

Time was when the mere announcement of Fitzsimmons's name to a match would have attracted the attention of the entire sporting world, but now the freckled hearty is old and his coming wrangle with the Australian pug is only exciting some curiosity as to how good the old fellow really is at this stage.

ACCIDENTS DO NOT TAKE NERVE OF AUTOMOBILE RACE DRIVERS

It has often been said and is a generally accepted truism, that one or two serious accidents take the nerve of an automobile race driver.

The facts, however, show quite the contrary. The best racing drivers in the game today are men who have been through the mill of accidents.

"Accidents are a part of the luck of racing," said a prominent driver the other day. "The good man accepts them as a matter of course and the fear of them never keeps him out of a race."

Joe Tracy, maker of world's records, has probably been as much battered up as any who ever drove a motor car. Yet he is just as nervy a driver today as he ever was.

Badly Battered.

Joe Matson, the man who won so many honors for the Chalmers-Detroit during the last season, was so battered up in an accident in Minneapolis that he did not recover consciousness for two days.

Bob Burman and Louis Chevrolet, driver, who have carried the name of Buick to victory in so many of the greatest races of the last season, both have been mangled in accidents. Burman's latest exploit in Texas was described in these columns. Yet neither of these men can be accused of a want of nerve.

Lee Lorimer was battered so that his best friend would not have known him at Buffalo last summer, yet he became very angry when his contest manager

wouldn't let him try for the 100-mile track record less than a month after his accident.

Driver's Skull Crushed.

Herbert Lytle, last season, had his skull so crushed that a trepanning operation may become necessary, yet he made the fastest time of any contestant on the tortuous "back road" during the Lowell (Mass.) meet later in the summer.

Grant, who won the Vanderbilt; Louis Strang, Ralph De Palma, Hemery, Dingley, Robertson and others, all of them the leaders in the racing game today, may be mentioned as the men who have "flirted with death," and who still have the nerve which is necessary in every automobile racer.

When one talks with these men the first impression is that they are singularly indifferent to accidents. One of them, in talking with the writer recently, said:

"I don't expect to die a natural death. This racing game will always get the man who stays by it long enough. I am sure it will finish me sometime, because I am going to stick to it. I am possessed of what is commonly known as the 'racing bug.' I'd rather drive a race than do anything else. And I know what the finish will be unless I have more luck than any other man I ever heard of. That's why I have never married. But the possibility of accident doesn't lessen my nerve. They are all a part of the game. I once heard of a steeplejack who slipped on the stairs in his home and broke his neck. I may get out that way if my luck holds out."

COACH YOST HAS FEW REFORMS FOR FOOTBALL

COACH STAGG LEAVES FOR REFORM MEETING