

Hoppe Beats Cochran for World Three Cushion Title

BY CHARLES BARTLETT.

Willie [The Kid] Hoppe is still the No. 1 boy wonder of sport at the age of 48.

This is the Willie whose Pa took him up to Daly's rooms at 31st and Broadway in New York City thirty-five years ago to have a go at several of the big shots of billiards in a handicap balkline tournament. William, wearing knee breeches and a tony tuxedo jacket, wasn't quite tall enough to take a standing stance, so they allowed him to jump up on the table, and he was up there enough during that tournament to win it.

From there the prodigy grew and with him his list of championships, but there was one he never could quite make—the world's three cushion title.

Reaches Goal at Last.

Last night in the Grand ballroom of the Sherman hotel, the same Willie, now wearing long pants, finally won that one crown which had slipped through his gifted fingers all these years. He did it by defeating the title holder, Welker Cochran, of San Francisco, 60 to 38, in 50 innings, in the sixth and final block of their three day challenge match for the championship.

The final block saw Hoppe finish with a cumulative total of 360 points for the entire match against Cochran's 246. The six blocks required a total of 340 innings.

Hoppe's victory not only gave him his first three cushion championship but also established him as the only triple title holder in the history of the game, for he was already champion at both 18.1 balkline and cushion caroms. He does not plan to defend the title until the tournament proper at the end of the year.

Radio Delays Match.

Willie won the right to challenge Cochran for the title by finishing as runner-up to Welker in the big show held here in November. It was his fifth try for the title. He finished second in three of the other four and fourth in the other.

Arrangements had been made with a national broadcasting hookup to relay the last hair raising details of the struggle to millions of eager ears. The time signals on this plan went awry, so that two time outs were required. While these were transpiring, practically each of the 900 customers in the house took a bow, and a few of the neighbors were invited in for charades.

Hoppe made no mistake about get-

ting his little chore done. Entering the afternoon block with a 63 point lead, Willie immediately began to build on that until it ended with him holding a 300 to 208 margin over the champion.

Hoppe Increases Lead.

By the thirty point intermission in the evening he had increased his advantage to an even hundred points, 331 to 231. Willie failed to oblige the clients with any such happy string as the record run of 15 he reeled off in the fourth block on Monday night, but in the twentieth inning of the night block he came through with a shot that probably only he could have made at that particular moment.

He had run four billiards so softly that the three balls might have been armored with cotton. The trio also wound up, practically in a line near the top rail of the table, with the object ball on the left, the cue ball centered, and the spot ball at the right. This, to a Hoppe, could call for only one shot—a full massé.

Makes Spectacular Shot.

Willie stood over the cue ball, stabilizing down at the air above it and finally drove the cue home. The cue ball then began a to and fro ride along the head of the table which saw it score five cushions on the three rails while tapping the object and spot balls en route.

Hoppe ran six in the 37th inning for a total of 349, and it then was obviously only a matter of minutes for the remaining 11 points. He was detained in the 48th, where Cochran had a loser's jest by playing a deliberate safety shot, when Willie had a total of 358. He picked up the necessary two in the next three innings, although that precious 360th point almost came a cropper when the wandering object ball nearly collided with his cue ball.

FIFTH BLOCK.

HOPPE — *3 010 505 000 030 013
048 103 000 740 011 113 100 000
003 11 —Total, 60. High run, 8. Innings,
45+. Grand total, 300. Total innings,
280+. *Unfinished.

COCHRAN—100 020 200 100 001
420 100 003 001 011 000 022 010
400 11 —Total, 31. High run, 4. Innings,
44. Grand total, 208. Total innings, 280.

SIXTH BLOCK.

HOPPE — 220 500 401 100 030 013
151 001 280 010 030 102 614 000
020 011 011 —Total, 60. High run, 6.
Innings, 50. Grand total points, 360. Total
innings, 340. Match high run, 15.

COCHRAN—050 113 130 001 040
200 001 100 311 010 001 000 002
003 000 000 30 —Total, 38. High run,
5. Innings, 50. Grand total points, 246.
Total innings, 340. Match high run, 7.
Referee—Charles McKillgott of Chicago.