

NEWS AND GOSSIP FROM DIAMOND AND PADDED RING

"CYCLONE" JOHN THOMPSON OUGHT TO HUNT CELLAR

"Thunderbolt" Papke Is On His Trail Preceded by Lots of Wind.

BY ROBERT EDGREN, A Special Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch.

NEW YORK, July 18.—"Billy" Papke, world's middleweight champion, slipped quietly into New York yesterday with his wife and boy and as quietly slipped out again, homeward bound for Keokuk, Ia. In a few days he will return.

This is Papke's first visit to Gotham as a world's champion. He has been here before—to the discomfiture of our most prominent middleweights—but not as a genuine wearer of the middleweight belt.

Papke looks just as much a fighting man as ever, although when he carries his son and heir about in his brassy mitts it's a certain air of domesticity that the place of the racing swasher that won the Illinois Cyclone. He is tanned with the suns of many countries and many seas, after circling the world in search ofistic rivals. He is a little rounder and chunkier than when he last left us. The young fighting slob is his, we are told, by his talk about his fights.

"Am I middleweight champion of the world?" exclaimed Billy. "Well, I sure am, and I'll defend my title at 138 pounds ringside, the regular way, and not at 136. The world thinks he can give me a fight for the title. I bar none. The one gentleman I'd like to pick a bone with as soon as possible is 'Cyclone' Johnny Thompson, who has been calling himself champion. I'd like to settle my dispute with him and let the rest of the others as fast as they come."

Deserves The Title.

"I was middleweight champion when poor Ketelhut was middleweight, he carried I was middleweight holder aside from Ketelhut. The title came back to me; I had cinched my claim to it by doing more than any other champion has done since Tommy Burns. I've circled the world and defeated the world's best, Australia and England, and I fought Australia's champion, and I fought Australia's champion, as I was recognized as champion of America and Australia."

"As for that Australian trip, it was a corker. A fellow I had never known the big the world until he crosses the Pacific Ocean. That trip got my goat. Papke's been there for weeks and weeks without sight of land and with five or ten miles of water underhead. I had a fine time, though, and in Australia I treated me mighty well. I once a fellow I thought was a scoundrel gave me a surprise. I was in good shape after the voyage and Smith is a big, rangy fellow with a pretty good punch. He could come to this country and beat a lot of good men, but he isn't a middleweight, he's an amateur. They can't be middleweight course. They can't be middleweight, he's an amateur and thought he was a world beater. He won on a foul, the first time. I don't kick about decisions. H. took me by surprise. I didn't expect to find such a good man over there. I had an idea that outside of America all fighters were scoundrels. America all fighters were scoundrels. I was 155 pounds and I was a little fat myself.

Underestimated Thompson.

"As for Johnny Thompson, I underestimated him and did not get into shape. He is sick with pride, he's too big for his britches. I should have won, but the night I could knock him out without any trouble. That match was at catchweights. I sealed 165 pounds. Thompson weighed 164, so he was not a middleweight. He's a lot heavier than most people think. It is harder for him to make 138 than it is for me to make 136. The fight was 136 pounds, and at one time I was surprised that I was champion of America and claimed the championship. If we had fought at weight, of course, he'd been entitled to it. Smith was claiming, too, and the Australian generally recognized him as champion, although he did weight 165. They thought Smith was too rough. He didn't hurt me. I was surprised when the referee gave him the decision. I suppose it always surprises a fellow. I had the best of 12 rounds and hurt my hand in the eighth.

"After that Thompson fought Smith, and I lost. I was 165, and that's what Smith again. This time I was in better shape. I knocked him down hard in the first round and kept hustling him until I got him and knocked him cold in the seventh. I guess that settled all questions about the title in Australia."

Then I went to England and fought Sullivan. Gena Corrie referred. Sullivan was a clever fellow and for a while I couldn't do anything with him. But all the time I knew I'd knock him in the ninth round—walloped him and put him out for 29 minutes. That made me champion of the world, even if I was only champion of America and not the world. I was 165. I weighed 165. They thought Smith was 165. I weighed 165. I am 165 pounds and Smith reached the club late and didn't weigh at all. He was about 165. In England they had an idea that I weighed about 165 and could not make 165, but it was 165. You can say that I am going to be a real champion, and Billy, coming for the time table. "When I come back in a few days I'll be ready to meet anybody—no middleweight barred. The easier I am from this time on the better it will suit me. I have a family to look out for now."

Miller's last words.

The Ben Millers, leaders in the Troyer League race, play the Ossentines in the feature game at South End Park next Sunday afternoon.

Honest, "Lefty" George Hands Out Blanks to Champs for Four Rounds

OME more wild pitching by the Brawns of the world enabled the Athletics to gallop away with the fourth and final game of the series at Spalding's Park Tuesday, 12-13.

"Red" Nelson failed to fool as in a few previous efforts. Then Dudley Cris, first baseman and pitcher, was called in. He had the Big Dugout to himself. Strangely, to relate, "Lefty" George was the third and most successful of the trio.

George went in the sixth round and blanked the Athletics the remainder of the way. The fielding was not up to par, but his hitting, however, was excellent.

Young Leonard, a former competitor of the Athletics, was called in to fill the bill for the Mackmen. He allowed one hit, but kept them well scattered.

Dick Parker, Ben Johnson's newestumpire made his debut. He is a big fellow, about the size of Billy Evans, with whom he worked.

The Philadelphians fattened their averages at the expense of Nelson and Cris, off the two right-handers they poised 13 of 16 hits made. The runs came in clusters of six, one and five.

Outing, Harry and Murphy each slashed off three hits and figured most prominently in the run-pounding.

Eddie Collier again performed at second base and didn't get a hit in five efforts. He drew one pass, but failed to convert it into a run.

After slapping into two double plays, Al Schwitzer was chased and Nelson went to right field. The Eddie Miller did not run twice.

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