

Ring Reminiscences

Fights and Fighters
(By JAMES PENDERGAST)

Expressions relating to "box fighting" and tactics, etc., seem to become part of our language. Like nearly all slang words and phrases they become orthodox during the course of time. I noticed one in some article lately, viz., "He threw in the towel." Ringside seat, knockout, K.O. (used figuratively); "good big man better than good little man", etc., etc.

It might be interesting to those who never heard it before, of the origin of "the bigger they are the harder they fall." It was the doughty and redoubtable Ruby Robert Fitzsimmons who is the original author.

It was the custom in those days for champions to do a barnstorming stunt of the principal cities in the States and Canada, taking on all comers for four rounds. It meant big money for the champions. They would get a certain large guarantee from the theatrical people besides giving the hothead a chance to see them, at the same time keeping in fairly good shape for a bout at short notice.

In later years they boxed with their own sparring partners. I remember a talk with Battling Nelson, the "Durable Dane", after

his exhibition at the Old Howard theatre in Boston. After he had thrown a pocket full of pennies (three or four hundred) to a seraglio of little boys. He said as he was going away, "Well I must go down to the Boston Traveller office now and get my five hundred." He was getting \$500 for a write-up of his fights in the Traveller that day. He likely had a "ghost writer." At first thought I was confusing his \$500 with the stipend for the Old Howard show. He didn't tell me how much he got for the show. He volunteered the information about the Traveller money. I didn't get familiar or inquisitive on short acquaintance.

To hark back to the historic cliché, it happened in Butte, Montana. They put up a monstrosity of a man against Fitz, with a heart and shoulders almost superhuman—out of this world—like "The Man From Mars". This modern Sampson had beaten all comers in a radius of 500 miles. He was no pushover. Fitz had a retinue of Australian trainers and camp followers. When Fitz arrived at the auditorium, one of his Australians got anxious to get a look at Fitz's opponent. He took one look—it was enough. He rushed back with his eyes popping, the picture of consternation.

After he got his breath and composure he said "e's an awf'ful 'e's a monster, 'e ain't 'uman, 'e weighs 350 lbs. Fitz was momentarily stunned at the news, but he soon recovered his equanimity and set, "Let 'im come, 'arder, the bigger they are the 'orce they fall."

Fitz had to be wary and duck and sidestep and back-peddle the giant's powerful roundhouse swings, all the time letting the

big fellow tire and get slower in his movements. His chance came in the 4th round. The big fellow swung one of his haymakers, missed again, and before he could get up his hands, Fitz landed with his lethal right directly on the button of the jaw of the Colossus.

Fitz had put all the force of his body from his very toes, into the blow, because he was positive it would land right. The resounding thump of the big fellow's head on the floor of the stage, and the suddenness of the final coup de grace terrified many of the more timid souls and they headed for the exits. Something like the humorist who saw a fellow strike a very heavy blow in a rough-house fight in Arkansas, and immediately announced his intention of moving out of the state.

Naturally Fitz's trainers would repeat what he said when told about the Colossus, and it quickly became a common saying in boxing parlance. Now it has universal use—both literally and figuratively.

Member Of First Basketball Team Dies In Nova Scotia

STELLARTON, N. S., April 1—(OP)—Rev. Finlay G. MacDonald, member of the first basketball team in the world, died suddenly at his home here Thursday. He was 81.

Born at Sunny Brae, N. S., in 1870, he became interested in Y. M. C. A. work and studied at Springfield, Mass. It was while in Springfield that he became a member of the pioneer basketball squad.

"As I remember it," he told reporters some time ago, "we were playing football for Springfield College against other teams in the state."

"We were leaving the field after the last game of the season when the coach—that was Dr. James Naismith, another Canadian—said we needed a game that we could play inside during the winter."

"Somebody was carrying the goal posts in and he said 'bring that goal over and I'll hold it here.' Then he put a pail up on one of the posts. Another post was put at the other end of the gymnasium and somebody's hat was stuck up on it."

"We chose sides—there were nine a side then—and we played the first game, trying to throw that same football into the pail and hats."

"Of course we went into it pell mell and it was the strongest team that came out on top."

After the first or second game peach baskets were substituted for the pail and hat and there were rules added to tone down the style of play.

Soon after, the game originated by Dr. Naismith, native of Smith Falls, Ont., branched out and a league was formed in which teams from all over the state met.

"We never lost a game for two years," Mr. MacDonald said. "We played all the colleges after the league was organized and we were never beaten."

"After that, of course, we graduated and the team broke up." During that first year the peach baskets were universally used.

The second year, however, baskets a little more like those used today were set up.

From his last look at the modern version of the hoop sport, he expressed the opinion that it hadn't changed very much.

REGINA, March 31—(OP)—Provincial Treasurer C. M. Fines said last night that he is "absolutely opposed to the Saskatchewan Government... ever taking public funds and trying to develop the natural resources."

Bearden Vows To Make Comeback

By JOE REICHLER
ORLANDO, Fla., March 31—(AP)—Hard-working Gene Bearden, who rose from baseball obscurity to greatness in one year only to hit rock bottom the next, vows to make the long climb back to the top or "break an arm trying."

The handsome southpaw with the baffling knuckleball pitch was the toast of the baseball world in 1948 when he won 20 games for Cleveland, including the one that broke the only American League pennant tie in history to give the Indians their first flag in 28 years. Bearden went on to win one game and save another as the Indians defeated Boston Braves in the World Series.

Bearden hasn't been successful since then. He won only eight games in 1949. Last year he won four.

Famed Golfer Dies At 64

EAST HARTFORD, Conn., March 31—(AP)—Jerome D. Travers, 64, a famed name in golf with a record surpassed only by the brilliant Bobby Jones, died yesterday at his home.

Travers, who won the U. S. amateur championship four times between 1907 and 1913, died in comparative obscurity.

An inspector at an aircraft plant here, Travers was just another name to most of his fellow-workers and neighbors.

He leaves his widow, Mrs. Dyna Travers, a daughter, Gerry-Anne—both of them too ill to be told of his death—and two sons.

He turned golf professional in the twilight of his career, but was not successful.

His biggest regret, he told an interviewer several years ago, was his failure to turn pro after winning the United States open when he had opportunities to cash in on scores of offers.

One of the most famous putters in the history of golf, his biggest thrill came from winning the U.S. open in 1915 with a 72-hole score of 297.

Slim and wiry with a keen sense of humor, Travers liked to talk about the early days of golf and although he never played in recent years, he followed the progress of the new crop of golfers avidly.

His favorites were Jones, Walter Hagen, Sam Snead, Byron Nelson and Ben Hogan.

Bratton-Gavilan Sign For Bout

NEW YORK, March 31—(AP)—The welterweight boxing picture cleared up considerably yesterday when N.B.A. champion Johnny Bratton of Chicago and Cuba's Kid Gavilan signed to meet in a 15-round title bout in Madison Square Garden, May 18.

New York agreed to recognize the winner as world champion. Both Bratton and Gavilan guaranteed that the victor will defend his crown against New York's Billy Graham in the Garden in July.

The last move gained New York's title blessing.

Graham, bedded with a virus infection, could not appear. He cancelled his scheduled April 11 bout with Fizzle Pruden of St. Catharines, Ont., in Chicago. A substitute will replace him in that bout.

Freetown Wins South Shore Hockey Title

By defeating Augustine Cove Bulldogs by a score of 4-1 at Bedeque rink on Wednesday night, Freetown Royals became champions of the South Shore Hockey League and winners of the Simmons and MacFarlane Trophy for the sixth consecutive year. They took the best of three series in two straight games.

This is a notable triumph for the Freetown team and their coach, Robert Jardine, who has directed them to the six championships. The game was fought on good hard ice with over 600 people in attendance and, for a while was a nip and tuck struggle with no goals being scored in the first two periods. G. Somers pulled the hat trick by scoring three



The flash of silver blades and the spray of flying snow announced opening of new \$100,000 community Memorial Arena at Woodbridge, Ont. The long-awaited-for arena will be well used by local citizens, as nearly everyone, young and old alike, are skating enthusiasts. Representing figure-skating department here are 11-year-olds Wanda Anness and Doreen Drury.

Y.M.C.A. Bowling

Ladies' Friday Afternoon League
Team 1—2296. Points—27 1/2.
Team 2—2424. Points—20 3/4.
Team 3—2423. Points—45.
Team 4—236. Points—16 1/2.
High single: R. MacNeill, 248.
High three: E. Cameron, 608.

Six-Year-Old Victim Of Cancer Dies

DETROIT, March 31—(AP)—Six-year-old Bobby Hittline, a cancer victim, who attracted country-wide attention through his mother's plea for mail, died today in hospital.

Last week he suffered a relapse attributed partly to the excitement caused by receiving more than 300,000 letters and packages from sympathetic persons.

of the Freetown tallies.

Summary:
First Period
Scoring: None.
Penalties: L. Peters, C. Mills.
Second Period
Scoring: None.
Penalties: Howatt, W. Campbell.
Third Period
1—Freetown, G. Somers (R. MacMurdo)
2—Augustine Cove, G. Cutcliffe (Darrach)
3—Freetown, Gardiner (C. Mills)
4—Freetown, Somers (R. MacMurdo)
5—Freetown, Somers (R. MacMurdo)
Penalties: C. Peters, Paynter.
Referees: Jack Schurman, Gordon Kelly.
Lineups:—
Augustine Cove: Goal, Miller; defence, W. Muttart, G. Cutcliffe, P. Peters, C. Peters; forwards, W. MacFadyen, G. MacFadyen, Darrach, Noonan, Carruthers, H. Muttart, Campbell, Howatt.
Freetown: Goal, Taylor; defence, Campbell, Waugh; forwards, Somers, MacMurdo, E. Taylor, C. Mills, W. Mills, P. Gardiner, E. Paynter, R. Smith, B. Reid.

Trophies Presented

Following the game the league trophies were presented by the president of the league, Mr. Claude Delaney, who has been untiring in his efforts during the year.

They are: Simmons and MacFarlane Trophy, emblematic of the league championship, won by Freetown Royals.
Horace Wright Trophy for the team placing first in regular league schedule, won by Freetown.

J. F. Arnett Trophy for the team placing second in regular schedule, won by Albany St. Pats.
Bedeque Rink Trophy for highest scorer, won by Lester MacLeod of Albany.

Trophy for the player setting the most selections as a star of

ST. ROCK SCHOOL

Report for March.
Grade IX.—1, Doreen Arsenault.
Grade VIII.—1, Edward Blanchard; 2, Louise Chaisson; 3, Elmer Blanchard.
Grade V.—1, Ivan Arsenault; 2, Allan Griffin; 3, Joan Shea.
Grade IV.—1, Freda Martin; 2, Jerome Martin; 3, Doreen Blanchard.

Grade III. A.—1, Marjorie Ahearn.
Grade III. B.—1, Joan Griffin; 2, Alma Chaisson; 3, Erma Shea.
Grade III. C.—1, Mary DesRoches; 2, Shirley Blanchard.

Grade II. A.—1, Hector DesRoches.
Grade II. B.—1, Roger Martin; 2, Audrey Shea; 3, Nelson Chaisson.
Grade I.—1, Benoit Peters; 2, Raymond Blanchard.
Rita Knox—Teacher.

SCHOOL DESTROYED

LAWRENCE, Mass., March 31—(AP)—Fire roared upward through ventilator shafts and partitions of an eight-grade school today while 570 pupils of grades one to eight marched safely out. The children left in good fire drill order even as flames, which had originated in basement wiring, were breaking from second-floor windows. The school was destroyed.

CARS INCREASING

HALIFAX—(CP)—E. S. Campbell, Nova Scotia vehicle registrar, said here there are nearly 130,000 drivers in the province "and we are well on the way to hitting the 100,000 mark in the number of vehicles." This year is expected to see a big increase over last year when 17,000 new cars and 15,500 new drivers were registered.

games played, won by Robert MacMurdo of Freetown.

Following are the six top point winners during the season in the scoring race: Lester MacLeod 20, Neil Duguay 19, N. VanEmber 18, Robert MacMurdo 17, Leo Duvar 17, Shelton Ferguson 16.

Are You a Fertile Male?

Despite popular belief, the man is at fault in 2 out of 3 childless couples... and 1 out of 5 American men will probably never become fathers.

Yet few men are completely sterile. April Reader's Digest tells of ways science has found to help many more men achieve fatherhood.

Ignorance of basic facts about fertility and conception may hinder couples from having children. Learn why many men may inadvertently lessen their fertility during the time their wives can conceive.

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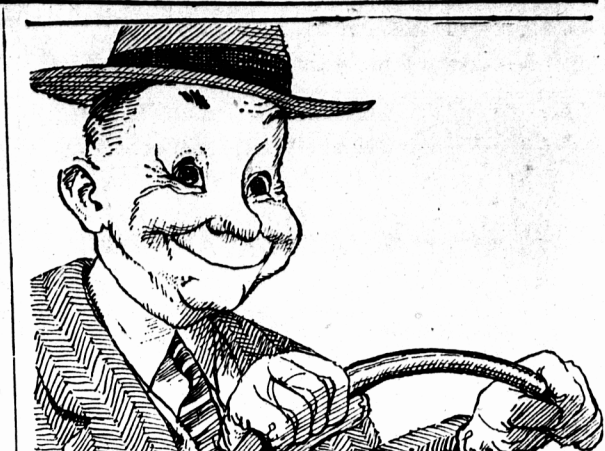
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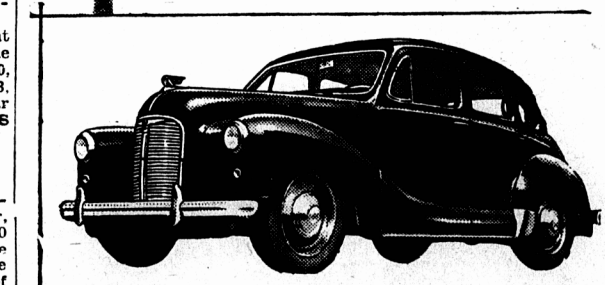
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