

Has Champion Jack Dempsey Slipped Back?

Utah Boy's Scrap With Brennan Starts Fight Fans to Thinking—Champ Should Steer Clear of N. Y.

By HARRY NEWMAN. Chicago Tribune—Omaha Bee Licensed Wire. New York, Dec. 26.—Has Jack Dempsey gone back? After watching the champion pugilist of the world flounder through 12 rounds with a commonplace boxer like "Bill" Brennan, we are inclined to believe that he has slipped back at least 40 per cent, or else that he never was quite there as a real representative titleholder.

Crowd Cheers Brennan

The crowd went wild and cheered the courage of the challenger at every opportunity, showing where their sentiments rested, and when the contest was over their cheers were for the better fighter. Can you imagine such a thing in the days of Sullivan, Corbett, the great Bob Fitzsimmons, Tom Sharkey, and Jim Jeffries? What is the answer? Probably nothing more than that these days were real fighters and not awkward, conceited, and over paid performers.

However, the real question at issue is whether Dempsey has gone back. Experts who watched him the other night were astounded at his work. They contrasted his rippling, smashing attack against Willard at Toledo, and could not believe it was the same Dempsey. Then again they thought of the night at Harrison, N. J., when Jack crashed the giant Fred Fulton reeling out of the picture in less than a round.

It has been hinted Dempsey was holding up Brennan for the pictures and that he did not try his best, which is probably a splendid line of unbecome. Allowing that Dempsey might have been holding up Brennan for the pictures, it is not likely he would have been willing to take the pasting he was subjected to, right from the opening bell. Nothing doing on that score. Mr. Dempsey was not holding up Brennan for the pictures.

Poor Excuse. Another suggestion presented by the Dempsey camp was that Jack was holding Bill up for a return engagement. Now, any one who has ever seen Dempsey fight, knows he would know how to act his part long enough to hold up any man.

Dempsey has been matched to fight Georges Carpentier for a purse of \$50,000, and with this in mind, it is not likely Dempsey would take any chances of losing out on that score. Dempsey was in there trying every inch of the way, but he met a man with a good stout heart, and when he found his opponent wasn't bit scared, Dempsey changed his tactics.

As we watched Dempsey struggling along with Brennan for those many rounds, vainly trying to land the knockout, and also watching Brennan walloping the champion around with stinging right and lefts, we could not help think Dempsey was a lucky man that Brennan did not carry a real punch.

If Harry Willard has been there with the champion, the title would have changed hands and new arrangements for the Carpenter fight would have been in order.

Had Carpentier been the opponent, it is almost a certainty he would have knocked out Dempsey, providing, of course, that he could land as often as Brennan and there is small doubt that he could here if he so desired.

We saw Carpentier fight Levinsky, and while Levinsky was nothing more than a stationary target, Carpentier showed speed and a mighty wallop, something that "Bill" Brennan does not possess, and we say that without any reservation against the game and willing "Bill."

Steer Clear of New York. Up to the time Dempsey met Willard folks here had been led to believe from the glowing accounts that Dempsey was nothing short of a superman, and that it was nothing short of a crime to match him with men like Carpentier and Brennan. Now opinions are generally revised and they look upon Dempsey's chances against Carpentier as about even up.

Dempsey must redeem himself of his poor showing against Brennan. It may be that the next time out Jack will go through his man with some need he used against Willard and Fulton. But we think that the champion had better steer clear of New York when he sets about training for his next encounter.

Featherweight Contender



Billy DeFoe, St. Paul featherweight, whose ring work has created a sensation. DeFoe is being hailed by sport writers and boxing fans as the greatest feather in the game today. In his latest match the St. Paul phenom stopped Frankie Brown of New York in 11 rounds. Brown had previously soundly thrashed the featherweight champion, Johnny Kilbane, knocking the champion down twice in their no-decision affair in Philadelphia. The only thing separating DeFoe from the featherweight title, in the opinion of the writers, is the formality of getting Kilbane into a ring. The photograph of DeFoe shows clearly his powerful forearms and shoulder muscles, the secret of his punching ability.

Small Bore Rifle League Plans Big Events for Followers of Sport

Shooting as a sport in its richest interpretation implies getting out in the open, where not only the riflemen's experiences may find satisfactory diversion and recompense for the long grind at the range, but also that the mental and physical element may be relaxed and invigorated, where a fellow can get nature's shoulder under his burden, where the mind is unshut with freedom, where the heart pulsates with animation, where the whole animal as well as intellectual being is reinvigorated under healthful influences.

Shooting as a sport will eventually take one outdoors, which develops square men, fair men, and athletes, an aptly named sport, a light heart, it is the builder of self respect, the key to personal independence, makes men tower in the confidence of power, makes the world a comedy of success, and makes few things impossible of achievement. The American Smallbore league encourages a program that will bring us back to off hand shooting, both in and out in the good old fashioned way of our forefathers, an era that bespoke America as a nation of riflemen, an epoch in our return to the making of the rifle and rifle shooting a genuinely sporting proposition. We stand for a program of novelty matches, crash and bust up targets that can be made at will to test the skill of the best. Matches with a laugh, good natured rivalry, where marksmanship is judged by a man's ability to shoot. A program, and permit this with emphasis, fostered

"TWO AND THREE" Putting the Next One Over. By "BUGS" BAER.

Tourists will travel themselves sour-looking over the ruins of Greek and Roman amphitheatres and arenas. They gallop all over Europe pointing their fingers at the ruins, and saying "Nothing seems right to an American unless it is a ruin. Around 2460, a Greek tourist will get sunk by stepping over here and shooting a set of looks at the greatest arena in the world—Madison Square Garden.

And it is far superior to the Greek junk heaps, because it has a press gate. If any ancient reporter ever horned into a Roman sporting event, it was because he was going to exchange bites with a lion, winner eat!

The old Garden has been scheduled many times for the auctioneer's baton. But the old sporting nest manages to survive. The wrecking crews that come to jerk it down stay to splash another coat of painter's soap over it. If there ever comes a time when it must go to make room for something useless, America will lose its only real arena. Anything that could ever happen for the price of an admission has happened there. Fights, municipal choruses, opera, bike races, congratulations, insults, moving pictures, anything. And don't forget the war tax.

Next week it's the six-day bike race. Or what Tom McNamara calls the poor man's horse show. The sprocket foredoers will padde away nine laps to the mile while the boys in the attic mezzanine encourage 'em with robust snoring!

There's no time to stay awake like the few minutes of the sprints. And there's no time to sleep like the long hours of the grind. It's a question whether a six-day low gear marathon is a sport or a punishment. But there is a fascination about it that would make a bear leave his hollow tree in a blizzard. The reformers would like to change the race and mount the contestants on swivel chairs harnessed up to speedometers. It's a tough sport, but it's great exercise for developing the muscles. It teaches a man to fight, "en if it's only for an overcoat.

The reformers are trying to eliminate all kinds of sport. A reformer is a guy who insists on installing a heating plant in a cold storage warehouse. That lets him out.

Tinker to Retire. Columbus, Ohio—Joe Tinker, former shortstop of the champion Cubs, is going to retire from base ball. He has sold his stock in the Columbus American association team and says he is through with the game.

Cowler to Meet Curphey. London.—Tom Cowler, the Australian fighter, has been matched to meet Jack Curphey, the heavyweight, on December 29.

Jinx Camps on Sox First Base for 21 Seasons

Except for Frank Isbell and John Collins, Initial Corner for White Hose Is Hoodoo Job.

Except for two men, the position of first base on the White Sox team has been a jinx job in the 21 years since Charles A. Comiskey invaded Chicago with his St. Paul club in the winter of 1900.

The two exceptions are Frank Isbell and John (Shaun) Collins, and those exceptions may owe their immunity from the hoodoo stuff to the fact that they played many other positions besides first base. There may have been other minor exceptions in the cases of youngsters who have tried and failed to make good on the initial corner of the south side diamond, but the jinx seems to have pursued all the others who have acquired the right to be considered regulars on that job.

Isbell Plays Every Position. Isbell was the original first baseman of the White Sox. He came to Chicago with Comiskey and, although several others, whose names never etched themselves into the memories of south side fans, displaced Issey from the bag temporarily, he kept on reverting to the task season after season, until Jiggs Donahue claimed the berth in 1904.

Isbell then switched to various other positions, both infield and out—in fact, in one season he occupied every position on the team. In the last game of that year, because it was discovered from the records that Issey had done everything except catch, he went behind the bat with two out in the last half inning and the final batsman fouled out.

Possibly for his versatility Isbell escaped the hoodoo, for he graduated from the Sox into minor league, and, and is now the prosperous owner of the Wichita Western league club.

Fans Mour Jiggs Donahue. The man who got nearest to being a regular first baseman for the Sox during Isbell's reign was the original Cozy Dolan, who died before his years of usefulness of the diamond had passed.

Sox fans all recall the unfortunate end of Jiggs Donahue, who fell a victim in his prime to a sickness which cut short his career and ended in his death. Donahue shared with Isbell and George Roche the honors of the world's series of 1906, the only base ball Derby that has been played between teams representing one city.

His playing at first base contributed as much to the victory of the White Sox as did the four two-base hits by Isbell or the three-bagger by George Roche with the bags loaded.

Chick Gandil succeeded Donahue as a brief spell only before he was going only to return years later to the south side team after he had played with the Washington and Cleveland teams of the American league.

Gandil and Chase Now Out. Gandil could not hit a curved ball when he first came to Chicago from the Pacific coast, and this very thing, which he learned to do to have witnesses to his target, or affidavits, or the humiliation of being doubted.

Barred From Outlaws. Chase was one of the first major league players to be implicated with gamblers while he was with the Cincinnati club in 1918, but escaped punishment until the following year, when he was with the Giants and tangled up with others, including Heine Zimmerman. Chase recently was barred from playing on an independent team on the coast.

Of the youngsters tried out Babe Borton came nearest to making good. Borton recently was suspended by the Pacific Coast league following revelations regarding the scandal pertaining to the coast circuit's pennant race in 1919.

Among those who tried for the Sox first base job and failed were Bob Hasbrook and Ted Jourdan, neither of whom inhabited the place long enough to become infected, so they had good prospects of missing their careers before they started. With each failure John Collins gained leverage to the job and finally achieved much distinction there this last year.

New Tennis Rule Would Leopardize Future of the Sport in This Country. London, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—There is a proposal to be put before the general meeting of the Lawn Tennis association which is of very sinister import, and, if carried, would jeopardize the future of the game throughout the world in general and in this country in particular. By a curious irony the proposal aims at international uniformity, but at this date, is absolutely destructive of internationalism.

Players Who Jumped to Teams to Be Taken Back. Cincinnati, O., Dec. 26.—Ball players who deserted the ranks of organized base ball last season and joined the independent outlaw leagues, are to be taken back into the fold, according to a rumor here. It is said that, with few exceptions, the players will be allowed to return on payment of husky fines.

Yale to Row Columbia. New Haven, Conn.—Yale and Columbia will row two races on the Housatonic river at Derby on April 30, according to tentative plans. Yale will row Pennsylvania over the same course, and Columbia on May 21 Yale will row Cornell and Princeton at Ithaca.

Anyone Want to Ride Him?



Many freak sporting wagers have been lost and won, but here is an absolutely new one. Charles Wade, a well known Los Angeles athlete, has offered to bet his services for five years against \$10,000 that he can, in one year, "walk" from Los Angeles to New York on his hands and feet, at a constant rate he can cover 15 to 16 miles a day. As yet no one has accepted his offer.

Tries to Drive Champs Into Bouts

Tex Rickard Wants to Stage Great Series of Fights by Title Holders.

New York, Dec. 26.—Fight lovers are in for the biggest treat in the history of the game, if the plans of Tex Rickard are carried out and the sport "reformers," far from being not in content with promoting the Jack Dempsey-Georges Carpentier fight, Rickard is now on the trail of every champion in his class.

Schmader and Lee To Box New Year's. Andy Schmader, Louisville, Neb., heavyweight scrapper, and Johnny Lee of Omaha, will meet in a 10-round bout, the feature event of an athletic entertainment to be staged at Central City, Neb., New Year's night.

Harry Greb Beats Jeff Smith in Bout. Pittsburgh, Dec. 26.—Harry Greb, Pittsburgh, received the newspaper decision over Jeff Smith of Bayonne, N. J., in a 10-round bout here.

O. A. C. Flashes. Director of Swimming, O. A. C. Monday. The 50-year club breast stroke championship swimmer in getting underway for the season, will meet in a 10-round bout, the feature event of an athletic entertainment to be staged at Central City, Neb., New Year's night.

Colleges Throughout U. S. Seek Millions For New Stadiums. The stadium idea has spread among the country's colleges. Following the success of the Ohio state stadium project, universities all over the country have been seized with a similar desire, although no university has yet undertaken such a large task as Ohio has shouldered.

To Hold Race Lotteries. Sidney, N. S. W.—With reference to the announcement made some time ago that the state government was considering a scheme for the raising of state loans locally by means of state lotteries, it is now stated that cash prizes on racing events, and not treasury bonds, will be given.

Big Bonspiel for Quebec. The Quebec Curling club is inviting clubs from Canadian cities to take part in a gigantic bonspiel next January, celebrating the 100th birthday of the club. It is expected 200 curling trunks will participate.

May Stage March 17 Bout in Jersey City; Says Willard Impostor

Final arrangements for the Jack Dempsey-Jess Willard fight are being made by Tex Rickard and Jack Kearns, despite criticism of the proposed battle. Opposition to staging the bout in New York has become so strong, however, that it is understood it will be staged in Jersey City, N. J., and negotiations are being conducted to utilize the ball park there.

Few can conceive Willard's ability to stand with Dempsey, even one round, if the "agonny" is not purposefully prolonged. W. F. Corbett of Sydney, Australia, one of the greatest boxing critics in the world, dub Willard as an "impostor," having the following to say about his match with Dempsey: "The huge impostor, Jess Willard, is talking about coming back, and some New York scribbles will fall for anything if he tolerates that."

Suspicion has been aroused over the length of the Dempsey-Brennan battle, statements being made it was purposely prolonged to give Dempsey an opportunity to secure other matches. Attention is now drawn to the offer to Dempsey of \$50,000 to meet the winner of the Harry Greb-Jeff Smith bout in Pittsburgh tonight and to efforts to get such opponents as Bob Martin, Tommy Gibbons and other of the lesser fry against him.

Pulitzer Trophy Race For 250 Miles to Be Held Next August

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 26.—The Pulitzer trophy race, the airplane classic of America, is to be held in 1921, according to Col. J. G. Vincent, head of the Aviation Country club.

As tentatively planned, the contest will be staged over a triangular course. The race, it was said, would be for about 250 miles, with 45 miles to a leg.

The date for the races has not been fixed, but would probably be held late in August, Colonel Vincent stated.

Star Yank Swimmers, One A Girl, to Tour Australia. Miss Ethelma Bleibrey of Philadelphia, Olympic champion and the foremost woman swimmer in this country, will represent the United States in a tour of Australia. In addition, Duke Kahanamoku, Ludy Langer and Pua Keoloha will make the trip.

Prince of Wales' Boxing Prize. London.—A challenge shield for a boxing competition among units of the Territorial cadet force has been presented by the prince of Wales.

CHARLES E. BLACK 1417 FARNAM. EVERY NECK TIE In the Store 1/2 PRICE This Week Only CLOTH HATS \$2.00 Each—While They Last CHARLES E. BLACK 1417 FARNAM

Let Us Handle your grain shipments to the Omaha, Chicago, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Sioux City, or any other markets. We Specialize in the careful handling of all orders for grain and provisions for future delivery. We Operate Offices at Omaha, Neb.; Lincoln, Neb.; Hastings, Neb.; Chicago, Ill.; Sioux City, Ia.; Holdrege, Neb.; Geneva, Neb.; Des Moines, Ia.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Hamburg, Ia.; Kansas City, Missouri. We Have Up-to-date Terminal Elevators in the Omaha and Milwaukee Markets—with the latest facilities for handling your shipments. Updike Grain Co. "The Reliable Consignment House" Omaha, Nebraska

The Children's Page in the Sunday Bee devoted exclusively to the children—they all enjoy it... YALE TO ROW COLUMBIA. New Haven, Conn.—Yale and Columbia will row two races on the Housatonic river at Derby on April 30, according to tentative plans. Yale will row Pennsylvania over the same course, and Columbia on May 21 Yale will row Cornell and Princeton at Ithaca.