

Table Tennis Fans to View Barna and Bellak on Sunday

Women Jurors

By Matilda Fenberg,
Attorney

The principal complaint against women jurors in Cook county, after they have been serving for three months, is an economic one. Many lawyers and other persons around the courts are charging that the verdicts returned by women, in personal injury and other damage suits, are too small.

Some of these lawyers, who represent plaintiffs in the cases, are postponing trials whenever they can, hoping that as women gain more experience in the courts they will increase the amounts they allow for damages.

Contention Correct

The contention that women are inclined to allow smaller damage verdicts than men probably is correct for statistics on damage suit awards in states where women have been serving on juries for years show a lower average verdict than in Cook county when only men were jurors.

The insurance companies, the taxicab companies, the railroads and others who are defendants in these damage suits of course think that the women are showing common sense and good judgment in their verdicts. They say that women are not as readily influenced by their sympathies or sentimental feelings.

The critics of women jurors report that they are "penny-minded" because of their inexperience in business, because they are not accustomed to handling or thinking or talking large amounts of money.

Know Value of Money

There you have, boiled down, the arguments on both sides of the question. I think most women will agree that we know more about the value of money than do men. Maybe that does have some influence on their verdicts.

A majority of housewives, and working women too, are accustomed to handling their finances on a budget system. With the decreased incomes of their husbands or of themselves in these recent years they have been forced to learn the value of money. Some of them have learned the lesson well.

I have found that some of the Cook county judges agree with the lawyers in their criticism of the smaller verdicts now being returned in our courts. On the other hand these verdicts meet with the approval of the downstate judges who have been sitting in the Cook county courts recently. These judges are accustomed to smaller verdicts in their home courts.

Cites Certain Facts

In any comparison of the size of verdicts certain facts should be taken into consideration. It costs more to prepare a case for trial in Chicago or any other metropolitan center than it does in the smaller town. A lawyer's fees are higher because his business and living expenses are higher. For the same reason a Chicagoan who has been injured might be entitled to bigger damages than a person living in a smaller community.

But maybe all this criticism of women jurors as "penny-minded" is not entirely justified. I noticed recently that attorneys for the City of

The world's finest table tennis action will be seen this Sunday afternoon and evening at the Chicago Towers club, 505 N. Michigan avenue, formerly the Medinah club, when the Hungarian stars, Viktor Barna and Laszlo Bellak, engage a strong Chicago team in an international match.

The North Shore suburbs will be represented on the Chicago team by Ralph Muchow of Evanston, 1939 Illinois State open champion. Other members of the Chicago team include Billy Holzhrichter, 1939 Chicago champion and sensation of the 1939 national tournament; Herbert Aronson, Mid-Western champion and known as the Bromwich of table tennis because of his ambidexterity in hitting with both hands; Bob Anderson, Indiana open champion; and Alvin Nordhem, middle States champion who with Muchow forms one of the outstanding doubles teams in the country.

Expect Real Battle

Table tennis fans who saw the first Barna matches in Chicago five years ago will recall that Bill Condy of Wilmette, then a senior at New Trier, was one of the Chicago players to face the great Hungarian, seven times world champion. Although Condy gave Barna a great battle, the Chicago team was unable to take a game from the Hungarians at that time. This year, however, the Chicago boys are expected to give the Hungarians a close fight, inasmuch as American standards of play have improved immeasurably in the last five years.

Defend College Title

Dan Kreer and Abbott Nelson of Winnetka were unable to try out for the Chicago team because of their studies at Princeton university. The two Winnetka boys, however, will defend their intercollegiate championship this week-end at Princeton, N.J. The boys won the title for Princeton last year defeating teams from all the leading colleges.

The Chicago versus Hungary matches this Sunday will start at 3 in the afternoon and at 8 in the evening. In addition to the singles and doubles matches in the team play, Barna and Bellak will play a match against each other at both sessions and Jay Purves of Des Plaines, former women's national champion, and Mildred Wilkinson, national mixed doubles titleholder, also will play a match.

MAKE HOLIDAY VISIT

Mr. and Mrs. Allan D. Cunningham and their son, John Cunningham, of 156 Woodstock avenue, Kenilworth, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Nelson of St. Louis over the Thanksgiving holidays. While there they were joined by Miss Mary Cunningham and her roommate, Miss Lois Street of Vicksburg, Miss., who came to St. Louis from Stephens college to be with them over the Thanksgiving holidays.

Chicago were complaining that a jury composed of six women and six men had made excessive awards to property owners in a condemnation suit. Those lawyers thought that both men and women jurors dealt in too large sums of money.

Of course there will be criticism of women jurors but certainly there will never be any more, and probably not as much, criticism as there has been of men jurors in past years.



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