

# LEONARD SAYS HE IS DOING HIS BIT FOR UNCLE SAM BY APPEARING IN BENEFIT GOES

### Lightweight Champion Points Out That \$200,000 Has Been Netted in Benefit Shows in Which He Has Appeared and for Which He Did Not Receive a Red Cent.

By RINGSIDE.

Chicago, Dec. 15.—Benny Leonard, lightweight champion, has been criticised by many fight fans and others for not "doing his bit" for his country by forsaking the ring and joining some branch of the government's military or naval service. Benny was in Chicago recently and revealed a few facts that would seem to indicate that the lightweight champion is one athlete that the government probably could ill afford to have in the army.

"We were figuring up the other night, Billy Gibson, my manager, and I," said Leonard, "on just what we have done for the country in this crisis, and we found something that really startled us. I have taken part in dozens and dozens of benefits and performances for the different funds and war charities, and we discovered that the total receipts of these shows amounted to more than \$200,000. Mind you, these were shows in which nobody but the different funds profited. I didn't get a penny out of them and in many cases traveled a considerable distance without even having my expenses paid. So I consider that even if I am not doing any actual fighting I have done a whole lot in another way.

"In many of these shows I was the main attraction and, therefore, consider that I alone was instrumental in raising the greater portion of this amount."

Leonard is one of the paid instructors at army cantonments who obtained his appointment just as did a number of other high-class boxers, through the athletic commission created by the president and headed by Joseph E. Raycroft of Princeton university.

"I am not a lieutenant, as has been said of me," said Leonard, "but I wish I could say so. I've had just enough of the military life to make me want a lot more. As soon as I feel that I am perfectly safe in a financial way I am going to jump in and see if I can do some real fighting. They won't have to draft me, either."

Charley White, Chicago lightweight, who has had several cracks at the 133-pound title and thinks he should be the champion today, instead of Leonard, may have a chance to prove his claims before long. Billy Gibson, Leonard's manager, has expressed a willingness to give White a chance to meet the champion, and, in an indefinite way, has intimated that he would not be surprised to see the bout staged within the next few months.

"These boys are bound to meet, that's sure," said Gibson. "White seems to be the only lightweight of real class left for Benny to battle. It is only natural that they should get together before long, and it will all depend on war conditions for the next five or six months."

Although he refused to discuss the matter openly, Gibson intimated that New Haven, Conn., is one of the most promising spots in the country as a boxing center, now that New York is closed up, and this gave rise to a "hunch" that the Leonard-White scrap, if it is arranged, may be staged over the 20-round route at New Haven.

White has been knocking at the door of the lightweight championship for several years. He battled Freddy Welsh for the title at Colorado Springs a little more than a year ago and Charley still thinks he won that battle. Welsh was in his usual excellent form for that contest, however, and White failed to catch up to him long enough to win. Since Leonard relieved Welsh of the crown White has been asking for a chance to meet Benny, and it may be that he will be given the opportunity he has long sought.

Here's New One. Fighters have had all kinds of operations to improve their ring strength, but it remains for Gus Christie, of Milwaukee, to spring a new one.

Christie has had his eyebrows cut open and the bone immediately underneath scraped off and generally cleaned up. This was necessary because with each succeeding battle Gus was finding that his eyes were getting tighter and he feared that within a short time he would scarcely be able to look out through the narrowing lids.

The operation was an entire success and now Gus announces, through his manager, Sam Murbarger, that he is ready for any of them.

Christie is one of the few legitimate middleweights," said Sam. "He's going to box Harry Greb within a few days and you'll see some fireworks. Gus is all right after his operation and won't have any more trouble. He is a man who can make ringside weight and be strong. He's never been knocked off his feet. Anybody, any time, for him."

Braden Direct is Sold To L. B. Brown of Denver. Braden Direct, the famous free-form pacer, remembered by Omaha horse lovers as the winner of the feature event of the 1916 Great Western circuit races in Omaha, has been sold to L. B. Brown of Denver, one of the best known horsemen in the country.

Braden Direct has a mark of 2:10 1/4. He was owned by James H. Eishpass before his sale to Brown.

Braden Direct humbled such sterling performers as Lillian T. and Columbia Fire in his victorious race here.

Brown, Braden Direct's new owner, is well known in Omaha and has entered strings in local harness classics several times.

Muskegon to Quit. Muskegon, Mich., probably will not be represented in the Central league next year if that organization decides to open the season. President Marsh believes that minor league base ball should be suspended during the war.

# OMAHA WOMEN PIN STARS SEEK MORE WORLDS TO LICK

### Elated Over Success at Middle West Tournament, Fair Gate City Bowlers Now Choose Cincinnati.

Omaha women pin tumbler, elated over their success at the Middle West tournament at Des Moines, where they cleaned up everything in sight with little opposition are looking for more worlds to conquer.

The fair hook artists from the Gate City now have their eyes fastened on Cincinnati, where the annual American Bowling congress will be staged in March.

A women's event has been added to the big pin classic and the local women have decided to enter. Members of the Metropolitan league will give a dance in January to raise funds to send three five-woman teams.

The local women believe they have among their number the best women bowlers in the country and that they will bring the big end of the prize cash home from Cinoy.

Smith Headed This Way. Jimmy Smith of Cleveland, the champion pin crack of them all, will appear in Omaha in January, Dad Huntington of the Omaha alleys has announced.

Smith is recognized as the most expert pin tumbler in the country. Jimmy doesn't win all the tournaments staged, but for high-powered consistency he is a class by himself.

It's a miracle when Jimmy drops below a 200 score.

At Columbus, O., a short time ago Smith rolled a perfect game of 300, the 15th time he has accomplished the feat.

Smith will be accompanied on his visit to Omaha by "Count" Gengler, a freak of the alleys, but a pin wizard for all that.

The "count," who made a name for himself sometime back by a country-wide campaign, during which he took a cruel shot at the bankroll of many crack maple crasher, stands perfectly erect and throws ball without the usual run toward the alley.

Koran After Prize. Joe Koran has a good advantage over his competitors in the race for the \$25 diamond Louis Borstein has offered for high single game in the Gate City league, which rolls on the Loch alleys. Koran hammered the wood for a 265-count and is leading all rivals.

Special Match. Sam Bord's Indians and the Loch Alleys will clash in a special match game at the Loch alleys below the Orpheum Gardens on Harney street this afternoon.

The Indians are leading the Gate City league. The Lochs have been gaining and are getting chesky. They challenged the leaders, who promptly accepted and all differences will be settled this afternoon.

Invade Sioux Falls. Omaha bowlers will send a team to the Northwestern tourney to be staged at Sioux Falls, S. D., early in January. Last year the Omaha team knocked off the top money at Sioux Falls and the locals expect to repeat.

One Omaha team may possibly enter the International tourney at the Twin Cities this year, too.

Omaha Pug is Booked for Battle at Milwaukee, Wis. Kil Graves, Omaha welterweight, is scheduled to go 10 rounds with Charley Neary, sensational lightweight of 10 years ago, at Milwaukee Wednesday night.

Nearly in his day was one of the best of lightweights. He stopped many a topline early in his career. A defeat at the hands of Willie Fitzerald prompted him to go into retirement, but the old fever returned and when he asked for a chance to stage a comeback, he was matched with Graves.

They will fight at 142 pounds.

Nine Floor Fixes Are Playing at Fort Crook. If the soldiers of the 41st infantry, stationed at Fort Crook, can fight as well as they play basket ball, they'll go over the top with a rush when they arrive in Flanders.

When Young Men's Christian Association Physical Director Bollinger at the camp issued a call for basket ball candidates enough players turned out to make up nine teams.

And they are all real players, according to reports from the fort. Bollinger has planned a floor tournament in which the nine teams will compete for honors.

The winning quintet will battle the Fort Omaha cave five Christmas day at the University of Omaha gymnasium. The Fort Crook lads are determined to wipe out the sting of defeat administered by the Fort Omaha men on the gridiron

# Fulton Issues Ultimatum to Jess Willard Threatens to Take That Old Title Himself

### Minnesota Giant Informs the Champion He Will Begin to Bill Himself as Titleholder Thursday.

Mike Collins, Fred Fulton's manager, who modestly admits his charge is the heavyweight knockout king of the world, has delivered an ultimatum to Jess Willard.

Unless Willard agrees to battle Fulton before December 20, Collins threatens on that day to proclaim Fulton the heavyweight champion of the world and bill him as such.

Collins points out that it is an unwritten rule of boxing that a champion shall defend his title at least once in every six months. This Willard has refused to do. He has fought but once since he captured the title from Jack Johnson three years ago in Havana. Instead he has bought a circus and is using his title to boost the attendance.

Will Box Every Night. Collins says Fulton, after December 20, will defend the title which he will claim against all comers. Fulton will box every night and the promoters may name any opponent they choose, Collins says.

Willard has been made three offers to fight Fulton. The Minneapolis Boxing club offered the champion \$30,000 to meet Fulton. Later the Capitol City Athletic club of St. Paul boosted the offer to \$45,000 and a club represented by J. W. Randolph of Deming, N. M., has posted \$10,000 and offered Willard \$50,000 to fight Fulton 20 rounds to a decision any



FRED FULTON.

### Gives List of Reasons Why Jess Refuses to Meet Him; He's Too Good, That's Why.

time within three months. Willard has scorned all, Collins charges.

Willard's reasons for refusing to meet Fulton, according to Collins, are as follows:

- 1. Fred Fulton has knocked out every heavyweight he has ever met in the past two years.
- 2. Willard has had one 10 round bout in the past two years and didn't knock anyone out.
- 3. Fred Fulton is a young and perfect athlete of 25 years. Jess Willard is a man of 40.
- 4. Who did Willard ever beat outside of Jack Johnson?
- 5. Fred Fulton knocks out every man he hits and hits every man he fights.
- 6. Jess Willard knows it.
- 7. Fulton easily beat Willard in a three round exhibition on May 10, 1915, at Rochester, Minn. Tom Jones pulled the bell off there would have been a new champion at that time.
- 8. Willard still remembers all of Reason No. 7.
- 9. Fulton has improved 500 per cent since that time.
- 10. Willard has sure gone back.
- 11. Willard perfectly understands Reason No. 9 and 10.
- 12. Fred Fulton has a greater K. O. record than any heavyweight champion of all time. (See record book.)
- 13. Willard knows he cannot beat Fulton.
- 14. Willard knows that Fulton can easily out-box him.
- 15. Willard knows that Fulton can hit like a pile-driver with either hand.
- 16. Willard knows that Fulton is the next heavyweight champion beyond question.
- 17. Willard knows that Fulton has the longest, greatest, fastest, cleverest, hardest hitting left hand that was ever possessed by any heavyweight of all time.
- 18. In view of above, plain facts, Willard prefers to hide himself and his title behind the guarded walls of a circus tent.
- 19. Fulton is open to fight any man in the world, winner to take all, any time or any place.

# NEW FLOOR FIVE TO CARRY BENSON & THORNE NAME

### Fast Independent Quintet Enters Omaha Field; to Play Camps Dodge and Funston and Others.

Omaha is to be represented by a fast independent basket ball five this year after all.

When the Brandeis quintet, for the last three years the class of Omaha, announced its retirement this fall, local cage fans feared no independent squad would be organized. But their fears proved groundless for John W. Reel now is organizing the Benson and Thorne quintet.

George Parrish, formerly of the Clarks; Ed Burdick, now coach of the Omaha university team; Kenneth Klepsar, former Creighton player, and his younger brother, Merritt, who played on the Central high team, have been signed for the Benson and Thorne team.

To Sign Others. One or two former Brandeis and Creighton players are expected to be added to the five this week.

Reel now is negotiating for cage clashes with Camp Dodge, Camp Funston, Nebraska Wesleyan, Nebraska university, Fort Dodge, Nebraska City and others. He hopes to bring all of these games to Omaha.

Reel is anxious to book other games for his five. Any team wishing a contest may find him at Douglas 8182 or at 315 Brandeis theater building.

# Chaperons for Young Women Swimmers is Newest Ukase

Australian girl swimmers who visit the United States in the future must be accompanied by chaperons, and the promoters of the meets in which the swimmer appears must pay the expenses of this guardian as well as those of the swimmer.

This ruling was made recently by Australian amateur sporting authorities. The first one to be accented by the ruling will be Miss Fannie Burack, world's champion water swimmer, who is contemplating a trip to America in the near future for a number of meets in Pacific coast and other states.

One chaperon may accompany a group of girls, according to the ruling, but no girl may participate in swimming meets under amateur organizations without this attendant.

On account of the ruling Pacific coast swimming promoters figure that it will cost over \$2,000 to bring Miss Durack for the series of meets in which it is intended to enter her. Plans are under way to have other Australian girl swimmers come under the guidance of the same chaperon, and they will be brought overseas if the cost is not too great.

A similar ruling of the Amateur Athletic union of the United States that girls under 21 years who swim under its direction may demand a chaperon, but that promoter of the meet is given the privilege of either accepting or rejecting the demand.

# Jack Coombs Gets Offer To Manage St. Louis Cards

Jack Coombs, the Iron Man, has received a proposition to manage the St. Louis Cardinals. Coombs has obtained permission from his Brooklyn club to carry on negotiations with Branch Rickey. The Iron Man has practically reached the end of his pitching career and is eager to become a big league manager. If Rickey doesn't engage Jack Hendricks or Coombs it is said that he will manage the Cards himself. Jack Miller is said to be out of the running because he failed to keep an appointment with Rickey in Louisville during the recent minor league conclave.

Enters War Game. Roy Jenkins, a minor leaguer secured by the St. Louis Cardinals for a tryout next spring, has decided the war game suits him better and he has taken and passed the examination for entry into the aviation corps. He is an infielder and has played with Bloomington, in the Three-I and Hartford in the Eastern League.

# Gainer Enlists.

Del Gainer is the latest member of the Red Sox to become a navy yeoman. He expects to be assigned to duty in the Boston navy yard, along with others of his teammates.

# "BULLET" JOE IS SOLD

### Famous Athletic hurler goes to Boston Red Sox in deal involving \$60,000 and five other players.



"BULLET" JOE BUSH.

# COAST FOOT BALL SCHEDULE IS LONG

### California Manager Urges Shorter Season as Players Now Go Stale Before Schedule is Completed.

The question of shortening the foot ball season in California is now before the various colleges and athletic clubs of the state as the result of a recommendation made by Johnny Stroud, graduate manager of the University of California, that at least a month be cut from the playing season. Stroud believes the players get "stale" when they are kept in constant training over three months.

"Look at California's case," Stroud declared. "We reached the height of our playing worth when we tackled and defeated Washington. We won that game with ease. Then St. Mary's varsity came along and beat us. After that we tried Oregon and were again defeated."

"We have the longest gridiron season in the United States in Berkeley. The varsity turns out around the third week in August, and the boys keep at it hammer and tongs until Thanksgiving day or later. It is asking too much of the players to expect them to win, after they have gone through three months of the hardest sort of foot ball."

Previous to the break with Stanford, California ended its season in the first or second week of November. The Washington contract at first called for two games, which prolonged the season a couple of weeks. The Pacific conference program called for a longer season still, and Stroud figures that some definite limit should be set.

# GEORGIA TEAM'S RECORD KNOCKED

### Washington and Lee Beaten, 63 to 0, Yet Coach Says Tech Players Not Best in Country.

This is a foot ball yarn based on mathematics, so just keep these scores in mind: Georgia Tech, 41; Pennsylvania, 0; Georgia Tech, 63; Washington and Lee, 0; Pittsburgh, 14; Pennsylvania, 0.

In view of the above results there is considerable body of foot ball followers which is inclined to rank Georgia Tech as the best eleven there is. Folwell, the Penn coach, said Georgia Tech was the best team, and Everett Strupper, of Tech, was the greatest back in the country. Now listen to this from Rattery, coach at Washington and Lee, and remember that 63 to 0, too:

"Georgia Tech is not as good as you think it is and the victory over Pennsylvania was scored because the Red and Blue was not prepared. Pennsylvania came down without any practice to speak of and showed it. Tech, on the other hand, worked hard for the game and was in wonderful shape. Strupper is a good halfback, but hardly all-American timber. Guyton, to me, is their best bet and is, I believe, good enough to play on any foot ball team in the world.

# WOW! NATIONAL LOOP HARVEST GROUND FOR NUTS---31 SOUTHPAWS

### Forkhand Laborers Are Prime Favorites with John McGraw Who Owns Schupp, Sallee, Benton, Kauff, Holke and Robertson; Charley White, Famous Referee, Dies.

By JACK VEIOCK.

New York, Dec. 15.—Thirty-one regulars playing with teams in the National league do their throwing with the portside wing.

# OMAHA GRAPPLER MEETS CUTLER IN CHICAGO MONDAY

### Marin Plestina to Tangle With Windy City Man for \$1,000 a Side; Other Wrestling Gossip.

A wrestling match of interest to Omaha wrestling fans is scheduled to occur at Chicago tomorrow night when Marin Plestina of this city clashes with Charlie Cutler of the windy city.

The Plestina-Cutler match is Marin's first big contest since he left Omaha from the campaign of the east. Marin departed from Omaha shortly after his Labor day go with Joe Stecher and he since has wrestled more than 20 matches, but he won them all with such ridiculous ease that they can hardly be termed contests.

Recently, the Omaha grappler posted \$500 in Chicago with a challenge to the world and an offer to bet \$1,000 he could throw any living wrestler. Cutler was the only man to accept. It is reported the \$1,000 bet goes although Omaha fans are disinclined to believe it. It is the opinion here that Cutler would risk no \$1,000 on his ability to beat Plestina.

A number of local mat fans expect to go to Chicago for the match in the hope that Chicagoans will be foolish enough to wager a bit on Cutler.

Deposters here predict an easy victory for the Omahan.

# New Wrestling Town.

A new wrestling town was made the other night when Earl Caddock and Yousif Hussane tangled at Des Moines. Reports from the Iowa capital say that a \$5,000 crowd saw the contest and that enthusiasm reached a high pitch.

Des Moines heretofore had never been much of a wrestling town, but the Caddock-Hussane match, it is said, established it as a real one and that from now on the Iowa city will be the scene of a number of big events. Caddock, it is said, will appear in several matches in Des Moines this winter.

Oscar Thorsen, who formerly managed Jess Westergaard, promoted the Caddock-Hussane match. It is said Thorsen expects to engage in a busy winter promoting matches in his home town.

# Peters to Be Busy.

Jack Lewis is preparing for an active winter for Charlie Peters, the Papillon grappler. Lewis has lined up matches at Central City, Holdrege and Waterloo, Ia., for Peters, and expects to contract for even more to keep Charley busy the rest of the cold months following Christmas.

It also is possible Peters may journey east to meet some of the top-notchers in Chicago, Detroit, the Ohio cities and elsewhere.

A Peters-Pesek match at Grand Island is a certainty as soon as Pesek's injured leg becomes strong again.

It is reported in local grappling circles that Joe Stecher is about to start a campaign. Joe is to invade the east to meet all comers, it is said.

The Caddock-Zbysko match is the only one scheduled for Omaha in the immediate future, although Charlie Peters' friends are trying to land a match between him and Caddock. Charlie's followers believe he would make a good opponent for Caddock despite his defeat at the hands of Stecher because Charlie is popular and always puts up a good match.

# Penn Relay Races Will Be Held Next April as Usual

The University of Pennsylvania Athletic association has decided to stage the annual relay carnival next April as usual, and the final races will be held the last Saturday of that month unless unforeseen events should cause a change in the date.

This track and field meet, which has grown to be the biggest intercollegiate athletic contest of the year, has in recent seasons been divided into a two-day program, but it is uncertain at this time whether that schedule will be adhered to or the April races confined to one day. Much will depend upon the class and number of entries received. If there is a loss in college entrants the schoolboy athletes will be featured.

# Money in Nashville.

The Nashville Southern league club has increased its capital stock from \$50,000 to \$100,000, with 1,000 shares valued at \$100 each. The principal stockholders are Clyde Shropshire, J. A. G. Sloan, Chris Harry, D. Lowenheim and W. C. Cherry. The new stock will be disposed of and the Nashville club will be sound as a rock whatever happens in base ball.

# Here's Latest Scheme.

Bill Phelon has a very simple plan for filling gaps in ball teams that may be made by army draft raids. Just go down into Cuba and sign up a few dozen Marsans, Gonzales and so on, says Phelon.

You can secure a maid, stenographer or bookkeeper by using a Bee Want Ad.

Three of these regulars are first-sackers, namely, Jack Daubert of the Dodgers, Walt Holbe of the Giants and Hal Chase of the Reds. The other first basemen in Prexy Tener's loop toss the pill with the right mix.

Among National league outfielders there are 11 who wing the globe to the infield with the forkhand doing the labor. They are Charley Jackson of the Pirates, Bob Bescher of the Cardinals, Benny Kauff of the Giants, Charley Stengel of the Dodgers, Eddie Roush of the Reds, Fritz Bailey of the Braves, Jack Smith of the Cards, Fred Williams of the Cubs, Davy Robinson of the Giants and Flack and Wolter of Chicago. Fred Mitchell can use a simon pure left-handed throwing outfield if he cares to, as he has a trio of south-paws in Flack, Williams and Wolter, an unusual thing on any ball club.

Out of the 55 pitchers who got into the averages this year, 17 are left-handers, and Secretary John Heydler designated the postpiders this year for the first time.

Twelve on Four Clubs. Twelve of these postpiders are now owned by four clubs, since the Dodgers secured Mitchell from the Reds. The offhanders in the old league, aside from some newcomers who may make good next season, are as follows:

Benton, Schupp and Sallee of the Giants, Packard, May and Steele of the Cardinals, Mitchell, Smith and Marquard of the Dodgers, Nehf, Tyler and Allen of the Braves, Rixey and Fittery of the Phillies, Vaughan and Reiser of the Cubs and Cooper of the Pirates.

Left-handed pitchers who can keep the pace in the major leagues are almost as scarce as humming birds around the North Pole and not all of the National league names above can be classed as really dependable pitchers. The Giants are the best off in the matter of southpaws who can go in there and win a big per cent of their games.

Old Referee Dies. Following closely down the trail taken by Ruby Bob Fitzsimmons, Charley White, a landmark of the ring, passed away at his home in New York a few days ago.

White was the most prominent referee of pugilistic contests in this country. In nearly all the big events, when championships changed hands or were defended successfully in the eastern states, he was "the third man in the ring." The last big contest in this vicinity where White was the arbiter was the Willard-Moran contest in Madison Square Garden, March 25, 1916. He was at the ringside when Johnson defeated Jeffries in Reno, Nev., in 1910, as alternate referee.

Among the other prominent fights in which White officiated as referee were: Jeffries-Corbett, Fitzsimmons-Sharkey, at Coney Island; Fitzsimmons-Ruhlin, Maher-Ruhlin, Walcott-Smith, Walcott-West, Walcott-Creegan, Jordan-Dixon, McGovern-Ernie-Gans in this city and Young Corbett-McGovern in Hartford, Conn.

White was born in New York 52 years ago and was a lifelong resident of the seventh ward. He was affiliated with athletics from his schoolboy days, and founded in 1887, the Clinton Athletic club in Cherry street.

For several years White held the office of sergeant-at-arms of the democratic state committee. He is survived by his widow, two daughters and two sons, the elder of whom was graduated from Yale and is now serving as an officer in the United States army at Camp Upton. The younger son is in the United States navy.

# Free Water Set Offer Meets Big Response

### Beddea Clothing Co. Swamped With Requests for Cut Glass Water Sets.

All day Saturday a steady stream of men and women poured into the Beddea Clothing Co., 1417 Douglas street, to take advantage of the opportunity to obtain a beautiful Cut Glass Water set absolutely free.

To better acquaint the public with their store and the values that they are offering, this up-to-date firm is giving absolutely free to every purchaser of a Woman's Suit or Dress or Men's Suit, a handsome cut glass water set, consisting of one 9 1/2-inch tankard and six bell-shaped tumblers, cut with rich daisy design.

The success that the offer has met has induced the management to purchase another shipment in order not to disappoint the hundreds who are coming to the store on Monday and Tuesday.

The unusual values and quality of Beddeo's merchandise has caused much comment in view of the fact of the scarcity of merchandise throughout the country. When an opportunity is offered to obtain these exceptional values and a \$4.50 cut glass water set free at the same time, the Omaha public is quick to take advantage of the offer. The management of the store urges their patrons not to wait until the last minute for securing one of these beautiful sets, as they are going very fast. Tuesday is the last day and they can be seen in the company's window at 1417 Douglas street.