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OPPOSITE POST OFFICE.

CUE WIELDERS.

The Three Great Billiard Experts of America.

BALK LINE BILLIARDS.

The Rise and Fall of a Great Game—An Estimate of the Playing of Slosson, Schaefer and Daly—Their Play Contrasted.

Professional billiards died a natural death in the spring of the present year. And when they came to ask: "Who killed Cock Robin?" Jacob Schaefer confessed to being the sparrow in the case. The St. Louis handicap settled everything, as therein the wizard showed his ability to easily defeat at balk line billiards George F. Slosson, an expert who for many years had been the only opponent worthy of his cue at any game of ball to ball billiards. Slosson himself was apparently satisfied that Schaefer could beat him, and announced his retirement.

Starting in life with few advantages, today Slosson is the peer of any man who ever made a profession of billiards, in general information, says the Chicago News. His methods have brought the game to the notice of a class of people not before disposed to look upon it with any degree of favor. Many years ago Slosson was dubbed "Gentleman George," and the player has sought to make good his right to be so distinguished. The persistency of the man may be seen in the excellence of his billiards. While the claim that he is a mechanical and methodical player holds good to some extent, still the fact is generally overlooked that, like all billiardists of note, the rudiments of the game were inbred; and while constant practice has no doubt improved his game so that he has for years been the only American able to cope with Schaefer, still, should he not handle a cue for a year, a week's practice would create speed enough to easily enable its possessor to beat any other native billiard expert.

Socially Slosson is a cold and reserved man, and has therefore been greatly underrated by his brother professionals, and by them has not been given due credit as to the origination of methods which have added speed to billiards. Like most men lacking in brilliancy he has been underrated, and whenever victorious over Schaefer or Vignaux the public has cried "Lucky Slosson," whereas, at his best, neither of them could beat him to a certainty.

The man, aside from the billiard expert, has been severely handicapped all through his life by human ills, which have destroyed his family relations again and again, affected his physique, and so impaired his vitality that to his intimates the wonder has been how under all he has maintained sufficient of nerve steadiness to, by any possibility, show grand form at a game the requirements of which are more in the line of perfection than made necessary by any other. All billiard players will say that Slosson is the most wonderful man who ever showed first class form.

Maurice Daly is the largest headed expert in the world. Always a worker, he has amassed a fortune while the other professionals have been living up to their incomes, and he is today the idol of a class who worship gold in any form, however gained.

Never a money player, as a tournament player Daly has been in the front rank for a long time. When cushion carroms came in he was a strong advocate of the innovation, knowing full well that he could be first class thus, whereas at other styles he was scarcely a second rater.

At the time of the big triangular tournament in Chicago Daly sought admission, which being denied, because no "dead wood" was desired, the New York player thought to injure the contestants by circulating the report of "hippodrome," an act for which Jacob Schaefer will never forgive him. The wizard, just to show the force of the "dead wood" idea, walked into Daly's room a month later and offered to discount him at fourteen inch balk line for any kind of money, and Maurice Daly, although trying to make his patrons believe that he was Schaefer's equal, would not invest a dollar in such a match.

At cushion carroms Daly is likely to beat anybody, but still Sexton has been trying for a year to get on a match without result. In the fall of 1887 Sexton and Daly went to Washington and played 300 points for six consecutive nights. This was nothing but an exhibition, but Daly saw an opportunity to make a record for himself, and having nothing to play against (through "Comanche Billy's" well known habit of "painting the town red") actually scored a performance by which the record for so long a number—seven points—was eclipsed. And Sexton will never get a chance to retrieve himself, although, should a match be made, the players to back themselves, it is $100 to $75 that Sexton would win.

There is really no "billiard champion," but Jacob Schaefer is, beyond the doubt of any reasonable man, not only the greatest billiard expert of today, but of all time, past or to come. It is questionable as to whether Slosson or Vignaux have retained the form of three years ago, but Schaefer most certainly has, and today could be relied upon to average at least 25 at the 14 inch balk line. No man in America, barring Slosson, can average 12 at the game in 3,000 points, or, if so, Schaefer is willing to discount him. There has never been so good a general player as Schaefer, who now stands ready to play any man alive at any style of billiards. As a fancy shot player he is unequaled and can execute several varieties of strokes not attempted by any other expert, and this, too, without using the masse, at which stroke he excels all others at least 500 per cent.

JACOB SCHAEFER.

Cushion carrom is the only style of game at which others can cope with him, and yet in a contest of 2,000 points it is 100 to 40 that he would win.

The Rochester Meeting.

Prominent among the many excellent autumn gatherings is the meeting of the Southern Minnesota Fair association, which will be held at Rochester on Sept. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. The trotters are invited to enter in the 2:50, 2:45, 2:35, 2:28 and the 2:22 trotting classes, and the pacers in the 2:30 and the free for all classes, and the entry list closes on Aug. 20. In addition to the purses now open there are stakes for 2, 3, 4 and 5-year-olds, which closed with good nomination lists. Rochester is situated on the main line of the Chicago and Northwestern railway, and is only ninety miles from St. Paul. Horsemen will bear in mind that the Minnesota State fair holds its meeting at Midway, between Minneapolis and St. Paul, on the week following the Rochester meeting. Rochester has a fine mile track, offers liberal purses and deserves a good meeting

TWO FAMOUS FEATHERWEIGHTS.

Havlin and Murphy and Their Recent Hard Fought Battle.

The recent fight between Havlin and Murphy, which resulted in a draw, was one of the greatest battles ever fought in this country.

Frank Murphy, champion featherweight of Great Britain, first became known to the pugilistic world about eight years ago, when he defeated Alf Howe in five rounds. He is an Englishman, 25 years old, and stands 5 feet 4½ inches.

His visit to this country was to make an engagement with Ike Weir, "the Spider." As yet they have not met, the backers of each man having failed to come to an agreement.

John Havlin is a Boston boy, and is 29 years old. He stands 5 feet 2½ inches in height.

He made his first appearance in the West End club rooms, Boston, Feb. 22, 1884, against Dexter Kelley, a middleweight. They fought six rounds for a purse of $100. The battle was declared a draw.

Havlin was given a benefit in Boston, March 28, and it was the most successful one of the season, the event of the evening being a six round glove contest between Havlin and the "Spider." This was the first hostile meeting between these men since their great battle of sixty-one rounds at Wickford, R. I.

The backers of Havlin then offered to match him against any 115 to 120 pound man in America. A fight was finally arranged between Havlin and Tommy Danforth, of New York.

The battle, which was for a $500 purse, was fought with two ounce gloves at Codman hall, Boston, May 8, and at the end of eighteen rounds was declared a draw. The fight was a pretty and scientific one, but it did not decide which was the better man. Danforth weighed 121¾, and he had done considerable training to fit himself. Havlin weighed 120½ and had done no training to speak of.

HAVLIN. MURPHY.

The backers of Havlin again challenged Ike Weir to fight, and just when a match was about to be made Frank Murphy, the champion feather weight of Great Britain, reached these shores. The backers of Havlin and Weir then agreed to have one of the men to fight Murphy and the other to fight the winner. The backer of Havlin won the toss to see which would fight Murphy first. The backers of Murphy at first did not want to have their man fight under any rules except London prize ring rules. They afterwards changed their minds, and on May 24 articles were signed by both sides for a finish fight with skin gloves, according to Queensberry rules.

BASE HITS.

Anson is after more new blood.

The Baltimore club has released Pitcher Shaw.

"Old Joe" Gerhart is doing good work for the Jersey City club.

"Old Jack" Lynch is pitching a very fine game for the Scrantons.

Fautz, of the Clevelands, has stolen thirty-one bases in thirty-one games.

"Long John" Ewing is proving a valuable pitcher to the Louisville club.

The Worcester directors believe that the coming year will see a division in the ranks of the American Association, and that a new league, composed of eastern clubs, and to include Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Newark, Troy and other cities easy to reach, will be formed. Worcester will endeavor to gain admission to this league.

Says a Boston correspondent: "It is getting to be a well recognized fact that the pitching rules will again be touched next season. It has now come to be a fact that the abolition of four strikes was a mistake, and those who favored its abolition admit that something should have replaced it. Either the pitcher should have been put back five feet farther or the high and low ball should have been retained. Naturally the kicking on high and low balls would be immediately brought up, but there could not well be more kicking than there is at present."

The Worcester club sold its crack outfielder, Hamilton, to Kansas City for $1,500. He joined the club at Philadelphia. The Kansas City club has also signed Eddie Glenn, late of Charleston. Glenn is by no means a colt, as he has played with several American Association clubs, including the Columbus and Allegheny teams. He was only a fair hitter then, but his two years' experience in the south has improved his batting wonderfully, and he always was a clever fielder and base runner.

Michigan papers are hot after a state league next year. They say the Tri-State league is too expensive, and suggests the following cities: Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Jackson, East Saginaw, Bay City, Muskegon, Lansing, and South Bend, Ind.

The New England element is pretty well represented in the New York team; for instance, O'Rourke, Connor, Gore, Murphy, Crane, Slattery, Titcomb, Whitney, Tim Keefe and Manager Jim Mutrie.

The Chicago club will give a pitcher named William Shannon, hailing from Springfield, Ills., a trial. He is 22 years of age, a strong hitter, fleet base runner and the possessor of speed and all the curves.

Chicago's new pitcher, Mains, is one of the tallest men in the business, taller even than Healy, of Indianapolis. He is said to depend altogether upon speed and is reported to be a man killer, having an uneviable reputation as a hitter of batsmen.

Tommy Pollard is said to be the greatest short stop in the Central Pennsylvania league in every department. He is the greatest base runner the league has ever seen. He wins many games by his daring steals and slides. He is also an earnest player and works hard for the benefit of his club.

Detroit and a number of other clubs have been after Donovan, of Toronto, the leading batsman of the International association, but the club's excessive price for the man—$3,500—has scared them off. The Boston club, however, has notified Donovan not to sign with any club until he hears Boston's offer.

At a meeting of the Central league held at the United States hotel, Easton, Penn., the seven remaining clubs of the association were represented. It was decided unanimously that the season be completed and that every effort be made to obtain a club to take the place of Binghamton. Under article 26 of laws, etc., all the Binghamton players are under contract to the Central league, and it was agreed to assign them to the remaining clubs.

DAY BY DAY

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THE WONDERFUL CHEAP MAN.

Where he shows acres of clothing for Men, Boys and Children, where every garment is new in design, stylish and substantial. Where the prices are the lowest on earth.

- SPECIAL. -

Still remaining, 209 Men's Suits, light and dark colors, medium weights, suitable for early fall wear. Regular value $10.00. We will close them out at only $4.95 each. Men's Pants--About 300 pairs sold three weeks ago at $1.75 to $2.50. To make room for other and heavier goods we offer them for only 98c. Come and see them. 1000 pairs Overalls, colors: plain blue, brown, white, fancy checks and stripes from 38c to 85c. 375 pairs Boys' odd Knickerbocker Pants, a patch to match with each pair. Just the thing to knock about with, from 75c to $1.25 a pair. We are the people to clothe you in the Latest American Styles at the Lowest Prices on Earth. Come and see

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All-Wool Dress Goods, 10c.
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