

HOPPE AND SUTTON IN 18.2 BILLIARD MATCH

Championship Contest to be
Played at Hotel Astor, Be-
ginning on Wednesday.

Willie Hoppe, winner of the 18.2 balk-line billiard championship last November, will begin play on Wednesday night at the Hotel Astor in defense of his title with George Sutton of Chicago. The last time these billiardists competed in a title match contest Sutton won, capturing from Hoppe the 18.1 championship, the match being played on March 5, 1912. On Feb. 7, 1912, they again met in an 18.2 match in which the emblem became the personal property of Hoppe, Sutton losing by a score of 500 to 374.

Hoppe is now said to be playing better than ever before and in practice last Tuesday at McGraw's averaged 44 4-9 in a game of 400 points. On Wednesday night in a game against Jose Ortiz, he averaged 71 3-7 in 500 points and after having made a final run of 174 continued until he had run out 200 points, when he stopped without having missed. Thursday he made 400 points in ten innings, averaging 40.

Reports from Chicago say Sutton is playing fine billiards and they are probably true for he usually performs remarkable feats in practice. While preparing for his recent match with Morningstar he ran 278 at 18.1. He will arrive in New York to-day and practice at Maurice Daly's afternoon and evening for three days. Although Hoppe and Sutton are both great artists their methods are quite different. Hoppe is resourceful and versatile. He combines masterful general execution with intelligent management of the spheres, is a brilliant open-table performer and superb in position play. Sutton is a specialist. He applies himself so far as possible to ends of the table manipulation and line nursing. In both of those specialties he excels to an extent that establishes him as a formidable opponent. When in good stroke and favored by auspicious breaks, he rolls up big runs and averages. It was against Hoppe in the tournament at Madison Square Garden in 1906 that he made his unequalled average of 100 in 500 points. Whether he can "come back" will be decided by Wednesday's game, which will be contested in the Grand Ball Room of the Astor.

Maurice Daly believes that the decision of the National Association of Amateur Billiard Players to hold annual tournaments at cushion carroms will result in a general improvement of the skill of amateur billiardists. He and George F. Slosson have contended that candidates for amateur balkline championships should have practised at cushion carroms preliminary to engaging in tournaments. They supported that contention by pointing to the fact that the introduction of cushion carroms marked the beginning of the wonderful advancement incident to professional billiards in the last thirty-five years.

Ora Morningstar of Pittsburgh, 18.1 balk line champion, has announced that he will accept the challenge of William F. Hoppe for the title which he holds, and will probably name Pittsburgh, March 19, as the place and time for a decision.

George H. Sutton was at the Pullman Billiard Hall, Detroit, last week. He is not only a wonder at billiards, but a physical marvel. At masse execution he is almost incredibly expert. The fact that he makes masse strokes is, he says, due to "joshing" about a picture of himself taken at St. Louis. It was humorously commented that he was posing for a masse when photographed. That comment caused him to apply himself to masse practice. Now he can make some masse strokes that no other billiardist can accomplish.

Clarence Jackson continues to play admirable 18.2 balk line. Week before last at Kansas City he averaged 17½ in 1,800 points. Jan. 25 at St. Louis he averaged 25 in 400. It is rumored that he is likely to challenge for the 18.2 championship.

The entrants and handicaps for an amateur 18.2 tournament, which began last Tuesday at the Jefferson rooms, Chicago, are Fred Conklin, 400; Percy Collins, 400; Ballard, 250; Brown, 250; Nolan, 250; Barrett, 225; Campbell, 225; Lord, 200; Young, 175; Nelson, 175. Collins and Conklin are practicing to prepare for the National championship.

Fred Tallman of Rochester, the pocket billiard expert who does a billiard specialty in vaudeville, will on Feb. 15 depart for England to fill engagements there. While abroad he will try to interest Britons in the American game of pocket billiards. As a fancy shot performer he has no superior. As a general pocket expert he is of very near championship ability.

Pierre Maupome, the three-cushion expert, who represents St. Louis in the National Billiard League contests, is of French ancestry, and was born in Vera Cruz, Mexico, Sept. 22, 1881.

Alfredo De Oro has accepted the challenge of Thomas Hueston for the pocket billiard championship, and has named New York as the city in which the issue must be decided. De Oro has been playing in Kling & Allen's room, Kansas City. Hueston was billed to play yesterday in a new billiard room in Cincinnati, opened by Louis Marks.

SOCCKER FOOTBALL NOTES.

The four teams leading the National Football League are slated to compete this afternoon, and the result of the two matches will serve to give a line on the team which will probably capture the league championship this season. The West Hudsons will oppose the Wilberforce eleven at Harrison, N. J., and the True Blues will try conclusions with the Jersey A. C. at Willard Park, Paterson, N. J. The struggle for the pennant has narrowed down to these four teams, and the contests between these rivals has aroused intense enthusiasm over the circuit. The West Hudsons have a chance of gaining the lead in their game. They proved superior to the Wilberforces in the American Cup ties, gaining an easy victory, but with the loss of Kettles and McKay, who are now out of the game, the team is not quite as strong as formerly. This handicap will probably be augmented by the return of McHolland, who was injured at St. Louis, who will get back into action to-day.

The Jersey A. C. of Jersey City, which was beaten by the Scots last week, has another strenuous game ahead of it with the True Blues, and appear to be up against it, but it is said to be game and there is a chance for a victory.

An interesting feature of to-day's games will be the reappearance of the Newark Field Club team in competition. They are slated to play the Rangers at Olympic Park, Paterson, N. J. Newark is taking the place of the Brooklyn Wanderers, who withdrew from the series.

The Albions and Fultons will play to-day at Chelsea Park to decide what is one of the most important games of the season in the Metropolitan District Amateur Football League, as the result will have a direct bearing on the championship. The Fultons about two weeks ago defeated their opponents of to-day at Woodside Park, L. I., and to the great surprise of many, the Albions did not even penetrate their opponents' record by scoring a goal. This time, however, it is to be a different story, as the Albions are confident that they can win, having made special preparations for their attack.