

OLD TIME STAR OF OLD TIME FIGHTERS BEATING CHAMPIONS TO-DAY

Young Griffo for Instance, Cleverest Natural Boxer Ever Seen, Would Give Kilbane, Leonard and Britton Real Fights; and Old Bob Fitzsimmons, What Would He Do to Present Crop of Fighters If On Earth To-Day?

By Robert Edgren.

SOME of the old-time champions would be making a pile of money if they were on earth now. When Fred Fulton pulled down \$10,000 for beating a visiting Frenchman, it's no wonder the ring heroes of a few decades ago roll over in their pugilistic graves.

Australia sent over a little fellow known as Young Griffo about twenty-five years ago. If Young Griffo were arriving to-day he'd be out with challenges to Johnny Kilbane, Benny Leonard and Jack Britton and had two bunches of the three champions a fight. Griffo is forgotten, but once he was the cleverest natural boxer ever seen in a ring. Griffo once made a bet with Kid Lavigne that he would stand on a handkerchief and let Lavigne hit at him for three minutes. If Lavigne landed once Griffo was to lose. And he got away with it. Griffo seldom used "footwork" to avoid punches. He had a system of bobbing and ducking and blocking that made it unnecessary for him to move around. His hand and eye were remarkably quick. Once when Griffo was in jail "under observation" because his pranks made the authorities think he was crazy he cleaned up a bunch of pocket money. There were many visitors to see the famous Australian. Griffo would talk to a visitor a moment, then say: "See that fly over on the wall? I'll bet you \$5 I can catch it in my hand. The visitor would take the bet out of curiosity. Griffo would move slowly toward the fly, shoot his hand out suddenly and catch it between thumb and finger. They say he never missed or failed to collect the five spot.

Griffo was no financial genius, though. One of the purses he fought for was \$1,000—which was good money in his time. This night Griffo's manager divided Griffo's share of the box office money into two piles, one of about \$100 in \$1 bills, the other a much smaller pile made up of larger bills and amounting to \$1,100. "Here's your share and mine," said the manager to Griffo. "Take your choice." Griffo seized the bulky roll of \$1 bills and ran out. At the next bar he chuckingly told his friends how he had "put it over" on his manager. The roll of small bills lasted only a few hours.

A wealthy admirer of Griffo's boxing thought he'd like to take lessons from the Australian. He went to see Griffo. "Mr. Griffo," he said, "I'll give you \$100 to show me how you can knock a man out without being hit yourself." "Money in advance," stipulated Griffo. The hundred was paid over. Griffo took the visitor to a main guard room, put on a pair of gloves, posed his victim, stepped around to one side pretending to correct the way he held his hands and swiftly hit him with a short hook under the ear.

Going out Griffo called an attendant. "When the blighter comes to," he said, "I'll let you know." Griffo's next famous fight in Australia was with Dan Creedon, the Australian middleweight champion who was very nearly in Bob Fitzsimmons' class. Griffo was more than a featherweight, but he impudently challenged Creedon and naggingly kept after him. Creedon was to knock Griffo out in three rounds and he did. Early in the fight Griffo outpointed Creedon and jeered at him until Creedon rushed and hit him a crack on the side of the head for life. Dazed, Griffo was forced to use all his skill to stall through, but Creedon couldn't stop him.

Writing of Griffo as a financier recalls that ancient story about one Jack Downey, who once fought Frank Erne for the lightweight title. Downey was wired an offer of twelve hundred dollars to fight Erne. About a hundred dollars to the promoter; "Make it a thousand dollars or nothing doing." The promoter accepted Downey's terms.

Tim Hurst used to tell a similar story about Peter Maher. Tim said Peter "refused" twelve hundred to box an exhibition with Fitzsimmons, and "demanded" a thousand dollars. I asked Peter about that once. "No truth in it," said Peter. "I don't mind tellin' you that I was broke at the time, and Maher had a thousand dollars, and he was lookin' pretty near as big as a thousand at that."

Peter Maher had a "kick" like Jack Dempsey's, and if the Irish champion were in the game to-day he'd be considered the best man in sight to give Jack a fight. I've often seen Peter turn a man a complete somersault in the air with the first punch he delivered. He was likely to get any one with that punch. He even put the great Fitzsimmons down and nearly out in the first round of their Texas fight.

I think the funniest fight I ever saw in a ring was the six round "battle" between Peter Maher and Tom Sharkey in Philadelphia. Both were good then—the hardest sluggers in the country. But the authorities decided there must be no knockout, and notified the fight to be a "safe" one, and then threw the chairs into the ring and went home.

They used to lose things in Philadelphia. One night when Tommy Ryan and Jack Root pulled off a "phony" looking one Referee Jack McGuigan jumped out of the ring instead of seeing over Ryan, who had slipped on his knees to kill time for a few seconds. The instant McGuigan was out of range the crowd began to throw pop bottles at the boxer. One pop bottle went over my head by an inch or two, hit the edge of the ring and was glanced straight for Tommy

BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

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LIVE WIRES

By Neal R. O'Hara.

Looks like the American League will fail to carry Ohio this fall.

The way the Braves figure a doubleheader is that they've got everything to gain and only two to lose.

The dolls may vote, but their most important duty is still marking X's on their love letters.

Income tax on \$5,000 takes the pop out of fighting for the pennant.

Red Sox, Braves and Ponsz give Boston the world's best set of bloomers.

Expert states the mosquitoes that bite are all females. That explains their fondness for silk stockings.

Slaher and Hornby lead their leagues in batting, suggesting that a man isn't always known by the company he keeps.

Babe Ruth should make good in the movies. A batter is always required for the pis.

Phillies are creeping up on the Braves on all two cylinders.

San Johnson is impartial as to the A. L. pennant winner. San gets 10 per cent of the series kale no matter who wins.

Fistic News

John Pollock and Gossip

Gene Tunney, the popular local light heavyweight, who has practically recovered from his attack of ptomaine poison which compelled his manager, Frank Bagley, to cancel his bout with Martin Burke, the New Orleans fighter, at the Army A. A. of Jersey City two weeks ago, is matched to fight Burke again. John Jennings, matchmaker of the Army A. A., today clinched the match after Bagley had accepted the terms offered him for Tunney. The men will come together in a twelve-round bout on Monday evening, Sept. 20. Tunney has started training for the content at the Adirondack Mountains.

STANDING OF THE CLUBS

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SPECULATE OVER DEMPSEY-MISKE BOUT REFEREE

Bill Brown and Kid McPartland Among Those Being Considered for the Place.

BENTON HARBOR, Mich., Sept. 4.—The question of naming a referee for the Jack Dempsey-Billy Miske ten round championship bout here on Monday afternoon is causing more trouble than naming a candidate to run for President on a Republican or a Democratic ticket.

One day at Aqueduct on July 8, she was to go to the front. Jockey Sande pulled her up and she finished last. Ever since that day Milkmaid has been under suspicion, and it has been a gamble that she will or will not bleed. Once a bleeder, nearly always a bleeder, has been a race track idea for years, but Milkmaid hasn't bled since and she has been out four times, winning three races and finishing second in the other start.

Yesterday she came out with top weight, 122 pounds, in the Great Neck Handicap against Fair Gain, Donnacona and Debdou. She trailed off the pace until round the stretch turn, where she came to the extreme outside, but in the final sixteenth she was in front of Fair Gain and going away.

Not only had Milkmaid run a useful race but in covering the loom and a sixteenth and racing wide nearly all the way she hung up a mark of 2:43.4 for the distance, breaking a track record made by the five-year-old Valor last year. The fractional time of Milkmaid's race: 1:23-5, 24, 35-5, 47, 59-1-5, 1:11-5-5, 1:23-2-5 and 1:37.

Billy Hogan, one of the best known trainers on the American turf, who developed and trained such good ones as Bonnie Mary, Puthoyne and Lion O'R, will shortly return from Ireland. Bill went abroad to buy anything in the horse line from brood mares to yearlings, and he is expected to bring back a fine lot of colts in the famous Dublin Fair August sale ring. Bill writes us on a picturesque card showing the Cuiragh of Kilbane, the scene of the last fight between Donnelly and Cooper fight, which still lives in prize ring history. He says he is having a good time and will have some good news when he sees me. The Bill sailed for home on Aug 28 on the Imperator and will be in any time now.

Commenting to-day the first race will be called at 2:15 o'clock and the following schedule will be adhered to as closely as possible: First race 2:15, second race 2:40, third race 3:10, fourth race 3:40, fifth race 4:05 and sixth race 4:30. By this arrangement racegoers should be enabled to reach the track by the first train from New York and Brooklyn, and the schedule will be operative for the balance of the Belmont Park meeting. For Saturday, Sept. 4, Monday, Sept. 6, Saturday, Sept. 11, the first train 12:15 and then 12:30, 12:45, 1:00, 1:15, 1:25, 1:39 and the last train 1:40. On days other than those mentioned above the first train at 12:15 and the last train at 1:40.

Tom Welsh sent a fair sort of sprinter to the post in Young Ching, winner of the second race. He showed a smart performance and responded quickly when McAtee was forced to go to the whip to keep him up with La Ruble and Handwick the contenders. The former awarded right at the end, luckily for Tom Welsh's trick, but it is our opinion that Young Ching would have won.

Sammy Noble Scored Knockout. Sammy Noble, New York, proved to the boxing fans at the West Hoboken A. C. last night that he is to be considered as a possible opponent for the title of champion of the world. He won the first round of the second round of a scheduled ten round bout. The weights were, Noble 114 and Miller 112 pounds.

Britain Easily Outpoints Tillman. CLEVELAND, Sept. 4.—Jack Britton, welterweight champion of St. Paul, but pointed Johnny Tillman of St. Paul, in a ten-round boxing contest here last night.

Belmont Selections. First Race—McClelland entry, Atala, Banksia. Second Race—No selections. Third Race—Grey Lace, Oriole Star Votter. Fourth Race—Man O'War, Sea Mint. Fifth Race—Paddy Dear, Shillielagh II, Brin. Sixth Race—Krewer, Lord Brighton, Busy Signal.

Commander Ross's Mare Is One of the Most Consistent Racers in Training. By Vincent Treanor. MILKMAID is a remarkable mare, and with the exception of Cleopatra about the best in training. Bought for a song, as the prices of horses go these days, from John E. Madden by Commander Ross, she has been one of the turf's most consistent winners. Nothing to look at, she is unusually hardy, and to-day, according to Trainer Bedwell, is better than she ever was in her life. She can pace any old way, in front or behind, but the judges' stand usually sees her "there" or thereabouts. Distances mean nothing to her. One day she will beat a band of sprinters and in her next start go a route just as handsly.

That was a fine field which went to the post in the fifth race. Some said the event was for horses which never had seen an express car. By Cobb, beg pardon, it was Ticaese, won it, but he had to be one hundred pounds the best after swinging as he did in making the gutless race in making the stretch turn. An idea of how good his opponents are may be gathered from the idea that Hogan had to be pulled up on three legs and Alars dismounted and led back to the scales. It was a real Derby, the like of which Belmont's patrons never had to stand for.

That II, a 4 to 5 shot? Can you beat it? And Favor ridden by what many called jerryroll, Lioia won the race, but it is backing from his stable connections. "Sandy" McNaughton must be getting wealthy these days. He is down on the list of winners of the Belmont Handicap. Yesterday Kummer started "Sandy" off with the 10 to 1 shot. \$100, which romped home in front of what had been post actor and favorite Rus.

TILDEN-JOHNSTON MATCH FOR TITLE

ALMOST SURE NOW

This Pair Likely to Defeat Wallace Johnson and G. C. Caner, Respectively, in Semi-Finals To-Day.

By William Abbott.

THE lineup for the semi-finals this afternoon makes it reasonably certain that Tilden and Johnston will meet again for the national tennis title. This was the prospect at the beginning of the week's tournament at Forest Hills and it is about to be realized. In the semi-finals the whitewashed Tilden encounters a fellow Philadelphian, Wallace Johnson, master of the puxaling chop stroke. To say that Tilden is in serious danger of being eliminated by Johnson—well, don't say it to any real tennis fan. Johnson, veteran of international battles, resourceful and baffling with his peculiar chopping stroke, is formidable enough to give any one a busy afternoon, but he is no Tilden.

Bill Johnston, the playing through title holder, tackled G. C. Coker of Boston, who has been the week's surprise at Forest Hills. The former Harvard star should give the little Californian a nice workout, hardly anything more. The combination in the semi-finals shows that the East has considerable talent. Wallace Johnson was the only Californian to come through Davis, Griffin and Roberts all dropping by the wayside.

Fifth round matches were all decided on form with the possible exception of the Griffin-Johnson bout, where sentiment was nearly divided. Johnson, outclassing the stocky Californian, won three sets of the first set, a keen judge of court tactics, was up against something brand new as Johnson's chop returns came back at him with all sorts of elusive variations.

The Philadelphia captured the first two sets. Occasionally he missed in some "soft" shots with his chopping and Griffin nearly broke back as he made frantic attempts to get up to the net for these tosses. Johnson became somewhat careless in the next set. His opponent took advantage of this by holding the net and snatching many earned points. The former international, however, came back quickly and ran out the deciding set 6-4.

Bill Johnston against Watson Washburn continued the convincing brand of tennis he flashed the day before in the Williams match. Although winning in straight sets, the defending champion didn't find easy opposition in Washburn, who did yeoman work blocking many of Johnson's strongest drives. The Californian, though, was too feet of foot and too accurate with his placing for the New York star and the issue was never in doubt.

Tilden played Walter Westbrook, a Detroit youngster, who did marvelously well against tremendous odds. This match was replete with brilliant rallies, although Westbrook's defense was not so brilliant as his adversary to score initial points in numerous games. Whenever he cared to, Tilden dominated the court with his aggressiveness and speed in coming to the net. He refused to relate. Westbrook made "sets" of some shots that looked impossible to reach. Once the Western star got the ball scorching back, Westbrook's heady beating of the ball. "Cane" had an easy time advancing to the semi-finals with a victory over Irving C. Wright of Boston "in straight sets. The former Harvard star was too speedy and hit with too much power for his veteran opponent.

That promises to be the best set of games staged at Dyckman Oval, near the Dyckman Street subway station, this season. It looked for to-morrow afternoon when the Royal Giants, winners of the American colored championship, will meet the other Royal Giants' Bears in a double header. The Royals, unlike previous years, are playing on the roof of the stadium and in date, out of eighty-seven games, they have lost only eleven.

Carpentier Will Sail To-Day for United States

Georges Carpentier, heavyweight champion of Europe, will sail to-day on board La Lorraine for New York, according to the following cablegram received yesterday by Tex O'Rourke, matchmaker of the International Sport Club of New York, before which Carpentier is to box Battling Winaky at Hobbs Field on Columbus Square, N. Y. City.

"O'Rourke, I. S. C. N. Y.: "Sailing to-morrow on Lorraine, Have Jeanne, president and to round up for sparring partners. Arrange ring, etc., for training. All well. Decamp." This is in accordance with an agreement with Jack Curley, representative of Carpentier in America, made at the time of the French champion's departure from this country some time ago. Carpentier signed articles to box LeVinsky before he went back to France.

Norfolk Earns Decision

BALTIMORE, Sept. 4.—At the 5th Regiment Armory last evening, Kid Norfolk of Baltimore, won a referee's decision from Jamaica Kid of New York in a ten-round contest. Harward fought a tough fight in this city in many a day. Norfolk gave Jamaica Kid a really beating and the referee's decision was all in his last round.

NEW INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

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LABOR DAY ATTRACTIONS AT BEAUTIFUL BELMONT PARK SIX GRAND CONTESTS INCLUDING THE \$3,000 Hightweight Handicap \$2,000 Broadthlow Steeplechase and Amityville Handicap