

# SCHAEFER DEFEATS SEXTON

## A CLOSE AND EXCITING GAME OF BILLIARDS.

THE CHICAGO PLAYER SHOWS HIS SKILL AT THE CHAMPION'S GAME—SEXTON, THOUGH BEATEN, PLAYS MAGNIFICENTLY—A FIGHT TO THE FINISH—SCORE 600 TO 585.

The first regular match game of billiards for the new Collender medal, emblematic of the championship of the "champion's game," was played last evening in Tammany Hall in the presence of 2,500 spectators. The medal was won by William Sexton, the Yankee expert, in the tournament of November last. Sexton then defeated George F. Slosson in an up-hill game. Previous to the opening of that game a challenge to its winner from Jacob Schaefer, holder of the Brunswick world championship cup, was read. It was accepted by Sexton, and led to the game of last evening. That game was 600 points up for a money stake of \$1,000 and the medal. Interest in the result had run very high, and the wagers on the contest were numerous. The betting was decidedly in Schaefer's favor at the outset, but became more even as the time for the match drew near. No odds were offered on either player last night. Sexton appeared in Tammany Hall long before his competitor, and, looking well, seemed to be in excellent spirits. Jacob Schaefer also appeared in good form. Both men were loudly applauded as they approached the table. The preliminaries were quickly arranged. John F. Gleason took the referee's chair, George F. Slosson became Sexton's umpire, and Eugene Carter, Schaefer's.

After some necessary delay in measuring and weighing the balls, the players strung for lead at 8:10. Sexton won by less than half an inch. He chose the white ball, and retired after a pretty counting stroke from the "lay off." Schaefer then missed and Sexton followed suit. Schaefer now woke up somewhat and put 20 points to his credit. Sexton then got the ivories on the rail, and for a while "nursed" them prettily. The hall echoed with applause as the most difficult shots followed each other in quick succession to the number of 45. Schaefer managed to interpolate 3 caroms before Sexton started off again with race-horse speed, rolling up carom after carom on all parts of the table with his old-time skill. When he left the table Schaefer, for a second time, scored but 3. Sexton then made another run, over which the spectators grew enthusiastic. He abandoned the open table after a time, and rolled the balls along the rail, clinking out the caroms until they had chimed 64. The marker called: "Sexton, 152; Schaefer, 34." Schaefer followed with a shockingly-bad stroke, while Sexton awoke a tumult of applause by two superbly-executed cushion caroms.

Schaefer now suddenly awakened to the demands of the situation. Drawing the ivories to the rail by a magnificent position stroke, he began to "nurse" admirably, swinging his cue with inimitable grace, ease, and speed. He quickly reached and passed Sexton's big run, and counted 100 amid wild applause. On and on he went, passing Garnier's highest run of 147 in the November tournament, and endangering Slosson's great run of 165, made in his game with Sexton. He came within 3 points of this, and then failed to count. At the close of the run the score was announced: "Schaefer, 136; Sexton, 158." Sexton grew nervous, and, for a time, did very feeble work, while Schaefer seemed to gain the confidence he lacked at the outset of the struggle. A reaction, in the form of meagre scoring, followed, however. Sexton was the first to recover coolness. In the eighteenth inning he got the ivories near the rail, and kept them there, playing delicately and well until he caught up with and passed his opponent, and put to his credit 151 caroms. The excitement now reached a very high pitch, and there was a deafening shout when, at the close of the splendid run, the marker called the scores: "Mr. Sexton, 320; Mr. Schaefer, 229." When Sexton ceased to count, Schaefer, frightened in turn, made but 4, and left a splendid "set-up," of which Sexton was not slow to take advantage. He rubbed the leather of his cue with a huge steel file, applied chalk to the roughened edge, then hitched up his trousers, and quickly put 23 to his credit. Then he failed to hit a ball, thus forfeiting 1. He immediately atoned for this, however, with a run of 27, and after Schaefer had made a weak count of 2, he duplicated his run of 23. Then, amid mingled cheers and hisses, Sexton, finding the ivories dead "safe," for his own protection played deliberate "safety" on his adversary, who made a commendable but futile effort to score. In the twenty-fifth inning the score stood: Sexton 402, Schaefer 250. It was looking dark for Schaefer, but once more he suddenly exhibited very brilliant play, and scored 57, carrying his his score up to 307. Later on he drew the balls to the left side rail and resumed a very rapid and brilliant series of "nurse" caroms, in which, amid frantic cheering and stamping of feet he swept past his rival and put 149 to his total score of 307 shots, gaining a lead of 26 points. The latter scored a dozen, and an inning later Schaefer was brought to an abrupt stop at the outset of what, in all probability, would have proved another formidable run by a claim of "push shot" sustained by the referee. The excitement of the spectators was now wrought to the highest pitch, and they watched the progress of the game, the best, by far, yet played under the new rules, with feverish anxiety. In the midst of the uproar and hoarse cheering, Schaefer gained the side rail for a third time, and drove the obedient balls along it until they had rung out 44, which made the total score 520 to Sexton's 461. A lull followed, and then another outburst of applause hailed Sexton as he too gained the rail and made a superb run, in which he scored one of the finest "long-follow-kiss" shots ever made. He needed but 137 points to win, and, nursing up the left side rail, a most difficult performance, he slowly approached nearer and nearer those figures. The spectators became silent, and nothing was heard but the clicking of the balls, and at intervals short, sharp bursts of hand-clapping. Sexton scored in all 98 of the finest shots made in the match. But when he missed his ninety-ninth carom he left the ivories "set-up" in the corner for Schaefer, from which the latter gathered 24 caroms, missing the twenty-fifth by a hair. It was apparently his last chance, but Sexton, after scoring 24 caroms, missed, and by a very fine "massé" shot, Schaefer gathered the balls on the bottom rail, quickly made 51, and won a brilliant and hotly-contested game by just 15 points. His victory was hailed with tumultuous applause. It is probable that George Slosson will challenge Schaefer for the "Champion's Game" emblem.

Appended is a complete score of last night's contest:

Schaefer—0, 20, 8, 0, 0, 0, 3, 3, 0, 0, 0, 162, 12, 5, 12, 3, 1, 4, 7, 2, 2, 2, 0, 4, 57, 149, 14, 6, 44, 5, 24, 51—600.

Sexton—1, 0, 6, 10, 3, 0, 45, 21, 2, 64, 2, 3, 1, 0, 1, 9, 151, 23, 27, 23, 0, 1, 2, 6, 23, 12, 0, 19, 2, 98, 24—585.

Winner's average, 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; loser's, 18<sup>9</sup>/<sub>32</sub>. Best Runs—Schaefer, 162, 149, 57; Sexton, 151, 98, 64. Time of Game—Two hours and twenty-two minutes. Referee—John F. Gleason. Marker—E. Wilmarth.

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