

# PURE OF BOXING APPEALS TO ALL SPORT PATRONS

Novice Usually Becomes Steady Fan After Witnessing His First Bout.

By RAY PEARSON. Boxing is one sport that gains its patronage and support from people in all walks of life. The glove sport in this respect differs from other sports such as football, track and field athletics, automobile racing and the turf. Just what makes fans of the business man is a question not easily answered, unless one wants to refer to that time-worn saying that it "takes a red-blooded man for a red-blooded sport."

However, the intention of this story was not to explain what makes a boxing fan, but to inject a few words into public print, telling of some of those who would rather sit at a ringside than at a dinner table. There is a saying that one hears when a discussion is held for the benefit of a fan newly born to fistiana, and that is that a fan once initiated to ringside dog-days always is a fan. The game "gets" em and they stay got.

College Coach Becomes Fan. Perhaps as good an example of how a boxing fan strings up with the game after once being "initiated" is that of a chap named Lewis Omer. Wherever college sports are known Omer also is known, for he is the world war he was athletic director at Northwestern university at Evanston, Ill. Before the war Omer didn't know anything about boxing. He was well up on track athletics, football and other sports in which the college student indulges. He could tell you without consulting a record book how fast this or that athlete could go over the sticks in the sixty; he could tell you whether John Smith was a better gridiron player than Bob Jones, and cite facts to prove his contention and wisdom.

But that had nothing to do with boxing and Omer had nothing to do with the glove sport, either, until he decided to do his bit by going into service. He became a member of the Camp Grant and there rose to the title of captain. It was while at this camp that he received his initiation into the mysteries of the glove sport.

As boxing was the biggest sport at the army camp, it was necessary for Captain Omer to delve into it in a big way. He did with the result that he became more than a convert. In fact, a few months' work with boxers actually made him a rabid fan; and if one asks him today what he thinks about the ring stuff he'll tell you it's the greatest sport ever. Now here's another example. The writer walked into the office of a dentist recently. The object of the visit to have a bum tooth fixed, a visit that under purely business conditions would have required something like perhaps 20 or 25 minutes. But it took something like an hour and a half to complete the job, and all because this particular tooth physician had seen his first ring bout. He had been invited by a friendly dentist who already had acquired membership in fandom, to attend the scrap between Jimmy Wilde and Jack Sharkey at Milwaukee.

Tongue Wags; Work Lags. Now this dentist, whose job was to fix the troublesome molar, knew a lot about other sports, principally those in which the collegians take part, for in his college days he himself had engaged in athletics. But he didn't know anything about boxing until he saw Sharkey swat the Britisher. Now to hear him discuss Jack Dempsey, Wilde and all the other "big timers" in the game, one would think he knew all about it. He gave us 20 minutes of his dental time and more than an hour of conversation on pugdom. Good thing he didn't charge for time work. It's a safe bet that when anything worth while in a fistic way is pulled close to Chicago this tooth expert will have his nose close to the ropes.

There are thousands of others who have been struck by the boxing bug just the same as those mentioned. They get it and don't get over it. It seems there is a pretty close relationship between the base ball and boxing fans. We have found that a lot of base ball fans are boxing fans and vice versa. A lot of ring fans also can be discovered in the grandstand at the ball parks. A considerable number of college men are boxing fans, but one does not see the fan of college sports in great number at the ringside.

## Bareback Gown Movement Is Killed by Queen Mary

London, April 10.—Queen Mary has killed the bareback gown movement in England. The bodiceless gown is not approved in the Court of St. James, and dressmakers report the Englishwomen have consequently refused to adopt the style which was the same abandon as displayed by the women of France. The power of the royal edict is far reaching. Even for day wear, leading dressmakers report, the demand is for dresses less open than last year.

## Only Baby Escapes

Springfield, Ill., April 10.—When an automobile driven by Louis Stephens crashed into a horse and buggy in which Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones and their four children were riding, all but the youngest child, an infant in arms, were thrown to the street and seriously injured. The baby, picked from the bottom of the wreckage, cooed incessantly while being lifted out uninjured. The mother, who was holding the child to her breast, was rendered unconscious. The automobile driver was arrested.

## Drinks Embalming Fluid

Rockford, Ill., April 10.—Craving for drink led Harry Gustafson to try a concoction of embalming fluid. The potion, consisting of alcohol and formaldehyde, left Gustafson with "no pulse" for several minutes, physicians who attended him said. Nevertheless, Gustafson is recovering.

# O'Dowd Only Title-Holder Who Has Never Taken Count



Perusal of the records reveals the fact that very few performers in the ring today have escaped a knock-out during their career. Mike O'Dowd, middleweight champion, is the only existing titleholder who has not taken the count in his climb to the championship.

Heavyweight Champion Jack Dempsey has only one black mark against him. Just before he began the remarkable run of victories that culminated in the defeat of Jess Willard for the title, Dempsey was stopped in one round by the veteran Jim Flynn.

Battling Levinsky, who claims the light heavyweight title, was able to stall off decisive defeat in all his bouts until he met Dempsey at Philadelphia in 1918. Levinsky was not in the best of shape at the time, and the bout had not gone a round before he was sorry that he had made the match. For two rounds he tumbled, with Dempsey after him, and in the third Dempsey caught up and hung the battler on the ropes as limp as a wet rag.

Jack Britton, too. Even Jack Britton, with his remarkable defense, was stopped at one time. In 1905, when Jack was a novice, he ran into one Steve Kinney, and was rocked to sleep in the first round. It was a case of bad matchmaking, as Britton was not ready to meet such an experienced opponent.

When Benny Leonard was in the early stages of his ring career he twice took the full count. In 1912 Young Shugrue, then looked upon as a leading contender for the lightweight title, polished off Leonard in four rounds. Shugrue was a comparatively light hitter, but he landed

# America Has Fine Crop of Crack All-Around Athletes

Entrants Pentiful for Decathlon and Pentathlon Events in Olympic Games Despite Loss of Legend—Coast Contributes Stars.

By JACK VEICK, International News Sporting Editor. New York, April 10.—One of America's most brilliant athletes was counted out as a possible Olympic point winner recently when Robert Legendre, national pentathlon champion and winner of that event in the Inter-Allied games in Paris, broke his leg in training at Georgetown university. As a result of his unfortunate accident Legendre will be unable to compete in the pentathlon and decathlon events at Antwerp next summer. So the loss of Legendre, though regrettable, is by no means a crushing blow to the hopes of America.

The foremost all-around athletes who will vie with one another for the honor of representing America in the stellar individual events in the Olympic games are S. Harrison Thomson, the Princeton university star; Sol Butler of Duquesne college; C. L. Lewis of Missouri university; Arthur Tuck, Multnomah A. C.; Howard Gray, Lanark Karimo, Young Men's Order, Detroit; Bernard Lichtman, Pastime A. C., New York; Earl Thomson, Dartmouth university; Carl Johnson, University of Michigan; Jack Fritts, New York Athletic club; E. L. Vidal, U. S. Military academy; W. F. Bartels, University of Pennsylvania; and William Yount, Redlands university, California.

Here is a brilliant constellation. Out of this even dozen stars the Olympic committee expects to find several sure point winners for the American team in both the modern pentathlon and the decathlon events. Six entrants will be made in each event, four to compete, and there is promise that the final trials at Cambridge between these great athletes will develop the greatest competition America has ever seen.

According to athletic experts on the Pacific coast, Bill Yount is one of the most brilliant athletes ever developed. Robert Weaver, president of the Southern Pacific association of the A. A. U., said recently that Yount is a remarkable performer. He is a stockily built athlete weighing about 175 pounds, and has marvelous endurance. Weaver has seen him win the 100, 220, 440-yard dashes, the high and low hurdles, the pole vault and the high jump, finish second in the shotput and run a quarter mile on the relay team at Redlands University, all in one afternoon.

Yount's best records are 10 seconds for the hundred, 23 feet for the running broad jump, 11 feet 8 inches for the pole vault, 5 feet 8 inches in the high jump, 50 seconds in the quarter mile, 25 seconds in the 220-yard low hurdles and 42 feet with the 16-pound shot.

This remarkable Californian was eager to get into the national all-around championship in the east last year, but was disappointed at the last moment, as he had never trained for the hammer throw or the 56-pound weight. After eight weeks practice he threw the hammer 135 feet and tossed the 56-pound weight 25 feet.

Another westerner whose praises are being sung by experts from beyond the Rocky mountains is Artie Tuck, from Portland, Tuck won the national junior javelin throwing championship at Philadelphia last September with a throw of 178 feet and is going to make a strong bid for a place on the Olympic team in this event. His best throw with the javelin is 205 feet, made in practice. He has hurled the discus 145 feet, has made 23 feet in the running broad jump and has run 200 meters in 22 seconds. He can also run a strong mile. If he is able to come close to these performances in the Olympic trials he is sure of a place on the team.

Thompson of Princeton, the intercollegiate all-around champion, is a wonderfully brilliant man. So is Johnson, of Michigan, and Bartels, of Pennsylvania. All of the other men named here are highly competent athletes in at least three events.

# Telegraph Operator in Omaha Plays Checkers With His Brother in Sioux City Over News Wire on "Quiet" Nights

Others Gamble "By Wire" On Results From Chicago to San Francisco.

Click! Click! "Your move!" "Jump, you got'ta jump that man." "Ha, ha! There goes your king!" "Gee, hope the president doesn't fire another member of the cabinet till we finish this game!" "I've got five bucks on you, Omaha. Watch your moves." Click! Click! "It's all over, he's got that king cornered."

In the wee hours of the night, when news isn't "breaking," the foregoing conversation keeps the staid, sedate Associated Press wire, which extends from Chicago to San Francisco, fairly humming.

Rivals Since Youth. And its all over a checker game, played by C. D. Johnson, Associated Press operator at the Bee office, and his brother, T. P. Johnson, operator on the same wire at the Sioux City Tribune office.

The two brothers have been checker rivals since their earliest youth. It was only recently, however, that they devised the plan of numbering checker boards and playing by long distance telegraph.

It sort of lives up the evening and seems to remind us of old times," said C. D. Johnson. "If we could just pull each other's hair once in a while, like we used to in the old days, everything would be fine."

Gamble from Afar. But if the hair-pulling part of the game is lacking, it isn't missed by Operator Bartlett at Lincoln, who only two nights ago bet and won—well, the amount doesn't matter—money from A. A. McDonnell, operator at Denver; and it doesn't spoil the fun for Miss Charlotte Oakes, operator at Mitchell, S. D., who thinks "checkers is just the grandest game



C. D. Johnson, Associated Press operator, at his key in the editorial rooms of The Omaha Bee, with his checker board handy, ready for a game with his brother in Sioux City when the wire gets "cold." Other Associated Press operators, all the way from Chicago to San Francisco, chip in and bet on the games as they progress.

and is willing to bet at least 25 cents on either brother any time. Of course, Miss Oakes and Mr. Bartlett would rather bet on C. D. Johnson, because he taught them how to be operators, but it isn't everyday one has a chance to bet on a real championship checker game, and watch—or rather listen—to it played, move by move, and jump by jump. So they bet either way.

Many Eavesdroppers. T. P. Johnson has a large gallery with him every night, according to reports, that is willing to back him to the limit. Of course there is a

limit, as the gallery is made up principally of reporters and other newspaper men, sprinkled with a flavoring of Sioux City checker fans. The Omaha brother has a slight majority of "wins" to his credit, thus far, much to the discomfort of the Sioux City gallery, and to the joy of San Francisco and Chicago operators, who have been backing him.

He admits that his brother is "some checker player," however, and has warned his backers to go easy. "Hopes Germany Behaves." "We came from a family of

checker players," explained Mr. Johnson. "That is, checkers was a favorite game with them, but our uncle, Thomas J. Johnson, was the only one who really distinguished himself. He was once champion of Indiana. My brother and I—"

He was interrupted by a loud "click, click" from his instrument. "Little brother wants to play a game while the wire's quiet," he smiled grimly. "I'll clean him good tonight unless a German revolution or a shipwreck in the China sea stops the game. "Click, click—it's your move, brother."

## Splinters of Sport

Columbus, Ohio, April 10.—A school for quarterbacks.

This is the recommendation made to Ohio state university athletic officials by a local sports enthusiast. He points out that the first and last requisite of an efficient quarterback is good generalship and that it can be taught just the same as business management.

"After all, a quarterback is nothing more than the business manager of the football team," says the local enthusiast. "He directs the play and he must call the right play at the right time or he isn't a good quarterback. A team is no stronger than its quarterback's generalship."

Co-eds Watch Wrestlers. Boulder, Colo., April 10.—Fair co-eds of the University of Colorado are permitted to witness intercollegiate wrestling bouts between male students, under an order issued by college authorities. The restrictions against girls attending the bouts were removed upon the recommendation of the dean of women to President Norlin that the matches involved no objectionable features.

Real Boxing "Bugs."

Pueblo, Colo., April 10.—Boxing as a means of curing insanity has met with such success at the Colorado State Hospital for the Insane that James Tillman, director of the institution, plans to inaugurate an extensive program of athletics for the inmates.

Tillman believes rugged physical exercise is highly valuable in restoring the mentality of defectives. Up to date he has only used boxing in his efforts to strengthen the minds of his derelict charges, but expects to have many inmates indulging in all branches of outdoor sports during the coming summer.

Inmates of the state institution here who are physically sound have been permitted to don fifteen-ounce boxing gloves and, under Tillman's close supervision, "go" two and three rounds. As a result, Tillman claims, six patients already show marked mental improvement.

Midget Pugs Want Bout. Pueblo, Colo., April 10.—A new class in pugilism—the midgetweight—may be established if boxing promoters succeed in finding suitable opponents for Frank and Philip Atwood, five-year-old twin "mitt wonders" of this city.

The twins have been performing in exhibition bouts here, and their trainer, who acts as manager and trainer for the pair, is anxious to match either of the boys with some opponent for the "midgetweight" title of the world.

Frank and Philip fight at exactly thirty-six pounds and have been going four and two-minute rounds at top speed.

Wife Pitched Pennies With Bellboy for Kisses. Trenton, N. J., April 10.—His wife and a bellboy in a hotel at Utica, N. Y., "pitched pennies for kisses" was one of the charges made by Harry Wright, of New York, in his suit for divorce from Veronica Wright, of Atlantic City. Testimony was heard by Vice-Chancellor Bu-

channan here, and he granted the divorce without leaving the bench. In addition to telling about the bellboy, Wright said that for twelve years he had been taking his wife from questionable places late at night and early in the morning.

## Hard Hit Golf Ball Takes Off Robin's Head

Winsted, Conn., April 10.—A freak accident of the golf links that has aroused the interest of local

golfers resulted when Eddie Fitzgerald drove a ball that decapitated a robin. The bird was about 100 yards from the tee, and the ball which skimmed the fairway, took off the robin's head as cleanly as with a knife.



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