

PROPOSED BILL PROVIDES FOR CLEAN BOXING

Difference Between "Commercialized" and "Legalized" Sport Defined; On Business Basis.

During the past week we have had scores of inquiries asking, "What is commercialized boxing?" Commercialized boxing is meeting with all favor by the legislature and is being used as a club by opponents of legalized boxing as a club to prevent the passage of house roll 88.

An example of commercialized boxing has been printed the past week when "Tex" Rickard announced that he had signed an agreement with Jess Willard whereby the "cheese" champion will defend his title for \$100,000 win or lose.

If house roll 88 becomes a law the people of Nebraska can give thanks to Gene Melady, who was responsible for its drafting, that insidiously the intelligence of the American people, such as the proposed bout, can never be pulled off within the borders of Nebraska.

From the action of the present legislature it is evident that they are broad minded and will favor constructive legislation. They protest against commercial ventures such as proposed by Willard and Rickard, and justly.

Purely Commercial. A fight such as proposed for July 1 is purely commercial boxing. It is scheduled for 20 to 30 rounds and will probably be staged in the town that will give the promoters the most money, in order to boost some local enterprise.

The Nebraska measure limits bouts to six rounds and is designed solely for the entertainment of the citizens of the state and to allow young men and old to develop themselves physically by the training afforded in boxing.

Boxers who take part in entertainments will be paid, the same as the professional base ball player, the professional at your golf club, or instructors in swimming or tagz athletic events. So-called championship fights for big purses, are prohibited by the limit on the number of rounds.

The average boxer of today is not the old-fashioned pug-nug with underdog chin and cauliflower ears, who spent his time when not in the ring as a hatter in a cheap saloon or pool hall. The present day boxer when not engaged in ring battles is a business man and among the most influential in the home towns.

Corbett a Pioneer. James J. Corbett was one of the pioneers in elevating the standards of the ring. Before taking up boxing professionally he was a bank clerk and since his retirement has been an actor and is now starting in moving pictures. Joseph P. Hagans, athletic trainer in Philadelphia, Jack O'Brien, is a wealthy and successful real estate dealer.

Mike Gibbons and his brother, Tommy, have invested their ring earnings in apartment houses and real estate in their home town, St. Paul. Their investments have been carefully made and they are now independently wealthy. Former Heavyweight Champion James J. Jeffries, has disposed of his farm in Los Angeles and is now farming. He has one of the largest and best ranches of pure bred stock in California.

Thus we distinguish between commercialized boxing as it is advocated by the thousands of lovers of the sport in Nebraska. The boxer is entitled to remuneration the same as the ball player, but not to commercialize the sport as is planned by Willard.

Nebraska sport lovers do not want commercialized boxing, but simply desire to have a clean sport as provided in house roll for the entertainment and the upbuilding of bodies tired out by the strain of a busy business life.

Former Omaha Amateur Will Wrestle February 21

Ross Drisy, amateur wrestling champion of Nebraska, will lock horns with Joe Stangl, runner-up of the amateur title, in the semi-final to the John-Steven Savage mat match at the Omaha auditorium the night of February 21. Promoter Jack Lewis announced yesterday.

Drisy won the amateur championship in Nebraska at the state tournament at the Omaha Young Men's Christian association last year. He won the title in the final round of the tourney from Joe Stangl when Stangl conceded the bout after more than an hour of wrestling, during which there was no fall.

Clarence Rowland Buys Milwaukee Base Ball Club

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Clarence Rowland, former manager of the White Sox, has purchased the Milwaukee club of the American association, according to reports in circulation here today. The purchase price is said to have been \$75,000.

"I cannot verify the report, but I hope it is true," President Hickey of the American association said.

Whist Club Meets

Omaha Whist club players made the following scores at last Friday's game:

Play Billiards With Golf Balls, Say Yanks

Two doughboys fresh from overseas entered a billiard room in Washington. Their knowledge of the cue game had been acquired on the pocket tables of the Y. M. C. A. The 15 balls were racked and one of the doughboys started to break. Propelled by his strong right arm, the light ivory cue ball left the table with the force of a hand grenade and hit a spectator in one of his eyes, which immediately became discolored. The soldier apologized and then examined the cue ball to ascertain the difference between it and the composition sphere he had been using in France.

CHURCH LEAGUE COMPLETE HALF OF FLOOR FRAYS

Stiff Games Promised for Teams in the Commercial League at Thursday Night Meeting.

Table with columns: Commercial League, Church League, Team Name, W, L, Pct.

Easy games in the Church league and stiff ones in the Commercial league are predicted for the coming week. Two big games are booked for Thursday night on the "Y" floor when the Naksens and the Omaha National Banks clash and the Central Furniture meet the Commerce High crew.

The Omaha National Bank five is at present about the strongest team in the Commercial league. The Naksens also have a high class crew which should make things interesting. The Commerce High fliers, although peers of the league, should have a hard tussle trimming the Central Furniture quintet which has improved greatly. The Independents should be easy for the Beddeos if Brown is still on the sick list.

Complete-First Half

Parrish leads the Church league fliers in points made during the first half which was concluded Tuesday night. In five games played he looped the sphere 20 times from the field and four times from the foul line. Only one foul was called on him during the entire first half. Fullington of the Hanson Park quintet stands second in the league with 41 points and only two fouls according to figures compiled by Referee Verne Moore.

The standing of the players for the first round follows:

Table with columns: Name, Team, Pts., F., P., E., C., D., B., S.

February 11—Beddeo against Independents; Central Furniture against Omaha National against Naksens.

Western League Base Ball Clubs Preparing for Strenuous Season

Western league base ball shows every indication of being the best this year in the history of the organization. The southern teams, who are new in the league, are making extensive plans for opening up their championship teams. The oil towns of Oklahoma are exceedingly prosperous and promise to lend all of the financial backing necessary to their clubs.

Lincoln is making a desperate fight to land a berth in the league. The Capital City promises to support a team owned by local parties and with the encouragement being given them it is possible that local sportsmen may pry a franchise loose from some other town.

Sioux City is making stronger efforts than ever to have a first class team in the field. When approached by the possibility that the franchise would go to Lincoln the citizens of Sioux City woke up. Plans were immediately made to sell more stock and hire the best team possible. As evidence of good faith of the movement an offer has been made to Napoleon Lajoie to manage the team.

"Pa" Rourke has nothing to say about what Omaha will do until after the league meeting further than to state that all teams will have to hustle to take the bunting away from him. He is now busy preparing contracts which must be mailed before March 1. Mr. Rourke intimates that many new faces will be seen this year and that contracts will only be offered to the best of last year's team.

Knabe To Coach Cubs

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Otto Knabe, the veteran base ball star, will return to the Chicago Nationals as coach this season. President Fred Mitchell was advised tonight that Knabe, who is in business in Philadelphia with "Kid" Gleason, manager of the Chicago Americans, had arranged his affairs so that he could return to the Chicago club.

Beddeo Basket Ball Quintet



Top Row, Right to Left: G. Russell, Don Moore, Coach Klepsey, Walker, Gaissler, M. Rokussek. Bottom Row, Right to Left: E. Rokussek, Art Kooper, M. Klepsey, Usher, W. Anderson.

AMATEURS PLAN TO ORGANIZE AS "SIMON PURES"

Leaders to Meet in St. Paul and Make Plans for Inter-City Games at Close of Season.

President J. J. Isaacson of the Omaha Base Ball association will insist on a "simon pure" amateur organization if he is connected with it during the coming year. He has been assured of the backing of leading business men and majority of the sand lot players who want the semi-pro to play independently.

The "simon pure" amateur organizations promise to be stronger than ever in this section of the country this year. All of the leading cities in the central west will have organizations playing amateur ball.

A meeting of the leaders of the amateur game has been called in St. Paul for February 16, when it is hoped to organize for an inter-city series. The present plans call for an organization that will take in the cities of Omaha, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Kansas City, St. Louis, Duluth, Des Moines and possibly Lincoln.

President Isaacson announces that he will call a meeting of the Omaha organization following the meeting at St. Paul, so in case Omaha wants to join the organization, the matter can be disposed of early in the season. He expects to call the meeting in less than two weeks.

Omaha business men are reported to have taken a keen interest in the amateur game and have promised to give the teams ample financial backing to assure their success.

It is probable that prominent business men will be induced to accept offices in the association and conduct the affairs of the league.

The proposed semi-pro league is apparently no nearer organized than it was several weeks ago. Meetings that have been called were necessarily postponed for lack of attendance. While the weather was balmy the players were looking forward hopefully to the opening of the season. With the return of the chill blasts of winter the enthusiasm has kept pace with the thermometer.

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Ed "Strangler" Lewis of Lexington, challenger for the heavyweight wrestling championship, and Joe Stecher of Dodge, Neb., the former champion, were matched tonight to meet in a finish contest here March 3 for a purse of \$10,000.

Joe Stecher Matched for Finish Bout With Ed "Strangler" Lewis

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Ed "Strangler" Lewis of Lexington, challenger for the heavyweight wrestling championship, and Joe Stecher of Dodge, Neb., the former champion, were matched tonight to meet in a finish contest here March 3 for a purse of \$10,000. The winner will receive \$6,000 and the loser \$4,000, in addition to the motion picture privileges.

The match, according to the articles, must result in a decisive victory or the spectators will have their money refunded. It will be the third meeting between Lewis and Stecher. The men wrestled for five hours without a fall in Omaha, in 1917, and later met in a two-hour time limit draw.

Nebraska Captures Second Game from Washington

Lincoln, Feb. 8.—Nebraska ran away from Washington University of St. Louis tonight in the second game of the Missouri Valley conference series, winning by a score of 28 to 13. Nebraska, with Captain Jackson leading the offensive, began in whirlwind fashion, and was never headed, the visitors playing almost wholly on the defensive.

Basket Ball Results

Lyons, Neb., Feb. 8.—The Wisner high school basket ball quintet won a close game from the local five. The final score was 28 to 22.

Hitting the High Spots on The Sporting Trail

Gene Melady, who was responsible for the drafting of House Roll No. 88, legalizing boxing in Nebraska, has written a letter to the members of the legislature explaining his connection with the bill following the cry of opponents of the measure that it was a commercial measure introduced at the instigation of promoters who hoped to become rich from the sport.

The bill as drafted is clean, open and above-board, protective to the state, the public and the contestants and positively eliminates any possibility of prize fighting," wrote Mr. Melady. "It is strictly a boxing bill drafted for no other purpose than to legalize a sport that has been endorsed by the army, navy, Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus and leading educational institutions."

He informed them that his interest was not that of a professional promoter and that his connection with athletic events was a diversion and hobby. He stated that he made his livelihood in the commission business handling \$100,000,000 worth of live stock during the last year, and that his interest was to provide fun and amusement for the soldiers who have been witnessing the serious side of war for the last year.

"Ghost" Shooting. The New York Athletic club shooting committee have evolved a "new one" to keep up the interest of scattershot devotees. The new stunt which proved exceedingly popular at its opening trial is the "Ghost Trophy."

From each set of traps a white target is thrown sometime during each day's shoot. The contestants do not know when the targets are to be thrown. Each man who breaks a "ghost" is entitled to enter the "Ghost Trophy" shoot at the end of the month.

Medals for the two basket ball leagues, the swimming championship meet, and the series of athletic contests which are now being held at the "Y" will all be on display in the show window of the Townsend Gun store during the coming week.

That \$100,000 Offer

It is possible "Tex" Rickard agreed to pay Jess Willard \$100,000 to fight on July 4, but highly improbable. Jess is too keen for the Almighty dollar. It is more probable that he has entered into another agreement such as was made with Colonel Miller of Oklahoma, when he agreed to fight Fulton for \$75,000.

It later developed, according to those on the "inside," that the two entered a \$0-50 agreement, but this was before the final arrangements for the bout were completed. In truly Willard style it is said that he refused to pay his half of the advertising expenses until a memorial session in a hotel room with his former partner.

The story is told that Colonel Miller, wearing his wide-brimmed Stetson, entered Willard's room, locked the door, laid his six-shooter on the table and advised him to write out a check for \$2,500, his share of the expenses. The alternative was that but one man would leave the room alive.

"As a money-maker the proposed bout is a cinch, providing the American public will agree to admitting that Barnum was right. Oil towns desirous of advertising their existence in Texas have offered to pay \$100,000 to have the bout staged in their city. If the American people can forgive Willard his actions since the entrance of our country into war a money-making attendance is certain.

Willard was first to volunteer his services in a telegram to President Wilson. When a recruiting officer appeared to have him sign an enlistment paper he refused. He evaded the efforts of promoters of entertainments for war drives. He finally sank into near oblivion when his public appearance called for cries of "slacker" and forced him from the stage.

As a boxer there may be some question as to the respective merits of Willard and Dempsey. As to manhood and Americanism the history of the past year and a half is sufficient to allow all to make up their own minds.

Kiduff, Clean-Up Man

Pete Kiduff, who used to wear a Rourke suit, but now a member of the Chicago Cubs, does not think well of the sense of humor of naval officers as displayed during his enlistment in the navy. Peterkin spills the following occurrence to prove his point.

He was promenadeing the deck of a battleship when an officer halted him with the following: "Young man you are Kiduff of the noted ball player of the Cubs, are you not?" "Aye, yer, sir!" saluted Peterkin. "You were, I believe so highly regarded they made you clean-up man," said the officer. "The 'girl' replied the flattered Kiduff. "Then," said the officer, "you are just the man I am looking for. Take this pail and clean up the deck."

Omaha Volley Ball Team Wins Four from Lincoln

The Omaha volley ball champs defeated the crack Lincoln crew last night on the local "Y" floor, winning four games out of six. This practically assures the state championship for the locals again this year.

Ragan Likes Contract

Pat Ragan, who is wintering in Omaha, has received his contract for the coming year with Boston. He reports that the salary is larger than he expected with the talk of retirement by the magnates. He will probably sign and return the contract this week.

Sunday May Umpire Senators' First Game

Billy Sunday may umpire the opening game of the season at American League park in Washington. The famous evangelist, once a star major league performer himself and a warm friend of Clark Griffith, has assured the Washington manager that he would like to officiate in the curtain raiser and would make a special trip to Washington for the purpose if he would be permitted to do so.

Griffith jumped at the chance to obtain such a famous figure as an addition to the attractions of opening day in the capital and has taken steps to obtain sanction from the league for the erstwhile diamond gladiator to return for a day to the familiar scenes of his youthful activities.

MITCHELL BOYS UNITE TO MAKE "PINKEY" CHAMP

Want to Bring Lightweight Centender to Omaha to Box as First Step on Championship Ladder.

Milwaukee, Wis., Feb. 8.—"It will be a strictly home talent title that we will bring home to Milwaukee, or we won't bring it," Billy Mitchell, manager of his brother Pinkey, told outside promoters when they offered Billy \$1,500 for a year's contract.



Pinkey Mitchell will make a campaign on his own account, to win the lightweight title, light as he is, with his brother as his manager. Billy plans to send Pinkey to Omaha to fight him there, and then to show him to the east. No fighter is in mind as an opponent, but Billy says he will take them on as fast as they come.

An eastern trip for a month, showing the Milwaukee boy in Pennsylvania and New York is on the schedule of fights for the east. "I won't send him east for any single fight," said Billy. "For the trip is too hard. He will have to go with a chance of picking up enough contests to make it worth while for him to stay a month and get acclimated."

"I made a mistake with Richie that I will not make with Pinkey. I made him train down too fine, and cost him the lightweight title by training him so fine he lost his punch. At that Pinkey is a better boy than Richie, and he has the benefit of Richie's training, and we'll make him a champion within a year."

Chicago's Undefeated Basket Ball Team Wins Fifth Straight Game

Chicago, Feb. 8.—Chicago's undefeated basket ball team won its fifth straight game tonight by defeating Illinois, 17 to 12, in a western conference game. George Catlett, Chicago's star, led in the stellar work.

Philadelphia, Feb. 8.—Pennsylvania defeated Yale, 29 to 22, in an inter-collegiate league basket ball game here tonight.

At Cedar Rapids: High school, 27; Marshalltown High school, 16; Lafayette, Ind., Feb. 8.—Purdue, 42; Ohio State, 20.

Minneapolis, Feb. 8.—Minnesota won from Iowa, 36 to 22, in a western conference basket ball game here tonight. Oss started, making 7 baskets for Minnesota. Cotton of Iowa made 6.

Ames, Ia., Feb. 8.—Iowa State college won a wrestling meet from Iowa University tonight with a score of 27 to 14.

Detroit Releases Spencer; Catcher Ainsmith Returns

Detroit, Feb. 8.—With the signing today of a Detroit contract by Catcher Edward Ainsmith, President Navin of the local American League club, announced the unconditional release of Catcher Eddie Spencer. It is understood Spencer, who came to Detroit as a free agent, plans to return to the Pacific Coast league.

CENTRAL HIGH DEFEATS FORT DODGE QUINSET

Local Basket Ball Team Show Great Teamwork in Hard-Fought Game; Improvement Since Last Battle.

Turning a tie into a victory, Central High's basket ball team defeated the Fort Dodge High quintet, 18 to 16, last night on the "Y" floor after a close and well-played game. A general shift in the line-up and another at the beginning of the second half turned the trick for the local fliers, who exhibited the classiest brand of ball so far this season.

Local fans that packed the gym were amazed at the improvement in Coach Mulligan's men when, during the first half, by super team work and neat shooting they shot five goals in succession, threatening to snow the Iowa five under. Konecky, playing with Logan at forward, was easily the star of the game. Although guarded closely by Cook, he stuck with the ball and made numerous long tosses that drew the crowd to its feet.

Special praise is due the visitors for the fine style displayed and the brilliant team work that marked the second half. The Purple and White men played a fast game that gives promise of a much more successful season than fans who viewed the initial encounters prophesied.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct.

Blue and White Team Defeat Morningside Five by Score of 28 to 3

Creighton, 28; Morningside, 3. The Blue and White squad fighting fiercely against hard luck, defeated the heavy Sioux City team, 28 to 3, last night at the Creighton Gym. The usual accuracy of basket shooting was lacking in the Creighton quintet, but exceptional guarding on the part of Mulholland and Vandiver almost held Morningside scoreless.

In the first few minutes of play the Morningside team put up a strong defense, and in the early part of the first half Creighton was unable to score. Kearney was not only closely guarded, but also seemed beset with the hardest kind of luck and did not shoot with his usual brilliancy. The first basket was made by Kearney on a free throw on Norton's foul.

Captain Haley then seemed to find himself and made four of the prettiest baskets seen on the floor this season. Mulholland also brought the ball down skillfully time after time.

Shaffenberg was sent to hold Kearney the second half, but "Chuck" evidently had regained his accuracy in shooting, and looped in four field baskets. Harold Wise also dropped in two counters, but was injured and Jimmy Condon took his place. Morningside seemed to tighten their defense, and Creighton was unable to score.

For the visitors Emerick seemed to be the shining light, and not only did he break up countless plays but was the only one to score a field basket.

Lineup and summaries: CREGHTON. MORNINGSIDE

Table with columns: Player, Pts., F., P., E., C., D., B., S.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Tuesday, February 11.—South High at Dundee.

Wednesday, February 13.—Central Park at Clifton Hill.

Friday, February 15.—Crestler at Millers Park.

Defeat of South High Center by Central Park, last season's champions, was the outstanding feature of last week's game. These two teams are considered about the strongest in the league, although Dundee has shown considerably strength in its games to date.

The Central Park-South High game was a thriller, one basket being the difference in the score. Central Park didn't breathe easy until the final whistle blew. It was nip and tuck all the way. All of the teams in the league are now playing regularly, and the second round is expected to develop some miffy floor battles.

University Defeats Bellevue. Outplaying their opponents during the greater portion of the game, the University of Omaha's basket ball team defeated the Bellevue quintet, 16 to 11, last night on the University of Omaha's floor. "Red" Phelps distinguished himself by stellar playing. A good crowd of fans was on the sidelines.