

HOPPE AND SUTTON TO CLASH WITH CUES

Billiard Experts Showing Form in
Preparing for Match at Hotel
Astor, March 15.

George Sutton, who will play Willie Hoppe for the 18.1 balk-line billiard championship, Friday night in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Astor, made a wonderful run and two great averages in practice games at Chicago. Last Monday he finished a game of 500 points with a run of 254 and scored an average of 542-3. His runs were 98, 15, 10, 8, 50, 17, 10, 30, and 254. Wednesday he averaged 634, the runs being 26, 13, 78, 165, 3, 24, 178 and 13. He arrived in New York Friday, and will practice at Maurice Daly's every afternoon and evening until the day of the match. While he is a resourceful player, strong at cushion carroms and three cushions and excelling at line nursing, he is not consistent. When he wins he generally does so by making one or more big runs. Nevertheless, he expresses confidence that he will make a good showing in the coming match and says, "If I play my game I will win. I am ashamed to say anything about what I have done at Chicago, because I have done so poorly there."

Hoppe has been playing well, but not strongly, in his preparation. His best average so far is 28. When informed of Sutton's great practice game he smiled as he remarked: "Well, I don't believe he will do anything like that on the match table. He has been practicing on his own table, which he knows thoroughly, with a set of balls that he understands equally well, and there is no reason why he should not make big runs and averages. In practice he probably takes big chances, playing 30 to 1 shots to get the balls together, and if he succeeds, his delicate touch enables him to get a lot of points. He won't do that kind of playing in the hall. The table may be faster than his, and the balls as light as feathers, and he will have to adapt himself to new conditions. But I don't underrate him. I know what he can do. He made that average of 100 at 18.2 against me. So far as my own play is concerned, I am satisfied with it. I am doing nothing big, but expect to do better in the match. I prefer to play better in matches than in practice games. As for averages, I don't care about them. In a match or tournament I don't play for an average; I play to win."

While Hoppe is not, as he says, doing anything big, he is probably executing the balk-line nurse better than ever before, and it will not be surprising if in that respect, which is the particular specialty of Sutton, he will surpass the latter Friday night. Sutton's practice run of 254 is one of the largest accomplished in recent years by any player. It does not, however, approach the practice runs of the late Frank Ives, who on one occasion rolled up 423 and on another 448. Hoppe won the 18.1 emblem from Sutton March 16, 1910. If he wins Friday it will become his personal property.

Professionals who watched Morris D. Brown win the National Amateur championship, at the Hanover Club, agree that he has the most effective and valuable draw shot seen since the days of Frank Ives. It is positive, forceful, or delicate as varying situations may require, and remarkably precise. And it is utilized on close or long strokes with equal facility. How potent a stroke of that description is may be inferred from what Maurice Daly said after having watched Frank Ives make a series of big runs. It was: "The only way you can check that fellow is to bar the draw shot."

The match between John Horgan, challenger, and Joseph Carney, champion, for the Jordan Lambert Trophy, emblematic of the three-cushion carrom championship, and \$250 a side, will take place at Saroni's room, Denver, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. Horgan left St. Louis for Denver last Tuesday. His business partner, Frank Benson, and several other St. Louisans will start for Colorado to-morrow to witness the contest and back their representative. Horgan's practice has been satisfactory. In the first six games of 50 points each that he played he scored 300 points in 380 innings, an average of 63 1-3 innings to a game. His subsequent performances were so good that St. Louis expects him to bring back the medal.

Whether the three-cushion performance of Edward Hubbell of Chicago on Friday, March 1, when he defeated James Christensen by a score of 50 to 14, in 36 innings, is a record is doubtful. The game was one of a series of inter-room competitions, arranged by the proprietors of the leading billiard halls of Chicago, for which it is said no prizes were offered.

If no prize depended upon the performance it did not constitute a record. It did, however, equal what Frank Day of St. Louis did in 1907 in the three-cushion tournament which introduced the Jordan Lambert Trophy and championship. Day not only established a record, but did so against so formidable an opponent as Alfredo De Oro. The latter said of the feat: "It seemed as if Day could have made any kind of a shot." Christensen said of Hubbell's work: "It was diabolical billiards." At Denver, when practicing for his recent match with Alfredo De Oro, Joseph Carney made 50 points in 31 innings, but did not thereby acquire a record.

John Ganzel, manager of the Rochester Baseball Club, and Fred Blum have formed a partnership to engage in the billiard business in Rochester. They assert that they will have the finest room in Western New York.

Although Thomas Hueston did not enter the professional pocket-billiard tournament for the National championship, to be held in Philadelphia, he is now in that city, having returned from Cincinnati. Last week he played at the Knickerbocker room there and conceded Morris Fink, a local expert, odds of 600 balls to 500.

St. Louis has a pocket-billiard prodigy. He is Myron Cade, Jr., 8 years old, and the son of the proprietor of a local billiard parlor. About seven months ago this precocious youngster began handling a cue on a 4x8 table. Now he is making all kinds of shots on a 5x10 standard. He delights in trying intricate combinations, and accomplishes astonishing results. His size makes it necessary for him to use a bridge almost continually.

QUALIFY FOR FINALS.

Six Pocket Billiard Players in Line
for Amateur Title.

The preliminary rounds for the amateur pocket billiard championship which have been in progress at the Riverside Billiard Rooms, the New York A. C. and the Amateur Billiard Club have all been completed, and two players from each club will play for the title at the Amateur Billiard Club.

In the play-off of a tie for second place at the Billiard Club yesterday E. P. Reynolds defeated Cecil Munoz by a score of 125 to 104. By the victory Reynolds is paired with William A. Hilt to represent the club in the final play. Reynolds and Munoz played a game, in which many scratches figured through efforts for safety play. Reynolds had 15 scratches against him, while Munoz had 18. The score by frames follows:

Reynolds—8 6 14 7 8 4 12 15 7 4 6 3 11
13 2 8 5—125. Scratches—15.

Munoz—9 7 9 1 8 7 11 13 0 11 9 12 14 2
13 7—104. Scratches—18.

A tie for second place was also played off at the Riverside rooms between Dr. Walter G. Douglas and William Anders. Dr. Douglas won easily by a score of 125 to 83. Dr. Douglas is paired with Lester F. Carter to represent the Riverside Rooms in the tournament for the title. Douglas outclassed Anders throughout the match, although both players had many scratches. The score by frames:

Douglas—6 5 13 7 15 5 11 11 13 2 7
13 3 5 3—125. Scratches—9.

Anders—9 10 2 8 0 10 0 4 4 2 13 8 2 12
10—83. Scratches—11.

A. B. Hyman and Edward F. Gray have already qualified for the New York Athletic Club and the final round robin tournament for the pocket billiard championship will commence at the Amateur Billiard Club to-morrow afternoon.

Sutton Plays Fine Billiards.

George Sutton displayed his best form at 18.1 balk line billiards in a practice game with Maurice Daly at the latter's billiard academy last night. The Chicago player won by a score of 500 to 208. Sutton is practicing for his match with Willie Hoppe, which is to be played at the Hotel Astor on March 15. Sutton had an average of a fraction more than 20, and had high runs of 146, 70, and 58. His run of 146 was made in the twenty-first inning, and in this ensemble of carroms he gave a remarkable exhibition of the nursing game. Daly's high run was 42 in the third inning. Sutton ran out his string of 500 points in twenty-four innings, his average being about the same that Hoppe has been making in his practice games.

Progressive Billiards To-night.

What is believed to be a novelty in New York, although it has been successfully tried out in the West, will be presented at the Morningside Billiard Academy, 125th Street and Lenox Avenue, to-night. "Progressive billiards" will be played, and probably sixteen players will participate. The game will be at 18.2 balk line and the run 50 points. It will be played on the same lines as progressive euchre, the winner of each game advancing and the loser remaining at the table, except in the case of the first table, where the winner will remain and the loser go to the tail end. The winner of the drive will receive a valuable prize, which is offered by the Morningside Academy.