

SLOSSON WINS THE GAME

A CLOSE CONTEST WITH VIGNAUX IN CHICAGO.

BILLIARDS WHICH DRAGGED TEDIOUSLY IN THE EARLY EVENING, BUT IN WHICH SOME FINE RUNS WERE MADE.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Maurice Vignaux and George Slosson began to-night the series of tie games to settle the billiard tournament played here a few weeks ago, and Slosson won the first game of the series, scoring his 800 points in 49 innings, stretching over just five hours. His average was only a little above that of Vignaux, although his playing was on the whole much superior. Central Music Hall was only about half filled, and it is probable that the gate receipts of the tie games will not be nearly as large as were hoped for.

Charles Parker introduced the players to the spectators, and also made the latter acquainted with John Callahan, of Milwaukee, the Referee. Vignaux won the bank, and, closing the black ball, counted from the spot, but slipped up on a two-cushion shot. In the following eight innings the Frenchman played poorly, scoring 4 goose eggs, 3 small singles, and 1 double. Slosson, on the contrary, played a good game after the fourth inning, making runs of 20, 30, 54, and 24. At the end of the ninth inning Slosson had 136 points to his credit and Vignaux but 25. In the tenth inning Vignaux picked up 47 while Slosson went only half as far. The balls were in good position for the Frenchman in the eleventh inning, and he placed 93 more buttons to his credit before he sat down, the score then standing—Vignaux, 165; Slosson, 159.

Slosson caught the lead again with a run of 16, and, Vignaux failing to score, Slosson added 46 more to his string, stopping on a unlucky foul. From this point on the game dragged wearily enough, neither player seeming to be in even practice form. The work was stiff, hard, and rough, and nearly all open-table. At the end of the twentieth inning the score stood—Vignaux 282; Slosson, 316, and it became evident that neither man was likely to reach 800 points for a long time. There was nothing lively in the game from this time up to the twenty-sixth inning, when Vignaux made a little spurt of 42, and Slosson followed with 38. Then Vignaux went to the rail and won the first applause of the evening, when he had scored 100 points. After running this up to 113 he sat down the score then standing, Vignaux, 458; Slosson, 419.

This burst of speed did not last, and the players settled down to the dullest kind of playing. The Frenchman opened the twenty-eighth inning with a goose egg, and Slosson finished it in the same way.

The succeeding innings up to the thirty-seventh, although marked by some good play on the part of Slosson, were unproductive of runs worthy of mention. Vignaux, however, seemed to have the balls under better control than his opponent, and slowly increased his lead till the thirty-seventh inning, when he made a spurt and counted up 95 buttons. Slosson followed with a goose egg, and the inning closed with the score standing: Vignaux, 648; Slosson, 527. In the thirty-ninth inning the Frenchman captured 22 and Slosson followed him to the table and started on the greatest run of the evening. His playing was magnificent, and the spectators grew enthusiastic as he shoved up button after button to his credit. There were cheers when he touched 100, and another burst of applause when he passed 113, Vignaux's highest run. Finally he sat down with 159 to his credit after an exhibition of the finest playing seen in any of the games of the tournament. The score then was: Slosson, 707; Vignaux, 672. The Frenchman scored 50 in the next two innings, and then added two goose eggs to his nest. Slosson during the same time captured 54, and the forty-third inning closed with Slosson only 39 and Vignaux 78 to go for the game.

Slosson increased his score by 23 and Vignaux by 4 in the next three innings, and Vignaux taking a goose egg in opening the forty-seventh, the American closed the inning with a run of 13, leaving him only 2 to go, against Vignaux's 74. The latter fell down after running 14 and Slosson stepped to the table, only to retire after scoring 1. Vignaux could only catch 3, however, in his half of the next inning and Slosson closed the inning and the game by getting the 1 on a brilliant open-table shot. Schaefer and Vignaux will meet to-morrow evening. The following is the score of to-night's game:

VIGNAUX.—1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 6, 0, 5, 12, 47, 93, 0, 49, 0, 3, 18, 0, 2, 13, 38, 11, 3, 0, 6, 1, 42, 119, 0, 1, 38, 8, 20, 0, 8, 15, 5, 95, 2, 22, 13, 37, 0, 0, 3, 1, 0, 14, 3—743.

SLOSSON.—2, 1, 5, 0, 20, 30, 54, 0, 24, 23, 16, 46, 6, 16, 16, 12, 3, 41, 1, 0, 13, 11, 0, 38, 0, 38, 3, 0, 37, 2, 0, 7, 13, 2, 34, 13, 0, 21, 159, 6, 41, 0, 7, 11, 8, 5, 13, 1, 1—800.

Innings—49.

Average—Vignaux, 15.8-49; Slosson, 16.16-49.

Time of game—Five hours.