

BASEBALL AND ATHLETIC SPORTS

FAMOUS RING GLADIATORS, WHO ARE TO BATTLE FOR WORLD'S TITLE, AS THEY WILL APPEAR IN RING.

RUMORS OF HITCH ARE UNFOUNDED

Ketchel Johnson and Referee Welch
Hold Conference Today to Prevent
Dispute and Delay.

San Francisco, Oct. 15.—The rumors of a hitch in the Johnson-Ketchel championship fight, which is scheduled to take place in Crofton's arena tomorrow afternoon, appear to have been made up and unfounded, according to information that came from both camps this morning. Johnson and Coffroth had a conference last night, and it was surmised in the press that there was trouble over the sum of \$10,000. This rumour spread rapidly and soon reached his office and said: "Coffroth may be right. I'll tell you more about it tomorrow." Johnson's manager, when asked this morning if there was any hitch, said:

"Not at all. Johnson and Coffroth had a talk last night but nothing serious came out. It was simply that Johnson wanted to have an understanding in regard to certain little points so as not to argue with the men entered in the ring. One of the matters was in connection with a certain point in the regulations to do with the principal who should have a conference with the referee. Welch, today, sent a wire to Coffroth, telling him to come to the ring at the last moment. There is nothing wrong with the side net and there is no chance or anything cropping up to interfere with the fight."

KETCHEL'S MONEY UP.

With Britt, Ketchel's manager, said that he had not heard of any trouble, and that he hardly thought Johnson would raise any question as to the side net.

"Our \$100 is up, a final stakeholder has been selected and we are willing to take a chance on Britt,"

Britt did some sparring with "Gunner" Smith and Jimmy Naughton yesterday and went through two four-round bouts with Johnson.

Johnson stepped on the scales this week and weighed 160 pounds.

"I feel better now," he said, "but I am taking care of myself and I will be careful with my food and drink. I will try not to gain weight and the only time I'm going to gain weight is if it is Jeffries. I

LOOK OUT FOR KETCHEL.

"Never mind Jeffries," said Bob Coffroth, Ketchel's managing partner, "he can't beat him. We had better go past this other fellow. If Ketchel bonds on the side net, we make you forget about him. I think such a thing would be a good idea."

The fight will be at 8 p.m. Saturday.

"Those who saw Ketchel think he is dead," he avowed, "but I think he is going to amaze the world. His weight was 180 pounds when he started, and he is now 175 pounds. The changes are that he will be

close to the 170-pound mark when he gets into the ring."

KETCHEL SAYS HE WILL BE CAREFUL

San Francisco, Oct. 14.—Jack Johnson, promoter of Ketchel, the principal in Saturday's match for the heavy-weight championship, spent a strenuous day in his respective training camp, working hard at his work, for both are in peak of condition, but they work faithfully under the command of the negro trainer, who is a master in the picture. In the day, taking the pictures which will be used as introduction to the real fight pictures.

Ketchel was surprised to learn that he will not fight to his opponent, as he has done in all of his previous fights. He declared that Johnson would not be allowed to do the leading, and that he will not tear into the big blues unless the latter shows unexpected weakness from the start. On the other hand, Johnson's manager admits that Ketchel will go after Ketchel from the first to the last to score an early knockout.

He reminds that the picture probably will suffer if an early knockout reigns. Little declared that the prospect of this was what would bring him to the ring, and that his money does not count in the first round.

It is said that Naughton has transferred the money in his hands, but it is now possible to learn where it is held. In view of Britt's declaration, there is room to believe that Ketchel has acceded to Johnson's demands, but there is still a feeling of uncertainty in local boxing circles.

OWEN MORAN IS AFTER ABE ATTELL

New York, Oct. 14.—Owen Moran, English featherweight, is expected to arrive here Saturday evening, having been prepared to make a match with Abe Attell, James Crofton, the San Francisco light promoter, who will be here next week, and will meet Moran in the ring Saturday night.

But the principal business that brings Coffroth to New York is believed to be the expected arrival of James J. Jeffries, who is due to arrive Saturday night, and will want his match with Moran to be delayed until the 20th.

A result of a disagreement between the principals over the status of the former champion, it looked for a time as though the Jeffries-Abe Attell match would not take place. While Britt, Moran's manager, stated later that an

agreement had been reached, however, and declared that the battle would be fought on Saturday, according to schedule.

The first word of the controversy came from Coffroth, who declared that unless he brought Johnson to terms there was little prospect that the fight would take place. He hasceded to the negro's demands, and the negotiations were suspended.

Johnson demanded today that the money be gathered in one man's hands.

Britt and Ketchel decided to let the odds be even to one against them today and thus decided to place their money at even odds. Johnson insisted, and Coffroth decided to the front to prevent the fight.

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If Johnson is not today as good as Jeffries, he may not be as good as Jeffries in that meeting out in San Francisco. Bob Coffroth, his manager, said in this regard, "He didn't last so long because he did the first time of trying. He broke every bone in both hands punching Jeff's face, but the last time was just the same. With this was too bad for Jeffries, and then when he was hit down and then when he was hit and black began to do things."

The Jeffries-Moran fight will be held in another meeting with Jeffries and get his wish, but not his revenge in that meeting out in San Francisco. Bob Coffroth, his manager, said in this regard, "He didn't last so long because he did the first time of trying. He broke every bone in both hands punching Jeff's face, but the last time was just the same. With this was too bad for Jeffries, and then when he was hit down and then when he was hit and black began to do things."

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