

Sports

6 The Charlottetown Guardian, Saturday, Mar. 31, 1956

Marciano May Retire; Will Think It Over For 6 Months

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano acknowledged Friday that he is considering retirement from the ring but said he will give himself six months to "think it over."

"It's a tough decision to make," the champion added, "and I won't make it here. There's no time limit. I've got six months or more. When and if I decide, the announcement will come from my manager, Al Weill."

In this way, Marciano sought to allay rumors that there was a rift between him and his longtime manager.

"We'll and I are still on good terms," said Marciano. "A lot of people would like to see us break up, but we are not about to do it."

Marciano said he talked by telephone with Weill shortly after the report was printed in New York that he planned to quit the ring because of family pressures.

Max Kase, sports editor of the New York Journal American, carried the report, quoting an unidentified friend of the champion in Boston. A similar newspaper report came out of Boston a week ago.

WON'T INTERFERE

In New York, Weill, whose failure to accompany Marciano on his present South American exhibition tour stimulated the rift rumors, said he had talked to the fighter by telephone March 20 and that Marciano hadn't mentioned quitting at the time.

"I knew Rocky was thinking about retiring and I'd never stand in his way if that's what he wanted to do," Weill said. "If he never told anybody to box if they don't want to or if they figure their career is finished."

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH



Down south in sunny Tennessee in 1878 the folks had been reading about the great doings of the pacers up north. A young trainer in Columbia, Tenn. had a pacer that was just a horse, he thought, to show the Yankees a set of Tennessee heels. However, when he decided to take Mattie Hunter north he said very little about his plans or prospects to anybody. Ed Geers was not a man to talk his head off. He was as rugged as a man of the stone age, as skillful with hoes as a fencer was skillful with his foil, but as unassuming as a child. Geers was also noted for his impressive silences and "doggone" — Geers would allow himself this much profanity — was his favorite word.

Geers and Mattie Hunter made their first appearance at Jackson, Michigan, on June 13, 1897, and he met the best pacers then campaigning. Mattie went to a good race but was beaten. In that race Sleepy Tom paced the fastest six heats until then raced in harness. At Chicago in July in the fifth heat Mattie Hunter forced Sleepy Tom to a world's pacing record of 2:12 1/4. He was 13 years old and blind at that, but was the fastest harness horse — trotter or pacer — in the world. As for Mattie Hunter, she had finished so close to Sleepy Tom that watches could not record the difference in time.

Geers continued to race with ever increasing success until in 1899 he came north with Brown Hal and Hal Pointer. Brown Hal after defeating Roy Wilkes, one of the best pacers racing, went lame and was retired to the breeding ranks. Hal Pointer was a large bay gelding with a white ankle in front, one white ankle behind and a small star. He was the model of the Tennessee horse at his best. He took part in many races against the best horses of the season of 1899 and took a record of 2:15 1/4 in a six-heat contest and was described as a stayer and phenomenal race horse of his time.

looks like a bike, I'll try it." The new sulky was just the sort of racing machine that Geers, as he pedaled along on his bike, had been thinking about. It had ballbearing tires to reduce axle friction. Unlike the high steel wheeled sulkies it had tires blown up with air that made the riding easy and would not skid on the turns when the driver was going a fast mile. He hooked one of his horses to it and discovered that he could go a mile four seconds faster.

That afternoon he hooked Honest George to it and drove a race with it. After the race he said, "When I appeared on the track you could hear the spectators laughing for a block." The sulky with all new wheels was ridiculed as all new styles are, but Honest George won his race with it and lowered his record. That same afternoon Bud Doble with his horse Jack and the bike sulky, won the free for all race in the fastest four heats ever trotted and on August 17 Bud Doble drove Nancy Hanks to a world's record of 2:07 hitched to the same bike.

Geers was getting more and more talked about because of the splendid condition his horses were in and the way they raced. He was a very cool driver but quite quick witted and his horses were superbly trained and conditioned and driven as faultlessly as only he could drive them.

Geers was one of the first men who realized the advantage of trailing and it was he who first developed a technique of race driving based on the practice of trailing.

His great chance came in 1899 when he accepted a position as trainer and driver for C.J. Hamlin's Village Farm with a salary of \$10,000. At that farm when he was head trainer other great drivers were developed such as Billy Andrews, Ben White, still going strong — and Alonzo MacDonald. Mr. Hamlin one of the most intelligent breeders of his era and one of his best buys was the stallion Chimes by Electioneer, that was bred by Senator Leland Stanford of California. Chimes was the sire of The Abbe 2:04, that sired Abbedale p. 2:01 1/4, sire of the superior Hal Dale 2:02, also Chief Abbedale 2:00. Hal Dale is the sire of Adios 1:57 1/2, recently sold to Hanover Shoe Farms for \$500,000, and the sire of Good Time 1:56 4/5.

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NO ALIBIS, SAYS BLAKE

Wings Dump Toronto 3-1; Habs All Set For Finals

Able Alex Shoots Two Big Goals

DETROIT — Centre Alex Delvecchio fired a pair of first period goals Thursday night to lead Detroit to a 3-1 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs and move the Red Wings into the Stanley Cup finals.

Once again Toronto drew first blood when Dick Duff scored at 5:34 of the opening period, but before the period was finished, Delvecchio had clinched the game. The second period was scoreless and no more pucks hit the nets until the final seconds of the third period when Ted Lindsay scored on an open net after Leafs had removed goaltender Harry Lumley.

First Period: 1. Toronto, Duff, (Hurst) 5:34; 2. Detroit, Delvecchio (Howe, Kelly) 8:38; 3. Detroit, Delvecchio (Kelly, Pronovost) 14:49.

Penalties: Hurst, Dineen, Horton, James, Goldham, Howe, Horton, Stewart, Lindsay, Pronovost.

Second Period: Scoring, none.

Penalty: Duff, James.

Third Period: 4. Detroit, Lindsay (Howe, Pronovost) 19:35.

Penalties: None.

Stops: Lumley 10 13 8 — 31; Hall 7 7 5 — 19.



THE CRITICAL MOMENT!

Nicely hooked and played, its still a two-handed job requiring skill and co-ordination to land him "in the basket".

April 15, opening date for trout fishing, leaves little enough time to check gear and make replacements which if not attended to may cause real grief and disappointment. Remember the beauty that broke away from a faulty fly which any game fish or to fish for any did not winter well. Discard old lines, casts and flies and overhaul rods and reels. Do it now, and to keep in the clear, buy your Fishing License today.

The Angling Regulations issued by the Department of Industry and Natural Resources read "Specified or Brook Trout: April 15th. to Sept. 15th. (National) Bag limit—Twenty per day. It is unlawful to jig for trout. Remember the beauty that broke away from a faulty fly which any game fish or to fish for any did not winter well. Discard old lines, casts and flies and overhaul rods and reels. Do it now, and to keep in the clear, buy your Fishing License today.

PRINCE CO. SPORT ECHOES

Bruins - Beavers Turned In A Bristling Contest

We didn't see any hockey fans in a period or so," he growled. He really seemed a bit worried, but maybe he is a good actor. We asked the same question to Cal Gardner who was penalized in the second period. The score was then 2-1 for Beavers. "They're a good club," Cal said much more genially than Stasiuk had. He seemed to feel that the Bruins had the Beavers cut down to size, and it was only a matter of time.

Jerry Toppazini didn't think the Beavers would be good enough for the Ontario champs. He was very high on the hockey they play around Sudbury. A very likable Beaver team. The score was then 2-0 against the Bruins. "We'll see (skip), Marie MacNeill, Allister Bell (skip), Noral MacDonald, Dick Matheson, Millie Blakney.

Ice 3. — Doug Saunders (skip) Rosemary Hill, Art Roper, Louise Bell vs. Doug Hill (skip) Barbara Roper, John Simmonds, Paul Saunders.

Ice 4. — Ld. Wood (skip), Marg Jones, Ralph Jones, Barbara Cameron vs. Doug Cameron (skip), Ann Wood Temple Hooper, Velma Hooper.

Best-of-7 Series Opens At Montreal

MONTREAL (CP) — With the flat declaration "no alibis if we lose," coach Toe Blake sent his Montreal Canadiens through a light drill Friday in preparation for their meeting with Detroit Red Wings in the Stanley Cup final.

The best-of-seven series opens here tonight, with the second game scheduled for Tuesday before the teams move to Detroit for two games the following Thursday and Sunday. The Red Wings are due in Montreal this morning.

"We are going into this series—at least at the start—without any injuries and with the club intact," said Blake. "We will have no excuses if the Red Wings beat us."

Last year when the same teams met and the Wings won in seven games, Canadiens were without Maurice (Rocket) Richard. The shooting Rocket was under suspension. An assortment of injuries struck several others before the gruelling series ended.

TOUGH IN PLAYOFFS

The Red Wings wound up their semi-final with Toronto Maple Leafs Thursday night. They took the series four games to one, the same margin by which Canadiens finished off New York Rangers Thursday.

Reports in betting circles Friday night had Canadiens favored 2 1/2 to 1 to win the series.

Blake said he had had no particular preference as to which team his club would meet in the final "because they are all tough in the playoffs."

"If the Red Wings were to win out then I'm glad they did it last night," said Blake. "Now we don't have too long a layoff between games. We are well rested now and ready."

"I have no plans for any line changes or any other switches," said Blake. "This is the team that beat New York and it's the team that will go against Detroit, with the same line. We will start this series standing pat—and I hope there are no injuries."

THREATS IGNORED

Approval of the recent letter threatening Gordie Howe and Ted Lindsay of the Red Wings with being shot in Toronto, goalie Jacques Plante said a letter was received several weeks before the current National Hockey League season threatening "all kinds of crazy things" that would befall him and Rocket Richard in Detroit.

The letter arrived just before Canadiens and the Wings met in three successive games. Canadiens tied and won in Detroit and won again in Montreal. Nothing happened to Plante or Richard.

The Rocket said he received all kinds of threatening letters at the time of his suspension near the end of last season. He was asked if he reported them—or what he did with them.

"Oh, I just tore them up and threw them away," said the Rocket. "I didn't pay any attention to the threats. Letters like that are from people who have nothing wrong with their minds."

and his partner Gord Kelly, did a very fine job of refereeing their game. They were right on their toes on the off-sides, and we heard no complaints.

It was certainly a banner evening. It gave us all a real lift after a rather disappointing season. Congratulations, Lion's Club. You carved for yourselves a very large niche in the Summer-side service clubs hall of fame. It's going to take a lot of doing to top that one!

Sgt. Joe Hunter and his assistants are to be congratulated on the fine reception they arranged for the hockey players, the members of the Lion's Club and their wives, and us sports scribes. It was an enjoyable affair. While on the subject of Hunter we think Joe

Minor Hockey For Saturday

This morning at the Sports Arena City Minor Leaguers start their playoff finals and then at 10 o'clock Paperweights, Pee Wee and Bantam teams from Montague play return games with Prince Street, Unit No. 1 and Colts teams from City Leagues who won a quick elimination round for the right to meet Montague. A very nominal fee will be charged to see these games.

In the early evening, Juvenile and Junior Abbies will hold practices. The Junior game scheduled for P. W. C. and Abbies is postponed due to a lot of the P. W. C. boys being on holiday out of the City. Then at 7:00 p.m. S'side Paperweights will play Abbie Paperweights at 7:30 Cape Traverse Pee Wees play Abbie Pee Wees, at 8:10 Cape Traverse Bantams play Abbie Bantams and at 8:50 S'side Midgets take on Abbie Midgets. All second games for home-and-home games for Island titles.

Following the games there will be skating for all.

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—

Actress Ruth Roman won a divorce Thursday on testimony that her husband called her stupid.

ENTER FINALS

Trotters Defeat P.W.C. 66-53

With smoothy Mark Ladner and lanky Wendall (Gump) Gillis scoring 49 points between them the Trotters won their way into the City League Basketball finals at P.W.C. on Thursday night by defeating the P.W.C. Welshmen 66-53. Ladner was high man of the night netting 26 points while Gillis registered 23.

Merrill Johnston, Larry Flack and Jim White paced the Welshmen's losing cause. Johnston scored 14 points; Flack 13 and White 12.

The Trotters started fast and opened up a big 18-8 lead in the first quarter and were on top 33-17 by the time the half rolled around. The Welshmen reversed rolls in the third quarter to pull within 3 points of the Trotters as they dumped in 30 points while holding the Trotters to 17.

The Trotters maintained their slim margin for most of the final quarter and Ladner put them out of reach when the Welshmen were pressing hard in the last two minutes by intercepting four P. W. C. passes and turned them into Trotter baskets.

The Trotters will now meet the Aces in the best-of-five final round. The Aces won their semi-final series with the Atoms by default when the Atoms failed to floor a team for the first game.

P. W. C.	FG	FS	PF	Pts
M. Johnston	7	0	1	4
A. MacKenzie	4	0	3	8
L. Flack	6	1	0	13
A. MacLaren	2	0	1	4
A. Flack	1	0	1	2
J. White	6	0	2	12
Totals	26	1	8	53

HENDERSON & CUDMORE OPEN TONIGHT



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BICYCLE WHEELS

In 1892 a consignment of bicycle wheels was received by Bud Doble at the Detroit race track. Geers had the high wheels removed from a sulky and attached the bike wheels to it. Other drivers looked at the thing askance, they didn't want to have anything to do with it, but Geers, who was used to riding a bicycle said, "This outfit



MARITIME MIXED CURLING PRIZES

The four day bonspiel, open to all Maritime rinks, is already assured of representation of 10 mainland rinks, and 15 Island teams, in addition to local curlers.

Trophies and prizes will be awarded each day, and at the conclusion of play on Friday the Curling Bowl, representing the Maritime Mixed Curling Grand Championship, together with \$500 worth of prizes, will be presented to the grand aggregate winning team, which will be the first Maritime Mixed Curling Champions.

Prizes amounting to a value of \$1,500 will be distributed to other winners, and these prizes include silver and copperware, wollen blankets, leather luggage, electrical appliances including blankets, kettles, friers, shavers, clocks, etc. Trophies will also be presented daily to winning teams.

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Provincial Hockey Playoffs

SPORTS ARENA TONIGHT

7:00—S'side Paperweights vs. Abbies
7:35—Cape Traverse Pee Wees vs. Abbies
8:10—Cape Traverse Bantams vs. Abbies
8:50—S'side Midgets vs. Abbies.
9:45—Skating for all.

Admission 25c and 50c

Charlottetown Curling Club

DANCE AT THE CHARLOTTETOWN CURLING CLUB

MONDAY, APRIL 2