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***The Leading Sporting Journal in Existence:
Sports, the Working Class, and the
National Police Gazette***

The *National Police Gazette* was the most popular sporting journal of the late nineteenth century. The weekly paper, which has been derisively dubbed the “barber’s bible.” reached its readers through such outlets as volunteer tire houses, hotels, saloons, and yes, barbershops. At its peak, from 1880-1900, the *Police Gazette* sold about 150,000 copies across the United States. This, however, seriously underrepresents its actual readership. As dozens of people read each copy, it is likely that the paper reached an audience of millions.

Most of the paper’s readers were members of the native, white working class. These people played an active role in determining the character and content of the sheet.