

WESTERN STANDARD SPORT PAGE

Review of the Week on all Sports

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Tommy Burns and the Championship of the World

Recent events in the pugilistic world have perhaps been more interesting than any other time in the history of the art. Following the ostracising of Jack Johnson, the black, who forced his way to the top of the tree by decision over Tommy Burns in Australia in 1909, and the resultant outcry against the pitting of the black man against the white, there has arisen a plethora of white "champions" in the various parts of the world, each individually claiming that he is the legal aspirant for the title of heavy weight champion. Bouts of one kind or another have been held in various places, with the result that the claimants are being gradually thinned out, and now there is reasonable chance that a definite selection can be made.

The Newspaper Champions

Newspapers perhaps more than any other form of public opinion, have dabbled in the question of the championship, and to them in many instances the general public owe their knowledge, because it is in the newspaper that many people read of the chances of their favorite, and vice versa, and many a newspaper article either makes or mars the popularity of a boxer.

Itself entitles him to rank first among the present day aspirants. But further, the fight between Jack Johnson and Burns in Australia was the first time that Burns was defeated in the ring, and then he was not knocked out. It is generally admitted that he was not in good health on the day of the fight, and his showing then, even if it is five years ago, was such as to mark him out as one of the greatest boxers that ever lived.

The Reasonable Argument

The reasonable argument now is that the holder of the championship immediately prior to Johnson, and the latter having now been disqualified, Burns must of necessity be considered the logical champion of the world. The opposite argument is that being out of the ring for three years he cannot be considered as a good holder, and that some other man who has been actively engaged in the work of boxing should be awarded the title. This is the view that the supporters of Luther McCarthy take, but the answer to this is the return to training and boxing of Tommy Burns. Not that Burns ever really gave up training. All the time that he has been out of it, the ring has never

the same as any other business, it will also have the more beneficial effect of proving to thousands that Calgary is a real live town, and that it will pay them to come and see for themselves. This is the view that must be taken, and after all the knowledge that the city is being boosted in other places, even as the home of first class boxing, (will prove that it must contain men who are willing and able to pay the large sums incidental to the staging and viewing a first-class fight. This is naturally followed by the assumption that having the money, there must be some ways and means of making it around Calgary. Continuing this line, more people will come in the hope of making something and the whole effect will be to boost the city in a healthy and substantial way. So that Tommy Burns from the point of Calgary Booster and Aspirant for the heavy weight championship of the boxing world, is one of the best assets in the city today.

Rugby Officers

Messrs. F. C. Lowe, P. Burns, Mr. Cross, and T. J. S. Skinner, have been elected Patrons of the British Rugby Union, and the other officers are: President, Mr. Sellar; vice presidents, Messrs. Goch and W. F. Morris; Secretary, Mr. Whitelaw; Treasurer, Mr. Young.



CALGARY INTER-CITY SOCCER TEAM

Reading right to left—Alec, Melville, (Hillhurst); James H. Haig, (Calles); Art Wakelyn, (Hillhurst); Treas. Williams, (Calles); Archie Stewart, (Calles); R. Sutton, (Hillhurst); Stan. Wakelyn, (Hillhurst); W. Nisbet, (Calles); Dickenson, (City); Jas. Petrie, (Calles); R. Foley, (City).

Lately the newspapers have really taken the question of providing a heavy weight champion into their own hands, and the antagonistic ideas put forward by some of them lead me to think that it is left to them, a real good man will never be found. Supporting this view one has only to refer to an article in a recent issue of the Lethbridge Herald, in connection with the fight between Pelkey and Burns at Calgary, in which it was stated that Burns arranged to get Pelkey to be a punching bag for him, and the whole question of the "come back" was simply an advertising dodge to obtain a big pile of money.

No Brief

I hold no brief for Tommy Burns and would be the first to score him if there was a shadow of a doubt of his sincerity in the matter of the championship. But in view of recent happenings there is not even this shadow. The Lethbridge Herald disseminates what it terms "inside" knowledge of the game, and characterises the tactics of Burns as anything but honest. It would be interesting to know where the writer of the Herald article got his information, and whether it is not all a dream.

The Serious Aspect

Dealing seriously with the case, however, many articles are written through ignorance of the subject, just that the paper in which the article appears may take some side on the question, and this often influences thousands who do not know and have never seen any of the men mentioned. The time has come, however, when the question of the heavy-weight boxing championship of the world will have to be decided one way or the other, and the only way to do that is to hold an elimination competition outside the regular lines of prize fights. It is necessary however, that before this is done, a proper idea is got as to the nature of the claims to recognition. In stating that in my opinion Tommy Burns is the legitimate holder of the championship of the world, I do so in the knowledge that there will be considerable criticism directed against it. In order to forestall this, it will be well to deal with the assertion. In his progress to the top Tommy Burns accomplished more than any other holder in the history of the sport. Discounted as an aspirant in the first instance, he actually travelled all round the world, meeting and decisively defeating every aspirant to the title in his own country, and this in

lost its charm for him, and his regular mode of life, which has placed him socially far above the old timers who have at one time or the other held the belt, has always been helped by spells of training which have kept him in first class condition. Since his determination to re-enter the ring, he has trained assiduously, and is now to the most critical observer, and to himself, in as good condition as he ever was in his life. It may be incidentally mentioned here that Burns intention to return to the ring was not made after the Johnson incident, but a considerable time prior to that event. Indeed it was with an unspoken thought that he would be able to recover the championship from the black (and that consummation was not unreasonable from the fact that the white man's weight at the time he fought Johnson was 20 pounds less than it is today)—that Burns determined to get back into training. How far he has succeeded is shown by the result of his six round contest with Art Pelkey.

The End

Despite what the Lethbridge Herald man says, Pelkey did beat Jess Willard, and obtained draws with the other leading lights in the flat game, and this is admitted by statistical experts. Judging from this, Burns has proved that he is a real "come back." His forthcoming bout with Luther McCarthy will prove the final round to his hopes and aspirations, and it is the hope of every clean thinking and sport loving man in the city of Calgary, that he may succeed in reattaining that which he should never have lost, because it is men like Burns, who are a credit to any sport. He has lifted boxing to a higher platform than it ever occupied before, and those who have seen the bouts which have been staged at the arena will say decisively that they bring no discredit on the boxing profession.

Calgary's Connection

Many people deplore the fact that boxing is allowed in Calgary, (or near it), and say that it will hurt the town from a growing point of view. I have the opinion that the connection between Tommy Burns and Calgary and the resultant advertising which the town gets in addition to the boosting in other directions will bring it to the notice of many who have never even heard of its existence. While it may have the same effect in bringing crooks around just

The election of officers was then taken up. Mayor Sinnott was named as honorary president. William Crowley is the president, Bert Bowser, vice-president and Marshall Sales, secretary. An executive meeting will be held April 18 when the matter of admitting two more clubs will be taken up.

Professional League for Calgary

There are signs that some of the down-and-outs of Baseball professionalism in and around Calgary, will try and raise the wind during the coming season. A suggestion has been made to run a semi-professional league. The full professional league last year did not do much to justify its existence. In fact many people went to Mewata to see the Senior Amateur League play off its schedule on the very days when the Calgary Club was supposed to be playing the other professional teams from Bassano, Red Deer, Edmonton. A semi-pro league would be worse. As it is at the present there is the greatest rivalry between the clubs, because most of the players are resident and have their businesses in Calgary. If the semi-pro league was organized, it would mean that local interest would soon evaporate, from the fact that it would be simply an inducement for meat-ticket ball players to make Calgary their home during the baseball season, in the hope that they might get in somewhere.

The Y. M. C. A. held their annual meeting on Tuesday evening, and there was a large attendance. Arrangements were made to organize for the season, and as there are several good players to draw upon, there is no reason why the trophy should not find a resting place for another year in the "Y."

There will be a meeting of the Electrical Baseball League on Monday evening, in the Y.M.C.A., to arrange matters for the season. President F. W. Johnson will occupy the chair, and all interested are invited to attend.

Soccer

PROVINCIAL SOCCER NOTES

Edmonton Hard After the Bennett Shield.

It has come down the way that Edmonton is bent on making a final gigantic effort to wrest the Bennett Shield trophy from the City of Calgary this year. No matter which team represents Calgary in the competition, it is likely to put up a splendid fight, and this is the bug-bear that Edmonton is up against. The Calles who played in the final last year are trying their best to obtain players from other of the teams in the city in order that they may be able to put up a better fight against Calgary, and as there is every likelihood of the final being played at Edmonton this year they think that the Shield will find a resting place in the northern town. Mr. Bennett himself would no doubt like to see the trophy taken from the Calgary Calles who have won it five years without ever receiving any individual medals for it.

The Hillhurst and Laneshire Football teams had a work out at Hillhurst on Saturday last. These games are signs of the times, and in a week or two the full work of the league will begin.

The Opening Match

The opening game has been decided upon, and will take the form of a representative match, the proceeds to go to the Benevolent Fund of the League. The idea was mooted by Mr. J. R. McEwan, vice-president of the City and District League, and has



Edmonton Inter-City Soccer Team versus Calgary.

Lethbridge League Committee Meets and Appoints Office Bearers. At the meeting of the City Football league in the Quick Print the following officers were elected.

Messrs. C. J. Ekstrom, W. A. Buchanan, M. P. C. A. Magrath, Mayor Hardie and W. Scott, patrons. President—W. Steens. Vice-president—W. Wanless. Secy-Treas.—A. McLachlan. Auditors—Messrs. Dawson and Turnbull.

Constitutional Committee—Messrs. Gurr, Dill, Turnbull and McGough.

Baseball—G. A. Balfour, D. Sinclair, J. E. Paint and Alex. Baird. Football—W. J. McArthur, W. MacGregor, J. Grant and W. Webb. J. M. Sullivan will act as manager of both teams.

The election of captains resulted in the selection of J. B. Mallette for the baseball team, A. E. Ross, captain of the soccer team, and A. Hepburn vice-captain. The company has offered a prize valued at one hundred dollars for the team which wins the most games this season.

The City Team. The City are bidding fair to make a great fight for the championship this year. Secretary Ingles has been busy signing during the past week, and to date has signed up thirteen players. Richardson, the old goalkeeper, and one of the best in town, has been signed, and Walker, the old Thistle half, has affixed his signature to a City form. Mr. Fred Jones was disappointed that Archie Stewart did not sign for the City, but said that he would certainly be an acquisition to the Calles.

The Registration Forms

The rush to get out of the Y. M. C. A. last week with the registration forms for season 1913, reminded one of the race for the last car home. On Wednesday morning all sorts of rumors were flying around, the interest centering round the destination of Archie Stewart. Archie went to the Calles, and this might have been known for some time, because it was current last season that he was not at home in the Hillhurst eleven. The healthy rivalry which exists shows a real interest in the game, and there should be large crowds at all the matches.

Officers in the Intermediate League. Duncan Scott, who so ably managed the Intermediate League last year, has again been appointed Secretary, and Messrs. J. McEwan, G. H. Taylor and F. J. Scott, have been appointed a committee to arrange a schedule. Applications for referees are now in order.

Crescent Heights Non Existent

Although efforts were made to reorganize the Crescent Heights Soccer team this year, they failed, and so there will be no representative team from the Heights in any of the Leagues this year. Several of last season's players have been picked up by other teams, and this has the effect of causing the Intermediate team to go defunct.

Commercial League Makes First Draw

The Commercial Football league has admitted the Nelsons, thus making nine teams in the circuit. Owing to uncertainty about the grounds, no definite schedule was drawn up, but a draw for the first round resulted as follows:

Street Railway vs. D. N. R. Medals vs. Cal. Furniture. Hudson's Bay vs. City Hall. Dominion Express vs. Pryce Jones. Ashdowns vs. Calgary Furniture.

New Athletic Association for Calgary

At a well attended meeting of the employees of the Calgary Furniture company, an athletic association was formed which plans to foster athletics among the employees of the firm and by these means encourage a friendly feeling among the men employed at this store. A team will be entered in both the Commercial Football and baseball leagues.

The following officers were elected: Hon. president, F. F. Higgs; president, G. A. Crooks; vice-president, H. Smythe, secretary treasurer, E. I. Blake. It was decided to leave the management of the two branches of sport to independent executive committees. The following were the committees chosen:



Hillhurst and Post Office practice game on Tuesday. Both teams tried out new hopes are entertained that will be stronger than last. Ketchen played for the Hill but has not yet signed.

A full criticism and report of evening's meeting of District Soccer League, in next issue.

Red Deer Calles are Calgary to play a game against Calles on Victoria will be a very attractive

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Wesley Basketball team of the Grace Church by 45 to 28 on Friday at the Y. M. C. A. Gymnasium. The team of the Grace Church held their opponents of the time.

Central School defeated in the first baseball game on Friday by twenty to one. The form of the ers was very good for so

Bishop Pinkham College. Duncan Scott, who so ably managed the Junior Soccer League, this year, has again been appointed Secretary, and Messrs. J. McEwan, G. H. Taylor and F. J. Scott, have been appointed a committee to arrange a schedule. Applications for referees are now in order.

Mr. Archie Stewart of has been appointed Secretary of the Junior League. It was stated last week that Mr. Stewart was not the case. He has informed us that for a good season among is very bright.

The Canadians, the Rugby team, organized to fair to out rival the oldest teams in the way in which. On Saturday the defeated the Wanderers year's champions, by the of 19 to 0. The game was Mewata Park. Arnold, Canadians, ran the quarter field at the beginning of half, and dropped a be early putting the Canadian lead. Smith scored a try interval, and in the end O'Grady scored two tries. The Wanderers seem to get settled down were cleanly beaten.



Calgary Attacks, Edmonton

Historical

The first Legislature of Alberta, the session passed a preliminary bill and at the session of 1900 the Lieutenant-Governor to select a president and the work of organization. Tony was selected as the University of Alberta upon his duties on Jan. 1. A governing body was the Senate consisting of appointed by the Governor elected by members of from among their own graduates of British as Universities residing in were invited to enroll as convocation, and some of and sixty-four responded. Senate was chosen in May. Mr. Justice Stuart was first Chancellor. At the Senate was the sole governing body of both the financial work of the but at the Second Session of the Legislature, November organization was changed. Financial interests of the were given in charge to Governors, consisting of cessor and President and others chosen by the Government. Educational interests of the Senate, larger body than before, representative education Senate arrangements for courses and grants depre

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