

BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

NO RACE HAS MONOPOLIZED LIGHTWEIGHT HONORS

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MEMBERS OF ALL RACES HAVE LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE

Benny Leonard is First Hebrew and First New Yorker to Lead Class—There Have Been Champions of Irish, French, Swiss, Danish, German, English and Negro Extraction—Days of Irish or Irish-American Superiority Long Since Passed.

Benny Leonard, lightweight champion of the world by virtue of having knocked out Freddy Welsh, is the first Hebrew to hold that title. There have been other champions of the Hebrew blood since the time of Mendoza, Abe Attell, featherweight champion, was a corking fighter and one of the best boxers in the world at any weight. There have been great Hebrew fighters in all classes, but no lightweight champions before Benny.

Which suggests that no race or nationality has been overwhelmingly in the lead among the lightweights. The days when everyone thought the Irish were vastly superior to all others passed long ago. Jack McAuliffe was Irish, or Irish-American, when he held the lightweight title. But after McAuliffe's retirement the next to work up to the top of the class was a

Kid named Lavigne, and known the world over as "Kid" Lavigne. He began fighting among the lumber camps in Michigan. He fought Baginaw, his home town, and then began to work his way down into Chicago and a few other Middle Western cities before going toward the east. In New York he startled the fight fans of that day and was soon regarded as the best lightweight in America. Lavigne went to England and fought Dick Burge. This Burge had been English lightweight champion, but had grown out of the class. Lavigne and Burge were billed for the National Sporting Club as contenders for the world's lightweight title.

Burge was actually a middleweight when he entered the ring, and he received to weigh in. Lavigne was within 3 pounds. Lavigne knocked Burge out after a desperate fight, establishing a clear claim to the lightweight crown. Lavigne was an American of such parentage. After Lavigne came Frank Erne, who won the lightweight title from the Saginaw Kid on June 12 in a twenty-five-round battle. Erne was of Swiss parentage and brought up in America. He was wonderfully clever boxer and a first-class fighter, too.

Erne lost the title to Joe Gans, of what tribe Gans descended from is not known. He had the features of a Arab, but he was of clean-strain negro blood. Like a thoroughbred race horse, Gans showed breeding. He was an American negro, and perhaps an ancestor was African chief. He lost the title to Joe Gans, who was a wonderfully clever boxer and a first-class fighter, too.

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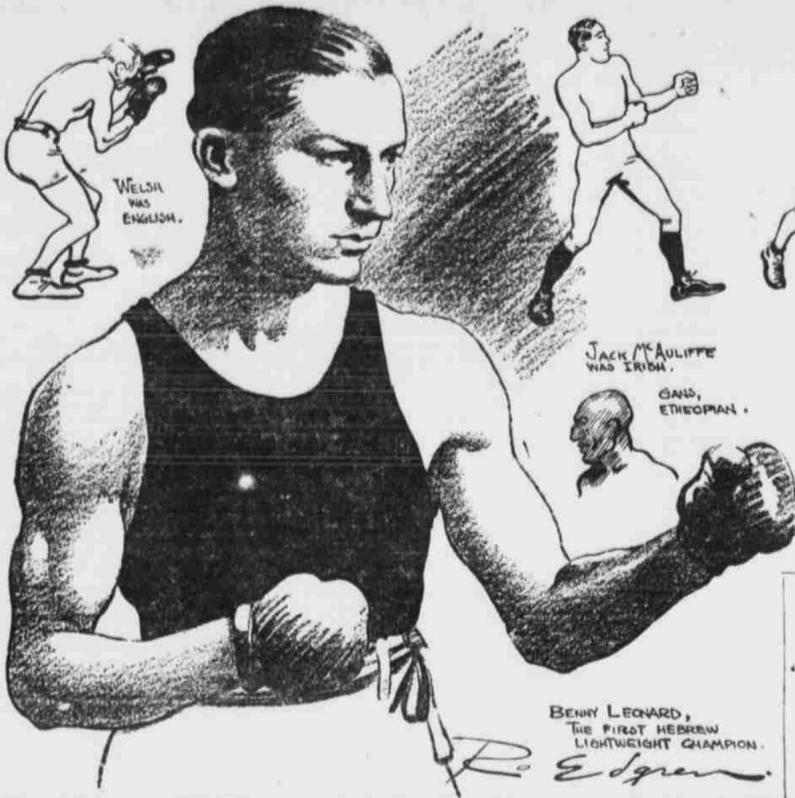
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BENNY LEONARD, THE FIRST HEBREW LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION.

BIG LEAGUE GOSSIP

By Christy Mathewson, Former Star of Giants and Manager of Cincinnati Reds.

Slowing Up in Baseball Discussed by Matty—Greatest Stars of Big Leagues Have Best Years From Twenty-five to Twenty-seven—Players Never Admit They Are Slowing Up, but Managers Usually Notice It.

UNCLE SAM has called on his young men to put down their names. Now he will send out his scouts to the bushes and tag those the examiners think fit and able to take their places in the big game. The age—twenty-one through thirty—has caused much discussion, some folks claiming that older men should be taken in to make up for the original recommendation nineteen to twenty-seven. The records of athletes should have some bearing on this age question, for fighting is a certain form—more aggravated—of athletics.

You will find most of the great stars of the Big Leagues have had their best years from twenty-five to their twenty-seventh. Ty Cobb celebrated his forty-third birthday on June 18, just a shade older than Ty at his height—and younger in years. My best pitching was done when I was twenty-six. The records run very consistently along this line.

Somehow, after a man passes twenty-seven, he seems to slow up—perhaps not perceptibly, perhaps not enough for him to realize it himself, but his record over the run of the season begins to show he has turned. If it is a batter, he will find he is not hitting out so many hits or scoring so many runs. He won't admit it.

I can't get my start the way I used to, he says as an alibi. "The catches are certainly facing them down there in this league now." He hasn't fallen down; the backstops have improved.

The infielder is getting only his finger tips on chances he used to take and get. He doesn't know this himself, and when he does begin to realize it, he uses many tricks to cover up. He believes no one else perceives his speed is lacking. But he is usually the second one to find it out. The manager, if smart, is the first.



FRANK ERNE WAS OF SWISS DESCENT. KID LAVIGNE'S PARENTS WERE FRENCH. JACK MAULIFFE WAS IRISH. GANS, ETHIOPIAN. WOLGAST WAS OF GERMAN DESCENT. NELSON WAS A DANIE. RITCHIE, AMERICAN OF GERMAN PARENTAGE.

WALKING STYLES

"Yesterday at the Polo Grounds the Walking Drummers Displayed Their Samples"—"The Giants-Reds Contest Was Different from the Yanks' Spasm; the Game Was a Chinning Regatta."

By Arthur ("Bugs") Baer.

WALKING experts who claim that George Bonbag walked illegally when he broke the mile record may be correct. That is, just as correct as a walking expert can be. From a skullpoint all walking is illegal. The hoofing sharp asserts that Bonbag walks heel and toe, when he should amble toe and heel. There are as many different styles in ankle excursions as there are Smiths in the telephone book.

Graney was the first toe tourist off the mark. He walks with a sort of violin case action. Pedestrian High was the next to fill his sails and scud away. Having waited for four balls, he walked like a waiter. All that was missing was a bowl of soup to attack his index thumb in. Hooper Papp got the next zone permit and his boots looked like a boat race as he piked 'em up and set 'em down carefully. Baker was the next anker to beat the barrier, and he rattled down the base lines with all the velocity of an anchored houseboat.

Frank's footwork entitles him to qualify as an expert chess player. Frank takes his Dalsimers off the ground as recklessly as a turtle. He uses the walking beam method of walking, the popular means of propulsion now so stylish among grizzlies and ferryboats. Then Walker Magee got the office and pinroquet along with a fancy drop stitch toe action. Hughie High, the walking delegate, peddled up again and flatwalked down to first. That was too heats for the delegate in one inning. Malsel started from scratch and walked so fast that he got to first base without being put out.

Malsel shakes a mean Regal, but the other contestants had too wholesale a start on him. Frank Baker finished almost a foot length in front of him, which is some distance measured by Frank's dogs. All this walking was published in one inning. There were seven entries, two of which were Hughie High. The walking experts present lauded some of the most intricate ground and lofty hoofing ever eyed in this neck of the woods. There were several more heats run off during the matinee, bringing the total list of entries up to fourteen. Among the other walkers were Chapman, Speaker, Hendryx and Howard. Chapman is a very conservative walker of the old school, walking very close to the carpet and embossing the turf with his Spaldings at each clip. Speaker is a robust hiker, being hal-lasted to the terrace by a big league set of kicks. Hendryx and Howard are more inclined to be radical peddlars of the Sam Langford type, finding their elbows very useful in accelerating their speed.

Boiling it down to capsule form, the baseball game was one of the finest walking tournaments ever run off at the Polo Works. It was an ankle clinic from soup to finish. The rest of the game was as dull as a boarding house knife. The Yanks got seven runs in the first inning, but didn't score after that. They had walked themselves out.

The Giant-Reds contest was different from the Yanks spasm. This game was a chinning regatta. The players coagulated around the umpire like mice around cheese. Which is an unfortunate comparison. McGraw, Thump rhymes with ump. So does hump. John carried his folded lunch hooks off Byron's jaw and knocked him loose from his hat. Byron didn't ask for an encore. Giants lost the game and skidded out of first place.

John J. McGraw, manager of the New York Giants, was indefinitely suspended to-day by Gov. John K. Tener, President of the National League, for his fight at Cincinnati with Umpire Byron yesterday.

President Tener of National League Acts Quickly After Cincinnati Fight.

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MADE TO ORDER DAY FOR THE SUBURBAN AT BELMONT PARK

Track Fast Instead of Heavy Going Expected—The Finn Is Favored.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Odds. Includes entries like The Finn, 5-10; Pickens, 1-10; Stomholt, 6-10; etc.

By Vincent Treanor. Everything was in tiptop shape down at Belmont Park to-day for the thirty-first renewal of classic Suburban Handicap. Instead of rain and a heavy track, which had been expected, the weather man provided a perfect day. The track, which had been a bit slow, was as fast as the proverbial lightning this morning after it had been harrowed.

Nine thoroughbreds were named overnight to face the barrier in the historic stakes. This is not the biggest field that has ever striven for the event, but what it lacks in size it makes up in class. There is a possibility too of added starters, possibly August Belmont's good three-year-old Hourless.

In races of such importance as the Suburban small fields are preferred by horsemen for the reason that they reduce the chances of bad racing luck, which is always associated with an overcrowded event. Often under these conditions the best horse is beaten for lack of racing room.

The Finn was the early favorite for the race. He is as good as can be from a condition standpoint. He won his last start very creditably and has since worked in a manner highly pleasing to his trainer, Ed Heffer. This veteran and past master in the work of conditioning horses summed up The Finn's chances like this:

"I am a hard man to please when it comes to getting a horse ready for a big race, and I say now that The Finn's condition just as he goes to post is all that could be desired."

The other eight starters are not out of the race by any means. Handicapper Voshburg has made a good job of assigning the weights and to-day's finish will doubtless furnish proof of that.

The Finn will have spirited contention from Stomholt, Borrow, who is in lighter than ever, and the other four. The Finn's condition just as he goes to post is all that could be desired."

John E. Madden had a two-year-old show in the paddock yesterday, and what a show it was. He is an Orden colt out of a Yankee mare. He is a rich chestnut in color and very much of a reminder of the good colt Mr. Madden, which Madden some years ago sent to England. Speaking of two-year-olds, Madden gave us his opinion that the real stars of the future will be the ones that have been under colors yet. "They all have their eyes on the future," said John. "I won a few Futurities in my time and I might like to win it again this year."

Madden says it's a real good trainer who can be sure his horse will win his first start. To be thoroughly convinced of this a horse would have to show many fast trials before the event, and some of them, very often in fact, the fast trials are restricted at the expense of a horse's nervous system. After listening to this from the turf wizard, who could have played himself yesterday?

SPORTING RACING AT BEAUTIFUL BELMONT PARK MONDAY

THE SWISH HANDICAP BELDAME HANDICAP 2 MILE STEEPCHASE and THREE OTHER Good Races BEGINNING AT 2:30 P. M.

Special Race for Ladies, Grand Stand & Paddock \$5. Ladies 10c.

Dyckman Oval, To-Night, Quaker, etc.

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

Table with 4 columns: League, Team, Wins, Losses, etc. Includes National League and American League.

RESULTS OF GAMES YESTERDAY. Cincinnati, 7; New York, 1. Pittsburgh, 5; Brooklyn, 4. Philadelphia, 1; Chicago, 0. St. Louis, 9; Boston, 1.

GAMES TO-DAY. New York at Chicago. Brooklyn at Cincinnati. Boston at Pittsburgh. Philadelphia at St. Louis.