

# DEMAREST AROUSES THE BILLIARD FANS

Young Chicago Expert Striving  
to Become Champion  
Professional.

## SCHAEFER HIS BEST TUTOR

Musical Career Cut Out for Demarest,  
Which He Dodged—Gallagher and  
McLaughlin to be Matched.

Interest in billiards among local enthusiasts received an impetus last week by the initial appearance here, in the rôle of a professional, of Calvin Demarest, the young Chicagoan who for a year or more held the amateur championship of the world.

Demarest has been meeting all comers at the rooms of McGraw and Knowles, and so favorably has he impressed those who have watched his cue work each afternoon and evening that the majority of them unhesitatingly declare that before many months elapse Willie Hoppe will have to look to his laurels.

The best players of New York, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia have watched the work of young Demarest, and many of these have played with him. In every instance, with one exception, the Chicago boy has defeated them handily and without half exerting himself. Thursday evening, however, the veteran, Tom Gallagher, succeeded in winning hands down from the youth, but it was plainly evident to all that Demarest was way below form, as in previous games with Gallagher he had defeated him as easily as some others he had met and beaten.

Demarest plays with a style peculiar to himself. At first glance he is awkward, but after watching his work for awhile the spectator soon realizes that he possesses all that goes to make up a great player, and that many of the little mannerisms and affectations former champions are wont to assume are entirely lacking in his make-up. This boy is a ball-to-ball player from start to finish, and it is rarely that he is called upon to make a cushion shot. When this is necessary, however, he shows that he has marvellous control of the cue ball and an unerring eye, since his one and two cushion shots are so executed that they never fail to result in a clustering of the balls and at a point rarely in excess of a few inches from the cue ball.

It is with lightninglike rapidity that the young man reels off his points, and in the many exhibition games played here last week it never required more than an hour to terminate a 250-point game. His draw shots are marvels for accuracy, and his masses are strongly suggestive of Jake Schaefer at his best. This may be explained in Demarest's views on the game when he said that he had been a close student of billiards for fifteen years, despite the fact that he is but 21 years old, and that in this time he had endeavored to absorb the best features of each of the best players' games.

"Schaefer, to me, was ever a marvel," Demarest said, "and perhaps I learned more from him than from any other player. Vignaux, too, was a brilliant player, and my games with him were wonderfully helpful to me in after years. Hoppe I consider one of the best players in the world, but I am confident that I can beat him, and this I expect to do whenever a match can be arranged for us."

Asked as to his love of billiards and his mastery of the game, Demarest replied: "It is a long story, but perhaps it may interest you. I was prepared for a musical career. My father is the foremost organist in Chicago, and it was his wish that I learn to master the piano and then launch forth upon the concert stage. My mother is a finished musician, and—well, I have heard the world's best singers—Melba, Nordica, Tetrzzini, and the rest of them—but to my mind none of them can compare with mother. That's a sweeping assertion, but you should hear mother, and then you could understand my enthusiasm."

And the boy's eyes flashed with pride as he thus expressed himself.

"I became interested in pool when a child, and after reaching that stage of proficiency whereby I could beat the best players in Chicago, I took up billiards, and I suppose you know the rest. I left the amateur ranks because there were no more games in sight for me, as there was a certain amount of feeling in Chicago against me, and for the sake of harmony I retired from the field. I hope to get on some matches, and, as I have a most attractive offer to appear in vaudeville, I may decide to do so, and then I will have time to look over some of the many challenges that are flying around now."

Coincident with the appearance of Demarest here, many amateurs and professionals have come from beneath cover, and every afternoon the tables in McGraw's, Daly's and Doyle's and Slosson's rooms are in constant use, and a number of tournaments have been arranged at each of these places.

Tom Gallagher and Ed McLaughlin may get together soon, and already matches have been arranged at McGraw's, in which John Hendricks, a New York expert, who is regarded as one of the best amateurs in the city; R. M. Brown of Brooklyn, and John Spinks, former amateur champion of the world, may meet. Martin Mullen of Cleveland, another billiardist of renown is here, as is Harry Cline, the Philadelphia champion, and these, together with John Whitehead, Byron Stark, and Ferd Poggenburg, are soon to be brought together in a series of matches.