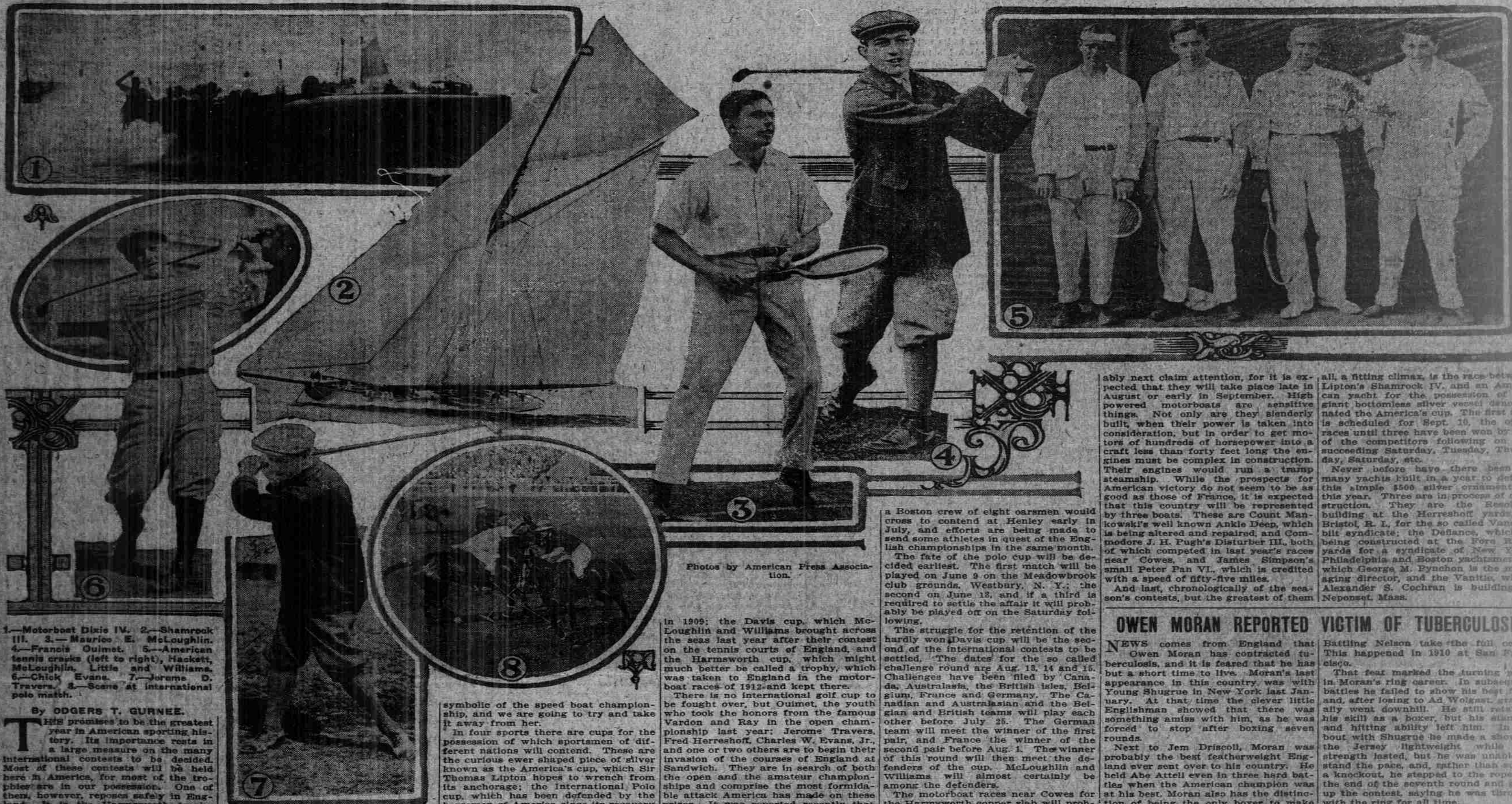


WHAT SPORTSMEN ARE TALKING ABOUT



PROMISE OF GREATEST YEAR IN INTERNATIONAL SPORT



1—Motorboat Dixie IV. 2—Shamrock III. 3—Maurice E. McLoughlin. 4—Francis Ouimet. 5—American tennis cracker (left to right), Hackett, McLoughlin, Little and Williams. 6—Chick Evans. 7—Jerome D. Travers. 8—Scene at international polo match.

Photos by American Press Association.

By ODGERS T. GURNEE.
This promises to be the greatest year in American sporting history. Its importance rests in a large measure on the many international contests to be decided. Most of these contests will be held here in America, for most of the trophies are in our possession. One of them, however, reposes safely in England. It is the Harmsworth trophy

symbolic of the speed boat championship, and we are going to try and take it away from her.

In four sports there are cups for the possession of which sportsmen of different nations will contend. These are the curious ever shaped piece of silver known as the America's cup, which Sir Thomas Lipton hopes to wrench from its anchorage; the International Polo cup, which has been defended by the horsemen of America since its recovery

in 1909; the Davis cup, which McLoughlin and Williams brought across the seas last year after their contest on the tennis courts of England, and the Harmsworth cup, which might much better be called trophy, which was taken to England in the motorboat races of 1912 and kept there. There is no international golf cup to be fought over, but Ouimet, the youth who took the honors from the famous Vardon and Ray in the open championship last year; Jerome Travers, Fred Harshoff, Charles W. Evans, Jr., and one or two others are to begin their invasion of the courses of England at Sandwich. They are in search of both the open and the amateur championships and compile the most formidable attack America has made on these prizes. It was reported recently that

a Boston crew of eight oarsmen would cross to contend at Henley early in July, and efforts are being made to send some athletes in quest of the English championships in the same month. The fate of the polo cup will be decided earliest. The first match will be played on June 9 on the Meadowbrook Club grounds, Westbury, N. Y.; the second on June 13, and if a third is required to settle the affair it will probably be played on the Saturday following.

The struggle for the retention of the hardy won Davis cup will be the second of the international contests to be settled. The dates for the so called challenge round are Aug. 13, 14 and 15. Challenges have been filed by Canada, Australasia, the British Isles, Belgium, France and Germany. The Canadian and Australian and the Belgian and British teams will play each other before July 25. The German team will meet the winner of the first pair, and France the winner of the second pair before Aug. 1. The winner of this round will then meet the defenders of the cup, McLoughlin and Williams will almost certainly be among the defenders.

ably next claim attention, for it is expected that they will take place late in August or early in September. High powered motorboats are sensitive things. Not only are they slenderly built, when their power is taken into consideration, but in order to get motors of hundreds of horsepower into a craft less than forty feet long the engines must be complex in construction. Their engines would run a tramp steamship. While the prospects for American victory do not seem to be as good as those of France, it is expected that this country will be represented by three boats. These are Count Makowski's well known Ankle Deep, which is being altered and repaired, and Commodore J. H. Fugh's Disturber III, both of which competed in last year's races near Cowes, and James Simpson's small Peter Pan VI, which is credited with a speed of fifty-five miles.

And last, chronologically of the season's contests, but the greatest of them all, a fitting climax, is the race between Lipton's Shamrock IV, and an American yacht for the possession of the giant bottomless silver vessel designated the America's cup. The first race is scheduled for Sept. 19, the other races until three have been won by one of the competitors following on the succeeding Saturday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, etc.

Never before have there been so many yachts built in a year to defend this simple \$500 silver ornament as this year. Three are in process of construction. They are the Zenobia, building at the Harreshoff yards, at Bristol, R. I., for the so called Vanderbilt syndicate; the Defiance, which is being constructed at the Fore River yards for a syndicate of New York, Philadelphia and Boston yachtsmen, of which George M. Eynon is the managing director, and the Vantis, which Alexander S. Cochran is building at Neponset, Mass.

OWEN MORAN REPORTED VICTIM OF TUBERCULOSIS

NEWS comes from England that Owen Moran has contracted tuberculosis, and it is feared that he has but a short time to live. Moran's last appearance in this country was with Young Shugrae in New York last January. At that time the clever little Englishman showed that there was something amiss with him, as he was forced to stop after boxing seven rounds.

Next to Jim Driscoll, Moran was probably the best featherweight England ever sent over to this country. He held Abe Attell even in three hard battles when the American champion was at his best. Moran also has the distinction of being the only boxer to make

Battling Nelson take the full count. This happened in 1910 at San Francisco.

That feat marked the turning point in Moran's ring career. In subsequent battles he failed to show his best form and, after losing to Ad Wolgast, gradually went downhill. He still retained his skill as a boxer, but his stamina and hitting ability left him. In his bout with Shugrae he made a show of the Jersey lightweight while his strength lasted, but he was unable to stand the pace, and, after that suffer a knockout, he stepped to the ropes at the end of the seventh round and gave up the contest, saying he was through with the ring for all time.

EVERS DENIES HOFMAN PULLED "MERKLE" PLAY

JOHN EVERS recently had his attention called to a statement by Merced Brown that Artie Hofman really engineered the play in 1908 when Merkle failed to touch second. In answer Evers says:

"I have no desire to enter into any controversy with Brown over this matter. In the first place, if I go back at length it will be just what the Federal league is seeking to do. Hofman did not call my attention to the play, and nobody knows this better than Brown. I have received a letter from Pat Moran, who was with the Cubs at the time, in which Pat says he is sending some matter on the same incident.

"While some considerable importance and notoriety were attached to the Merkle play, I believe the same identical play which occurred ten days earlier in Pittsburgh was just as important. It was in September, 1908. We were playing Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh. The score was tied at 1-1 in the sixth inning. Pittsburgh had three men on base and two-out. Gill was on first for Pittsburgh. The batter hit one through Brown's legs, and it went to center, where Jimmy Slagle was playing.

"The run went over the plate, but Gill did not go all the way to second. I got the ball back from Slagle and touched second. By this time the players of both teams were about off the field, and it occurred to me right away that the play was not right.

"I yelled to Umpire Hank O'Day, who was at the water barrel, but he would pay no attention to me and told me to go back to the hotel. If there was ever a time I crabbled I did that day. All the way back to the hotel I grumbled, and the Chicago players thought I was crazy.

"That night at the hotel Murphy and Chance came to me and had me explain the play. Murphy wrote one of his famous long telegrams to President Pulliam, who investigated the play. Chick Fraser was the only Chicago player who agreed that I was right, and a statement from him caused Pulliam to issue an order to umpires not to leave the grounds until the final play was completed, or, in other words, practically admitting that I was right in my contention.

"For some unknown reason little publicity was given the matter in the papers, yet to me it was just as important as the Merkle incident and had a vital bearing on the race that year. Had the Pittsburgh game been ordered replayed and we have been fortunate enough to have won we would have had the pennant clinched before that same in New York in which Merkle figured. As it developed, we lost, and when we played New York over again we had only a full game on them."

Gunboat Smith, Premier Heavyweight, Wants Crack At Champion J. Johnson



Photo by American Press Association.

THE GUNNER AND HIS RIGHT.

GUNBOAT SMITH, the world's greatest heavyweight humorist and somewhat of a fighter in his way, is considerably riled at the prospect of Frank Moran getting the first crack at Jack Johnson. "If Moran beats Johnson I might as well go to work and earn an honest living," says the Gunner, "for he will never agree to meet me for the championship. He knows I can beat him." Smith is the only "white hope" who ever received a referee's decision over Sam Langford and for that reason feels that he should be the one to get first chance at Johnson.

CHAMPION KRAMER MAY NEVER RAGE AGAIN

AMERICA has probably lost its best cross country and long distance runner, for Billy Kramer, the great athlete of the Long Island A. C., has broken down and may never again be able to don another racing shoe. During the three mile special race at the Monument A. C. games at Celtic park, New York, recently, he injured the Achilles tendon of the left foot and is now scarcely able to hobble around.

The injury is not new, as Kramer first strained the tendon while training on the steamship Finland on his way to the Olympic games in Stockholm. While it still pained him severely he started in the 5,000 meter race in the Swedish stadium, but was compelled to quit before half the distance had been completed. For two weeks he nursed the sore tendon, which controls the movement of his heel, and then he started in the Olympic cross country run. As in the 5,000 meter race, he was forced to quit before finishing the journey.

After this contest the late Mike Murphy, the veteran trainer who had charge of the team, declared that he would never again be able to run another race.

On Kramer's return to this country Lawson Robertson devised a rubber brace that prevented a "jarring" on the injured tendon, and this support enabled the cross country king to resume training and campaign again through the indoor season.

Kramer began athletics in 1908 as a member of the Acon A. C. and soon jumped into prominence as a great cross country runner. Two years later he joined the Long Island A. C. and while a member of that organization won many titles, including half a dozen cross country and the three and five mile championships.

Marsans Is Second Ty Cobb

THE Cincinnati Reds have two Cubans on the regular lineup who are expected to be stars of the National league during the season. Gonzalez and Marsans are the names of the Cubans secured by Frank Bancroft, business manager of the Reds.

"Marsans will prove the Ty Cobb of the Nationals," said Mr. Bancroft. "If it is possible to have another such wonderful player as Cobb is, then Marsans will be the player. He will play the left field position this season, replacing Bob Bescher, and, mark my word, he'll be nothing short of a sensation.

"And Gonzalez, whom I signed on my trip to Cuba last summer, promises to be a second Archer. His throwing to the bases is most accurate, and he throws from a flat footed position. Gonzalez cannot speak a word of English, and Marsans is used as interpreter."

Athletics' \$100,000 Infield May Soon Be Broken Up



Photos by American Press Association.

STARS OF THE \$100,000 INFIELD OF THE ATHLETICS

CONNIE MACK'S famous \$100,000 infield is on the verge of a dissolution. Jack Barry, who has long shared the honors with Eddie Collins of being the most brilliant fielder on the Athletic payroll, and one of the greatest shortstops that ever played ball, may have to go into drydock for a few months for repairs. Jack has been bothered for the past two seasons with a bad knee, and as the trouble continues to get worse instead of better his work on fast balls has become noticeably weak, and his speed on the bases practically nullified. But Connie, "the silent one," has resurrected from some unknown corner, an equally unknown gentleman named Kopf, who fields with all the grace and ease of an old master and stings the ball much in the same style as his fellow player, Stuffy McInnis. Where he came from no one seems to know, but that he is a rattling good ball player there is certainly no doubt. The passing of Barry, even if only temporary, will be received with sadness by fans and players alike, for the speedy little short fielder was one of the most popular men in the game. "The king is dead. Long live the king."