

LATE SPORT NEWS AT HOME AND A BROAD

GOLDEN ERA OF THE FEATHERWEIGHT CLASS

Every division of pugilism has had its golden era, and that of the featherweight class was in the decade beginning about 1888, and especially in the early '90s, when the woods were full of little fellows of champion caliber. At that period the featherweight champions and runners-up included such great little men as Tommy Warren of Louisville, who was a native of Los Angeles; Ike Weir, "the Belfast Spider," who was born in Ireland; Frank Murphy, the English boxer, who fought Weir slightly rounds to a draw; Australian Billy Murphy, who hailed originally from New Zealand, and who defeated Weir; Johnny Griffin, "the Brantree Lion" of Massachusetts, who whipped Billy Murphy; Abe Willis and Young Griffo, both of Australia; Jack Skelly, the Irish-American, and Skelly's conqueror, George Dixon, the Nova Scotia "Chocolate Drop," Solly Smith of Los Angeles and Dave Sullivan, a native of Ireland, also began at about this time the careers which led to the featherweight championship. There were at least a dozen other little fellows good enough to be champions today—such boys as Dal Hawkins, Billy Plimmer, George Siddons and Pedlar Palmer.

Johnny Griffin, one of the featherweight champions of that era, was born in Brantree, Mass., forty-five years ago today, October 16, 1869. He was victorious in most of his early battles, fought mainly in Boston and shortly before Murphy went to Indiana and scrapped Ike Weir for the featherweight title, the mill lasting eighty rounds. A country village was the scene of this historic conflict, which began in the night and continued until dawn, when the sheriff appeared and put a stop to the game efforts of the exhausted little human

game cocks. After whipping Jack Havlin in Boston, Griffin went to San Francisco, where he was matched with Tommy Warren, the former featherweight champion of America. This battle was pulled off at the California Athletic Club, but Warren made a poor showing and the referee stopped the affair in the fourth round. Tommy alleged that he was sick, and offered to fight the Massachusetts boy at a later date, but at the time set Warren did not appear and forfeited \$500 appearance money. Griffin was then matched with Australian Billy Murphy, who had just arrived in San Francisco from the Antipodes, and to the surprise of the fans the Australian put the Brantree lad away in the third chapter. A few months later Australian Billy knocked out Ike Weir in fourteen rounds for the diamond belt emblematic of the world's featherweight championship. Griffin fought Ike Weir at Nantasket Beach, Mass., in 1891, the articles calling for a final fight with small gloves, but in the fourth round the cops broke up the session. In 1892 Griffin went to New York, and after knocking out Jimmy Lynch, he was matched with Australian Billy Murphy. This match was said to be for the world's title, but George Dixon then had a better right to that honor. This time Griffin had the better of the argument, knocking out the Australian in the seventh round. A few months later, at Roby, Ind., Griffin was knocked out by Solly Smith, the Californian turning the trick in four rounds. Griffin retired from the ring in 1894, after having been defeated by George Dixon and Kid Lavigne.

Griffin was one of the strongest and sturdiest of the featherweights of the golden era, but he lacked the cleverness which characterized the ring work of such masters as Ike Weir, Young Griffo and George Dixon. In fact, Griffin and Dixon were about the cleverest boys who ever wore gloves.

HANK O'DAY AS A MANAGER



The sporting writers frequently speak in the highest terms of Hank O'Day, who, when he was the manager of the Cincinnati Reds, was one of the best on the job. The Reds at first resented Hank's iron mitt and his method of driving them in the spring, when they began to like it, and when the season started in real earnest they did anything for Hank.

O'Day was an umpire for 20 years, always had to decide matters quickly and sternly, and he did not change when he became a manager.

The Reds found that while O'Day was something of a "bear" in his ways he had a big heart. When a player was hurt, O'Day saw that he got the best of attention and got it in a hurry. Time and again during the training season Hank was invited to

theatre and big dinners and every time he refused.

"No, thanks; the boys have to eat at the hotel and I'm going to eat there too."

O'Day was a great believer in the old one-run game. "Get one and it takes two to beat you," is his motto. He put Bullet Bescher, the best base runner in the National league, at the top of the Red batting order, and sent Bates, one of the best sacrifice hitters, up second. Then he filled in with Dick Hottel, a demon in a pinch, and Mike Mitchell, who with Hottel, batted in more runs than any man in the league last season.

Then the Reds, under strict orders from O'Day, began to go after runs in the first inning. And they got

them. And won games that way.

O'Day had won most of the Reds' victories by using remarkable judgment in picking pitchers for each game and his pitchers never knew when they would work. O'Day warmed up three or four pitchers before each game and picked the one who looked to have the most "stuff."

"When pitchers work in regular turns, you sometimes have a pitcher on the bench who is in better shape than the man in the box," says O'Day. "O'Day would not allow his players to nag umpires. 'A player in the game is better than a player in the clubhouse,'" says O'Day. "Our players are going to earn their salaries by playing ball and not by nagging umpires."

Official Investigation.

Boston, Oct. 17.—James E. Gaffney, owner of the Braves, was yesterday urged to demand an official investigation of the alleged attack of a Philadelphia man on Manager Stallings in the Majestic Hotel just before the first game of the series in Philadelphia.

Stallings says that many of his friends are convinced the man's effort to provoke him was part of "a deliberate plot on the part of a group of backers of the Athletics to send the Braves into the series without the guidance of their leader.

Stallings has learned, he says, that the pugilistic fan who will go into history as the "Philadelphia ice man" was a massive bruiser, fully as big as the giant-limbed chief of the Braves, and was not as drunk as he pretended to be. Stallings says the man repeatedly jostled him and tried to knock his hat off before the Braves' manager took notice. The latter then started a right swing, which reached the mark.

Rothsay won.

In a game of football at Rothsay Saturday the team from the Rothsay College managed to defeat the St. John High School team by a score of ten to nothing.

RAIN CAUSES HEAVY LOSS TO HORSEMEN

Lexington, Ky., Oct. 17.—The annual Grand Circuit trotting meeting at the track of the Kentucky Trotting Horse Breeders' Association, was today declared off on account of rain, thus leaving five days of racing uncompleted and seventeen thousand dollars in stake money uncollected.

About \$5,000 in entrance fees was refunded, and the management of the association announced that the loss on account of rain would exceed \$15,000.

THE LONGEST BATTLES IN RING HISTORY

New Orleans fight fans witnessed the longest battle in the history of the ring twenty-one years ago, April 6, 1893, when Andy Bowen and Jack Burke lambasted each other for 110 rounds, or seven hours and nineteen minutes, before a Crescent City club. The decision was a draw. The following year Bowen, who was light weight champion of the South, was killed in a battle with Kid Lavigne. Andy had a reputation for gameness and durability, and although the Saginaw Kid battered him terribly he refused to give up. In the eighteenth round Bowen dropped to the floor and died soon afterward of concussion of the brain. Lavigne was charged with manslaughter, but acquitted, and was so upset by the fatality that for several months he refused to look at a glove. When the horror of the accident had worn off the Kid returned to the ring and became lightweight champion of the world.

The Burke-Bowen bout, although it holds the record as the longest in time, was not the longest in number of rounds. That record was set up away back in 1825, when Jack Jones defeated Patsy Tunney at Cheshire, England, in 276 rounds. The fight, however, lasted only four hours and a half. In 1855 Jonathan Smith and Jim Kelly fought six hours and a quarter with bare knuckles at Melbourne, English fighters, scrapped six hours and three minutes with bare fists. In 1860 Fitzpatrick and O'Neill established an American bare knuckle record by fighting four hours and twenty minutes at Berwick, Me.

Prof. Mike Donovan, long the boxing instructor at the New York A. C., was the hero of many long battles. His first ring battle, with Bill Crowley at St. Louis, went ninety-six rounds, Donovan losing on a foul. At San Francisco in 1879 Donovan fought ninety-three rounds with Bill McClellan. Joe Coburn won the American championship in 1882 by whipping Mike McCoolle in sixty-seven rounds. Paddy Ryan became heavyweight champion in 1880 by knocking Joe Goos in eighty-seven bare-knuckle rounds. John L. Sullivan took seventy-five rounds to stop Jake Kilrain in 1889. "Buffalo" Costello, who in 1883 a few weeks ago, and Alec Greggains fought an eighty

round draw at Coney Island. Jim Corbett and Peter Jackson boxed sixty-one rounds to a draw in 1891, at San Francisco. Ike Weir and Frank Murphy, featherweights, fought an eighty-round draw in 1889, and Ike and Jack Havlin fought eighty rounds to a draw in 1887.

Belgian Fund.

A large number of those interested in the movement to help the needy Belgians met Saturday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Warwick, 34 Orange street, the occasion being a tea and bazaar planned by several children to aid the worthy movement. The results were very encouraging, no less than \$55 being raised by the sale of the various articles brought together. Among the young people who were active in promoting the undertaking were Misses M. Raymond, Gertrude Ewing, Jean Dearborn, Dorothy Lee, Florence Warwick and Masters Donald Hunter, Jack Knowlton and Arthur Evans.

PLAYERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED

Pittsburg, Oct. 18.—Marty O'Toole, pitcher, who was purchased by the New York National League club, August 31, has been released by the Pittsburg Nationals, from whom he was bought. It is announced New York declined to pay the balance of the purchase price. O'Toole has signed a 1915 contract with the Pirates.

Boston, Oct. 18.—Hugh Redden, pitching hero of the world's series of 1912, has been released by the Boston Americans to the Providence club of the International League.

Letter Perfect.

Stage Manager—Remember, Bangs, we are depending on your baby to very justly in the third act. Do you think he'll do his part?

Actor Father—He ought to. He's been rehearsing every night for months.

HUMAN HEAD WAS USED AS A FOOT BALL

Football is one of the oldest of sports, and some authorities say it is the daintiest of all outdoor games. The ancient Greeks and Romans played a game similar to football, the Romans calling it Fells. The gridiron pastime has always been of a ferocious nature. The first contest pulled off in England was at Chester, when a human head, from which a captured Dane had been separated, was used as a football. As early as the twelfth century football was England's most popular sport. There were no "elevens" in those days, but the adult male populations of whole townships contended one against the other, and the contest frequently lasted all day. A game that didn't leave several corpses strewn about the premises, and send most of the players home with broken bones or heads was considered very tame and uninteresting by the fans of those

happy days. The lords of the land were naturally peeved at such a general slaughter of their profitable peasants, and appealed to the king to stop the infliction of the death penalty upon the survivors of a football game failed to dampen the ardor of the game enthusiasts. Wherever British game was played, the English footballers have gone they have taken football with them, but in America they found the Indians playing an aboriginal brand of football. Today the Football Association of England, the governing body of the soccer game, has a membership of 400 professional clubs and nearly 75,000 amateur clubs. It is estimated that the amateur soccer players of England number nearly a million, while there are about 7,000 professionals. About 8,000 matches are played each week during the season in England, while in Scotland, Ireland and Wales the game is scarcely less popular.

PETER JACKSON THE GREATEST HEAVYWEIGHT

Ask almost any old-time fight fan to name the greatest heavyweight in ring history, and if he be not blinded by racial prejudice, the chances are good he will say "Peter Jackson." The last important bout of the great Australian colored boxer was fought sixteen years ago, March 22, 1898, when young Jim Jeffries, then a rising gladiator of the arena, knocked Peter cold in the third round. But it was only a shadow of Peter Jackson that Jeff disposed of so easily. Robbed of his strength and speed and much of his cleverness by a too great indulgence in the good things of life, Peter was almost a wreck when he faced the brooding Californian. Greatest fighter of his time, that he was, Peter never wore a championship crown upon his kinky dome. In 1891 he fought Corbett sixty-one grilling rounds to a draw. The following year Corbett met and easily defeated John L. Sullivan, who had persistently refused to fight Jackson. There is no doubt that if the Boston man had accepted Peter's challenges the latter would have become champion. Jackson was the great master of ring generalship, and what he did not know about the game was not worth knowing. He whipped every man who would fight him except Corbett, and ended with the ex-bank clerk. And the best that Corbett, in his prime, could do was to get a draw. He defeated Paddy Sullivan, another great Australian, in London, and the English sports made a hero of the negro and ruined him with high living and luxurious entertainment. When he came back to America he was not Peter Jackson at all, but a magnificent ruin of once supreme fighting machine. The fortune he made in the ring and on the stage squandered as fast as he got it, and when he returned to Australia to die he was dead broke. The sports of Sydney have erected a monument to the memory of the "greatest heavyweight in ring history." For five years Jackson was managed by "Parson" Davies, who took him on the road in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and made a big hit. The "Parson" always insisted that Jackson was the brightest star in the pugilistic firmament. Of the Jackson-Corbett battle, the "Parson" once said: "Jackson should never have fought that battle. He was a cripple. He was thrown from a buggy four weeks before the fight and was badly hurt. I tried to have the fight postponed, but they wouldn't listen to it, and Peter went ahead and fought anyway."

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Baseball magnates will turn their attention next month to Omaha, where the National Association of Professional Baseball League is scheduled to meet for their annual convention from November 10 to 12. At the same time the National Board of Arbitration will also convene.

The convention is fraught with greater importance this year than ever before in view of the fact that the Federal league clubs will be well represented there during the meeting. For some time past there has been rumors of impending peace between the followers of Gilmore, and the fans of the country eagerly await the action of the delegates and the Federal league representatives.

The committee in charge of the arrangements for the meeting have been actively at work for some time past arranging for the entertainment of the delegates and guests for next month, and it is safe to say there will not be a dull moment in store for the baseball men from the moment they arrive in Omaha until they take the train homeward bound.

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