

BILLIARD CHAMPIONS TO PLAY FOR GOLD CUP

Notable Meeting Between Conk- lin, Gardner, and Poggenburg.

AT THE LIEDERKRANZ CLUB

First Match to Determine Possession of National Trophy Will Be Played To-morrow Night.

Three of the most prominent amateur billiard players in the country, including the present National champion, C. F. Conklin of Chicago, will meet to-morrow night and for the rest of the week in the Liederkrantz Club, 11 East Fifty-eighth Street, to determine possession of the Gold Cup which has been the National championship billiard emblem since 1901. Opposed to Conklin will be two ex-champions, Edward W. Gardner and J. F. Poggenburg. The coming tournament will thus be a miniature championship in itself.

The original conditions under which the championship trophy was played for were that three victories should make the cup the winner's personal property. This was reduced a year or two ago to two victories. Last year's tournament in Chicago marked the fifth contest for the cup, and when Conklin won it there was no player who had two victories. Besides the three mentioned, the other holders were Wilson P. Foss and Arthur Townsend, the latter having been the first holder when the trophy was played for in 1901 at the Hanover Club, Brooklyn.

The National Association of Amateur Billiard Players, with the consent of the donors of the gold cup, as well as of the five holders of the trophy, recently decided that it would be for the best interests of billiards in this country to start the coming championship next season with a new trophy. Hence this special tournament was arranged for the present cup. All of the previous winners were eligible to compete. Mr. Foss, who held the National championship for several years, has gradually dropped out of billiard competition, and he did not wish to enter the lists this week. Townsend has not been playing to any great extent for two years. This, therefore, left but three to meet for the trophy.

The first game to-morrow night will be between Gardner and Poggenburg. On Tuesday night Conklin will meet the loser of Monday's game, and on Wednesday Conklin will play the winner of to-morrow night's game. Each man will meet each other man twice, and this same arrangement will be followed on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The final game on Saturday will be in the afternoon. All the others will be started promptly at 8:30 o'clock in the evening. The matches will be 300 points each, fourteen-inch balk line, two shots in. A special billiard table has been placed in the music room of the Liederkrantz Club for the tournament. No admission will be charged, and lovers of billiards can secure club privileges to witness the games by applying to the Liederkrantz Billiard Committee Chairman, J. F. Poggenburg. Ed McLaughlin will referee the games.

C. F. Conklin arrived in the city yesterday from Chicago. He will make the Liederkrantz Club his headquarters during the week, and he did a little practicing there yesterday. He has been playing in fine form lately in Chicago, the report having reached billiard circles in this city that he is better than ever. Gardner, who took third place last year in the championship at Chicago, has been doing steady, consistent work ever since the close of Summer. He played an excellent game with McLaughlin last week at the Knickerbocker Club, Brooklyn, and has been doing considerable practicing in this city with Tom Flynn. He was the National champion in 1902. Poggenburg, who held the championship cup in 1904, has been practicing almost daily for the last month at the Liederkrantz Club. He has recently played a number of good games with Tom Gallagher, making, in several instances, averages of 23 in games of 300 points.

This week's tournament, although limited to three players, yet by their calibre and championship aspirations will afford an excellent opportunity for critics of billiard form to forecast the probable chances of the competitors for the championship honors next year. The National championship will go to Chicago again, being played in the rooms of the Chicago Athletic Association, beginning March 12. The Liederkrantz Club has set aside next Friday night as ladies' night at the billiard tournament.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

Several Interesting Games Played by Local Devotees of Soccer.

An additional round of championship games in the second annual series of the Metropolitan Association Football League was contested yesterday. The Bronx Rangers Field Club defeated Cameron Field Club at Lenox Avenue and 142d Street before a large crowd in one of the fastest games ever played in this vicinity, by the score of 3 goals to 1.

Soon after the kick-off the Camerons started pressing, making some fine shots at goal. Goodman finally scored the only goal of the half. On play being resumed the Bronx Rangers kept the ball at the Cameron goal for some time. Then Caldwell scored, and shortly after Inglis scored with an easy shot. During the last fifteen minutes Hueston talked a final goal for the Bronx Rangers. The line-up:
Bronx Rangers, 3. Position. Camerons, 1.
Grant..... GoalLane
Caldwell.....Right back.....Shaw
Harper.....Left back.....Saunders
Boland.....Right half back.....Holmes
Taylor.....Centre half back.....Slater
Dorwood.....Left half back.....Ewing
Daly.....Outside right.....Chapman
Inglis.....Inside right.....Hastings
Hueston.....Centre forward.....Goodman
Martin.....Inside left.....Pratt
McGroover.....Outside left.....Charlesworth
Referee—J. C. Johnston, Hollywood Inn.
Linesmen—Meyer, Bronx; Eskey, Camerons.
Goals—Goodman, Camerons; Caldwell, Inglis, and Hueston, Bronx. Time of halves—Forty-five minutes.

By defeating the Brooklyn Thistles in the championship game at Eighth Avenue and 149th Street, the New York Thistles managed to keep pace with the leaders in the league yesterday afternoon. The victors carried off the palm by 5 goals to 2. The line-up:

N. Y. Thistles, 5. Position. B'klyn Thistles, 2.
Burgess..... GoalLafferty
Hayes.....Right-backCaldicott
McNeill.....Left backMurray
Shanks.....Right half backWhite
Farquhar.....Centre half backFletcher
Craig.....Left half backThompson
Macfarlane.....Outside rightHalliday
Dudgeon.....Inside rightDonillette
Dye.....Centre forwardGillette
Colville.....Inside leftNeilson
Referee—George Scott, Cameron Field Club.
Linesmen—W. Oliver, New York Thistles; Mr. Marston, Brooklyn Thistles. Goals—Craig, Dudgeon, Hutchison, Macfarlane, McNeill, Murray, Halliday. Time of halves—Forty-five minutes.

Brower Wheelmen Race Thanksgiving

One of the most interesting cycling events of Thanksgiving Day will be the annual race of the Brower Wheelmen, a thirty-mile affair, starting from Bedford Rest, Brooklyn, at 10 o'clock in the morning and going to Valley Stream and return. This event increases in popularity every year, and Secretary Klein announces that 126 entries have already been received. Among the well-known road and track riders who will take part in the competition are C. A. Sherwood of the New York Athletic Club, the Riffler Brothers, Beyerman and Wiley of Syracuse, and a number of cyclists from Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Fifty prizes will be distributed among the contestants, including three bicycles, gold watches, tires, &c.