

Ring Reminiscences

— Fights and Fighters —
(By JAMES FENDERGAST)

Sullivan - Corbett — The New Era

Alexander Johnson in his "Stories of the Prize Ring in America" gives a very graphic account of the Sullivan-Corbett fight, which was—and still is—considered the greatest upset in the history of boxing. He also gives short accounts of famous bouts leading up to the climax of Sullivan's career.

The first important battle in 1892 brought together two men who were still struggling up the pugilistic ladder, but one of whom was thought by many experts to have a chance for a later try at the championship.

The two men were Bob Fitzsimmons and Peter Maher. Fitz had recently come from Australia to try his prowess in America. He was then a middleweight. Fitz had unbounded confidence in himself as a fighter. "Omnes veniant" (let 'em all come) was his watchword. He began to cast longing eyes on the heavyweight division. In the first place he was taking on weight, and while he could still make the middle division (158 lbs.), it was apparent that he was destined for the heavies in a short time. Besides, it was in the heavyweight division that the big purses were given. Fitz wanted a shot at the "big time".

Peter Maher, the Irish champion, had come to this country in 1891, and had made a good impression in his early fights. He had knocked out four or five good second-raters and in doing so had shown a terrific right hand smash—and a fair turn of boxing—nothing flashy, but enough to carry a big powerful man with a wall-plop. He was regarded distinctly as a "comer".

Fitz was as pleased as Punch to get a match with Maher before the Olympic Club in New Orleans on March 2nd, 1892. The third man in the ring was John Duffy. The men fought a slashing battle. Maher had thirty pounds advantage in weight over Fitzsimmons, but quite often extra weight is a hindrance rather than an advantage. It is just so much over-burden to impede quick movement, and tire a man quicker. Before the fight had gone five rounds the spectators realized that the middleweight champion was hitting just as hard as the ponderous Irishman, and was getting more blows. Nevertheless it was a gruelling contest. Maher stood to his guns until the twelfth round when Fitz backed him into

a corner and knocked him out with a left to the jaw and a right to the body. The fight established Fitz as a power to be reckoned with. He fought four others in 1892—all heavyweight contenders, and he beat them all by the knockout route. One of his opponents was George Godfrey, an original Charlottetown, P.E.I. man, a real gentleman, in or out of a boxing ring. George was quite dark in colour, but his heart and soul were as "white" as that of any other human.

George had done well against all the top-notchers of the time, but was slightly on the down grade. Fitz was able to K.O. him in one round. Many a good man has been knocked out in a round. There is an element of uncertainty in a boxing contest—so many different things are liable to happen—all of which provide the lute and drawing power, and make the turnstiles click. The manner in which Fitz disposed of Godfrey was impressive.

In the meantime, champion John L. Sullivan was not entirely happy. He had not entered the ring since his memorable fight with Kilrain in 1889. His theatrical engagements kept him busy. It was then the unwritten law that champions had to "barnstorm" the United States and Canada taking on alcomers for four rounds. Many fighters had taken advantage of this seeming unwillingness of Sullivan to defend his title, to hurl challenges at him. Many of them were pure publicity stunts, attempts to gain publicity by hurling challenges at a champion whom they expected would ignore them. On the other hand, certain of the challengers were in good faith. Mitchell and Slavin both challenged, likewise James J. Corbett of California—also the great colored fighter Peter Jackson. Sullivan answered him by drawing the "colour line" again.

There was no question that those three were anxious for a try at the champion. Mitchell had already fought him twice, once registering a triumphant draw. Slavin was a big powerful man who claimed the Australian championship, with infinite faith in his ability. Corbett had long believed he could beat Sullivan, and he spared no means to let the world know it.

Finally the old Titan listened to the clarion calls of the challengers. Deep in his dour soul there may have been a feeling that he was on the downgrade, but certainly to outward appearance he entertained no doubt of his ability to thrash the whole crew of them in one ring in one night. When he deemed this bear-baiting had gone far enough old John shook his grizzled head and growled back.

The gist of his growl was this: He would fight any of his three serious white challengers for a purse of \$25,000 (twenty-five thousand dollars), and a side bet of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars), winner take all. He insisted that the fight must be with five-ounce gloves and under Queensbury rules, as he "wanted a fight and

College Sport Scandal Spreads To New Areas

NEW YORK, July 25—(AP)—The exploding college basketball scandal engulfed its sixth school today and turned up an amazing story of a "double cross" among gamblers involving a death threat to one of them.

District Attorney Frank S. Hogan reported that three stars of the University of Toledo team admitted taking money from Eli Kaye to rig the points in a game with Niagara at Toledo last Dec. 14.

He also said that two sets of gamblers were involved in the fixing of the Bradley-St. Joseph's game in Philadelphia early last year.

Besides the three players from Toledo, and six from Bradley, 18 players and former players from New York schools—City College of New York, Manhattan College, Long Island University and New York University—already have been named in a series of fixes spreading over more than 25 games, including tournament contests. Kaye is under \$50,000 bail in the alleged bribing of New York players.

Four players from Bradley, including all-America Gene (Squeaky) Melchiorre, have been named in connection with the rigging of points on at least three games. The others are William Walker, Robert McDonald and Carlo Muzi.

Hogan said there are no charges against the Toledo players. There has been no law against bribing amateur athletes in Ohio, but starting Aug. 22 it will be punishable by a \$10,000 fine or a prison sentence of one to five years, or both.

Relating the story of the "double cross" in the Bradley-St. Joseph's game at Philadelphia's Convention Hall early in 1950, Hogan said the English brothers, Nicholas (Nick the Greek) and Tony, worked together to fix the Bradley players. Hogan reported the following series of events:

"The battle of wits between the gamblers developed when Jack West, a convicted New York bookie now being sought, got together with Nick English to get information on the Bradley-St. Joseph's game. West was to pay Nick \$1,000 for information on the Bradley score. This separate deal was unknown to Kaye. West placed his bets on St. Joseph's to win with a point handicap of six or seven points. The involved Bradley players were to make the game close. Bradley won 64-60. Thus, with a point spot of six or seven, those who bet on St. Joseph's won their bets. A few hours after the deal was made, the gambling books were flooded with wagers on St. Joseph's. Kaye told Nick English, according to Hogan, that "there must be a double-cross and we will have to switch our bets and teach the other guys a lesson." Hogan said Kaye then instructed the players to win over the spread, and, after they agreed, Nick again relayed this information to West. West and his associates protested they had their bets down and couldn't switch. Hogan and two associates grabbed Tony English and brought him to West's apartment in Brooklyn. "Tony thought he was going to get killed," said Hogan. He telephoned Convention Hall and told his brother his life was threatened. Hogan added: "Nick dashed to the floor, caught (Gene) Melchiorre's eye, turned his thumbs down, meaning that they should go under the spread. Melchiorre nodded, indicating that he understood, and Bradley won under the spread." Kaye, caught in the switch, and betting on Bradley to win over the point margin, was taken to the cleaners. West, however, won, having bet on St. Joseph's to win with the point spot.

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Charlottetown Sailor In Korea Landing Party



Members of a landing party from HMCS Nootka pose with South Korean troops encountered by the Canadians at a small intelligence headquarters near the front lines during a sortie ashore on the east coast of Korea to gather information. The group shows, front row, left to right: ROK soldier; AB, Blake Marshall, Parry, South, Ont.; Lt. Sgt. AB, Paul Melanson, Rockingham, N.S.; AB, Art Wilson, Hamilton, Ont.; and PO, Lloyd Kirkpatrick, Saint John, N.B. Second row: AB, Charles Carmichael, Truro, N.S.; a ROK Navy Lieutenant, serving as HMCS Nootka's interpreter and Lieut. Anthony Slater, Toronto, officer-in-charge of the landing party. Back row: ROK Army officer; PO, Guy Dodsworth, Bedford, N.S.; Lt. Sea, Harvey MacAusland, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; PO, Edward Randall, Halifax; PO, David Martin, Montreal and Dartmouth; ROK soldier; AB, William Stokes, London, Ont.; ROK soldier; AB, Charles Milks, Windsor, Ont.; PO, Cecil Brown, Swift Current, Sask.; Lt. Sea, Norman Austin, Calander, Ont., and Dartmouth, and two ROK soldiers.

C & B Juniors Trounce Holman's Nine 10-4

The Curran & Briggs Juniors humbled the league-leading Holman team at the Recreation Grounds in Summerside last evening by the decisive score of 10 to 4. Donnie Simmons won his sixth game against two losses for the Juniors and is far ahead of all competitors as far as victories are concerned.

Garth Gay, starting for Holman, was patted liberally by the Curran & Briggs and did not manage to get anyone out in the first four innings. Cecil Powell was then pressed into service and though the big fellow, who hadn't done any pitching for two years, got off to a shaky start, making his plight worse by two of his own fielding errors, he kept getting better as the game progressed and ended up by striking out the three batters to face him in the final inning. Owen Sonier, who had gone hitless all season, had a perfect night at the plate, getting three hits in three trips. Paul Schurman had two for four. For the losers Gordie MacKay had two triples in three trips to the plate, thereby going still further ahead in the runaway race he is

not a footrace. The first of the challengers to raise the necessary side bet was James J. Corbett, who posted the amount and issued the formal challenge. When he was informed that Corbett had posted the forfeit and that the match was actually made, John L. shook his shaggy mane and growled: "Corbett? Bah! All I need to lick him is a haircut and a shave." It is not known what tonorial attention Mr. Sullivan received, but his training did not omit copious libations of his favorite whiskey (it is hard to believe that his trainer Muldoon, counted as the best in his time, would permit John L. access to strong liquor).

The Olympic Club of New Orleans met Sullivan's demand for the big purse, and the fight was given to the southern city. The fighters arrived in the city a couple of days before the date of the battle. Sullivan was the centre of attraction. Wherever he went crowds followed him. Corbett, on the other hand, slipped into town with

BOX SCORE

Player	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
Holman's	3	1	2	0	1	1
MacKay, rf	3	1	2	0	1	1
S. Bernard, 2b	4	1	1	1	1	0
St. Chicks, cf	3	0	1	2	0	0
Underwood, lf	2	0	0	0	0	0
Gallant, 3b	3	0	1	2	0	1
Gay, p	2	0	0	2	0	2
H. Landry, ss	2	1	1	1	1	1
Cannon, lb	3	0	0	6	0	1
R. Landry, c	3	0	0	6	1	0
Powell, p	1	0	0	0	2	2

C & B

Player	AB	R	H	PO	A	E
G. Dalton, rf	4	1	1	1	0	1
C. Grady, ss	4	0	0	1	3	0
Delaney, 3b	4	1	1	1	1	0
P. Schurman, 2b	4	0	2	1	3	1
N. Walker, cf	3	2	0	1	1	0
L. Schurman, lb	3	2	0	1	1	0
P. Green, c	3	1	1	8	0	0
O. Sonier, lf	3	3	3	0	0	0
D. Simmons, p	1	2	1	2	0	0
x-J. Whalen, 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0

scarcely a sign of recognition. The odds were five to one on the champion, and backers of Corbett were considered weak-minded.

On the night of the fight eight thousand persons jammed themselves into the Olympic Club. Sullivan was first in the ring and received one of the most tumultuous ovations ever given in the history of the prize ring. In the frenzy of cheers for the old lion of the ring, very few people in the arena noted the comparatively slim young challenger slip into his corner and glance around so cool and self-possessed as if he were about to engage in a mere training bout with only his seconds present. That was Corbett's particular way—nervous and irritable when he was training, but the essence of cool fighting strategy the minute he stepped into a boxing ring.

Sullivan had in his corner Jack McAuliffe, the lightweight champion who had successfully defended his crown the night before; Joe Lannon (native son of P. E. I.); Phil Casey and Charlie Johnson. With Corbett was Billy Delaney, Jim Daly, John Donaldson and Mike Donovan, the skilled veteran who was boxing instructor at the New York Athletic Club. John Duffy was the third man in the ring (referee).

ATTENTION R.C.N.(R) PERSONNEL

H.M.C.S. "Brockville", a Bangor minesweeper is being placed at the disposal of H.M.C.S. "Queen Charlotte" from Aug. 7th to Aug. 17th for the purpose of a

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LOUIS "KID" LAFFERTY vs AUSTIN SQUAREBRIGGS
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May Meet For Sculling Title

PORT DALHOUSIE, Ont., July 24—(CP)—A pair of scullers from Toronto and Hamilton, Ont., are favored to meet for the championship singles at the four-day 6th Royal Canadian Henley opening tomorrow on the old Welland Canal.

Jack Guest Jr., son of a former diamond sculler winner, will probably find tough opposition in Bob Williams of Hamilton Leaders, new United States singles cham-