher when he heard this, for he is a native of Boston and would like to play in the Hub. Griffith then gave out the statement that McLean would never play on the Cincinnati team while he was manager. He also announced that McLean would have to pay his own expenses at the hotel and offered him his fare to Cincinnati. Larry refused the tickets and stayed at the hotel and kept his own room, in spite of Griffith. Garry Herrman took a hand in the case at this stage.

## The Finish of the Jeffries-Johnson Fight at Reno, Nev., on July 4th



THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST OF THE HUNDREDS OF PICTURES TAKEN BY THE NEWSPAPER STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS AT THE FINISH OF THE JEFFRIES-JOHNSON FIGHT AT RENO, NEV. JEFFRIES IS SHOWN CLINGING TO THE ROPES, JOHNSON IS SHOWN READY FOR HIM SHOULD HE GET UP AGAIN, AND TEX RICKARD IS THE THIRD MAN IN THE RING.

## Light Hitting in National

Large Number of Pinch Hitters Used Evidence of Weakness of Regulars

Few of the players in the National League have been hitting at their real pitch to date. This is evidenced not alone by the positions some of them occupy in the list of batsmen, but as well by the large number of pinch hitters used. Up to a week ago not less than 210 emergency batsmen had been used by the eight league managers in their efforts to turn the tide when the fortunes of war were going against them.

It is probable that a backward look through the records would fail to reveal in the past decade a season where substitute batsmen were so freely used by every team in the race. This year they have been sent in often but not for weak hitting pitchers but for other players who stand well up on the batting order, but who have not been clouting at their accustomed gait, and in whom the manager lacked confidence when a single was badly needed to win a game.

In view of the frequency with which emergency hitters have been used, the question has arisen as to just how often the desired end is attained by this method. Fans will argue that it must produce results, or it would not be tried so often. A ball player who manages to hit safely in a pinch two or three times in succession often gains a reputation along this line which the records fail to bear out.

Of the game and telegraphed Griffith that McLean would play with the Cincinnati club or he would not play at all. This was just what Larry wanted, and he was wreathed with smiles when informed of Herrman's decision. Larry, however, did not play another game with the Reds until after the season was opened. On April 11 McLean was reported to have signed a contract with the Cincinnati club calling for \$25 a month, with a clause inserted stating that he would receive the same salary as the original contract called for, provided he did not wander from the straight and narrow path during the season.

McLean is one of the best catchers in the country today, barring no one. His worth to the Cincinnati club is realized by both Griffith and Garry Herrman. Larry can hit about as good as any backstop who ever donned the mask, and his throwing to the bases is all that could be desired. Without him in the game, the Cincinnati team would amount to little. Griffith knows this and so does Garry, therefore they gave McLean a new contract and a chance to get back in the game. Were he not the catcher he is, but just an ordinary backstop, Larry would not be playing baseball today—he would be an outlaw.

Jack McLean is not a native of Boston. He was born at Lower St. Marys across the river from Fredericton, but moved to Cambridge, Mass., with his family when a young boy, later returning here to play ball with the old Tatars.

J. D. B.

## BURKETT TO BE MANAGER OF NAPS

Leader of Four Time Winners to Succeed McGuire at Cleveland

Cleveland, O., July 15.—The poor showing of the Naps the last three weeks has started rumors around the town that Jim McGuire, manager of the Naps, is to be replaced by Jesse Burkett, manager of the Worcester team of the New England League, four-time winners of the pennant.

Burkett is a former Cleveland outfielder, and is very popular with local fans. Secretary Barnard, however, when seen in regard to the report, emphatically denied it.

"That's the first I heard of the affair. Manager McGuire has a two-year contract with the Naps, and we are going to live up to our part of the agreement. As far as I know, there is no truth in the report."

## Big Fight Was a Burlesque

Fight Experts in Private Letter Tell the Unvarnished Truth to Their Friends

New York, July 15.—In a letter to Jimmy Johnson, matchmaker of the Fairmont, A. C., Charley Harvey, who has managed Jim Driscoll, Owen Moran and other pugilists, and is associated with James W. Coffroth, the California fight promoter, says that the Jeffries-Johnson affair was a burlesque on pugilism.

"It was such a poor exhibition of the manly art," writes Harvey, "that if it had taken place at the Fairmont club, Referee Joh would have stopped it in the third round and ordered both men out of the ring. Jeffries was a big lumbering joke. He couldn't fight a little bit, and as soon as Johnson banded him in the right eye he was gone. He didn't seem like the Jeffries of old. He looked as if he weighed 235 pounds and was overtrained. The old fire and dash were not there and Johnson, as soon as he found it, out made a show of the white man. Coffroth and I bet liberally on Johnson and so did others who had an inside tip as to Jeff's real condition. It wasn't nervousness that beat Jeffries. Just a clear case of back number. The stamina, wind, speed and hitting power were lacking. He had failed to come back, that was all. It was a slovenly exhibition and Johnson won without getting up a sweat."

Other letters received by local sporting men from the coast would seem to indicate that the "wise money" went on the negro at the last moment. It is asserted by one of these letter writers that Big Tim Sullivan, Considine, Corbett and other New Yorkers who went to Reno confident of a Jeffries victory, backed Johnson at the last moment.

Seneca Maid, 220 (dam of Penika Maid, 2044) now owned by T. E. Cameron, of Vinton, Ia., carries her daily bread working the local track, and as general purpose horse. She has been bred to The Connorsire, 2204.

## The "Is it Warm Enough for You" Fellow is on the Job Again



## JOHNSON REIGNS SUPREME WITH NO WHITE AS EQUAL

Black Champion's Hardest Fight in Retaining Honors Will be With Wine.

LIKES A GOOD TIME AND LOTS OF WINE

Johnson's Battle at Reno Showed Experts That He Could Beat Langford

(By Louis A. Dangler, sporting editor of the Boston Traveller.)

Who is there in the fist arena to take a chance with Jack Johnson?

No one.

No white man today stands any earthly chance to take the laurels from the giant black man who so decisively hammered Jim Jeffries to the floor. Indeed, outside of Al Kaufman and Sandy Ferguson, no white fighter is even big enough.

Many will now look to Al Kaufman to get himself into shape to meet Johnson, but Kaufman is heavy and slow and does not possess the science needed to make an equal thing of a battle with Jack Johnson. Kaufman, though, is the best of the white heavyweights. Sandy Ferguson is regarded by fight experts as little more than a joke. Sandy has a good left hand, but that lets him out. He has no such assortment of moves as that possessed by the present champion. Ferguson does not figure.

Langford Challenges Johnson.

Sam Langford challenged the winner of the big fight. Sam Langford is a colored man and quite the best of the middleweights, though he does not hold the crown simply because Stanley Ketchel does not care to meet him. Langford really believes he can defeat Jack Johnson, but the best of the experts do not agree with him.

Tommy Burns lost to Johnson because Tommy, who is a good boxer and a hard hitter, was too short. Johnson's style of fighting fits him to meet a shorter man. His uppercut is then most dangerous. Langford, though a powerful wallop, would find himself bumping into that uppercut more often than not. After that wonderful exhibition of coolness and skill and punching ability at Reno, who can really figure that Langford stands any chance of winning from Jack Johnson?

Johnson in Prime of Life.

Johnson is now in the prime of life. He stands alone among heavyweights, white or black. Today he can defeat any of them. Kaufman is big, but clumsy. It is doubtful if he can be speeded up to make even a decent fight against the champion.

How long will Johnson's reign continue? None can tell. Age gets the best of them, even that cave man, Jim Jeffries, whose head was bowed in defeat at Reno. Johnson does not take extra good care of himself. He wines and dines all the time. He keeps burning his candle at both ends and may disappear from the arena circle much sooner than is expected.

But right now no white man is in sight who appears in the same class with the undisputed champion. Jack Johnson reigns supreme.

## CINCINNATI IS A REJUVENATOR

Cincinnati, O., July 15.—Are there any more American league cast-offs whose managers don't think they amount to a hill of beans, and who can be obtained by the process of cheap purchase? If so, send them to Cincinnati. True, Griffith did pick one lemon in Joe Doyle, but even Joe, if he could have been worked offener and at the start of the game, might have made good. Two good guesses in three is as good an average as any one could ask, and that is how Griffith guessed when he drew Suggs and Burns.

WILL BE RECANED.

Pittsburg will Let Out Pitcher "Lefty" Leifeld.

Pittsburg, Pa., July 15.—Fred Clarke manager of the Pirates, has asked again for waivers of "Lefty" Leifeld, the crack southpaw of the Pirates last season. Leifeld has been unable to do anything in the pitching line this season and a few weeks ago Clarke asked for waivers on the southpaw, only to recall them again when Frank Chance, manager of the Cubs, refused to waive on "Lefty."

The poor showing of Leifeld in the game against the Phillies the other day convinced Clarke that the star was all in, and today he again asked for waivers. Should Chance refuse to waive Fred Clarke says he will let him have Leifeld. Provided Frank waives on the southpaw Clarke will ship him to the minors for the rest of the season and if "Lefty" shows anything like his old time form Clarke says he will recall him at the end of the season.