

ANCIENT ASSYRIANS PRACTISED FISTICUFFS LONG BEFORE GREEKS

BROUGHTON INTRODUCED BOXING GLOVES IN 1747

Edgren Tells of Famous Old Time Fighters Before the Days of Sullivan; Tom Johnson First Boxer to Make Fortune in Ring, Retired and Became "Respectable."

By Robert Edgren.

Fighting with the fists in general is supposed to have originated with the Greeks, but recent discoveries of carved figures in boxing position have shown that the art of fisticuffs was known to the ancient Assyrians long before the Greeks appeared in history. Using the hands in combat being a natural thing, it is likely that boxing was known to other civilizations thousands of years before even the ancient Assyrians.

In England, where fisticuffs was revived, boxing without any set rules has gone on for many centuries. In the earliest days eye-gouging, knocking and other rough and tumble fighting methods were indulged in until the time of James Figg, the first acknowledged British champion, who opened a theatre for ring fighting in Oxford Road, London, 1743.

Even then there were no rules worth considering until "rules for the better regulation of the sport, approved by gentlemen, and agreed to by pugilists."

One of these rules provided that "in order to prevent any disputes, the time a man lies after a fall, if the second does not bring his man to the side of the square, within the space of half a minute, he shall be deemed a beaten man."

Figg was a teacher of broadsword and other weapons as well as a boxer, and was supposed to be "unrivalled in England with the sword." He fought many finish bare-knuckle fights himself, often before King George II, and members of his court.

"MUFFERS"—THE FIRST BOXING GLOVES.

In 1747 Broughton, then English champion, advertised the first use of boxing gloves, which were invented for training purposes only, and not used in ring fights.

Broughton advertised: "The whole theory of that truly British art, with all the various stops, blows, crosses, blocks, etc., incident to combats, will be fully taught and explained, and that persons of quality and distinction may not be debarred from entering into a course of these Lectures, they will be given with the utmost tenderness and regard to the velocity of the pupil, for which reason MUFFERS are provided that will naturally secure them from the inconvenience of black eyes, broken noses, and bloody noses."

Much later one "Mr. Jackson" gave boxing instruction at "his elegant rooms, 13 Bond Street," where on one occasion fights were held "before the Emperor of Russia, General Blucher, the King of Prussia, Prince Frederick and William of Prussia, Lord Leinster, General D'York, &c., &c., &c."

Apparently the first fighter who made a fortune out of boxing was Tom Johnson, who after contending for the championship of England, in about sixteen fights, retired and became a respectable, having by his extraordinary success realized the astonishing sum of nearly five thousand pounds.

I like that "retired and became respectable!" Unfortunately Tom Johnson didn't stay "respectable." Having squandered his fortune he had to fight again, and being old and soft was "beaten almost lifeless," and shortly afterward died "from the severe blows he had received."

Fighting was a tough game in those days. The toughest of the old time fights were between English and Irish champions. One of these went 125 rounds, and both Purcell, the Englishman, and McCarty, from Ireland, were beaten out of resemblance to anything human, each in turn being "caught in chancery," and hammered into a state of collapse only to be revived in the half minute intervals by brandy administered by their seconds.

In the 125th round the Irishman rose from his second's knee and muttered "I won't fight any more." The Englishman, unable to see but striking at the sound of the voice, landed the last blow.

A game Irishman was Ned Langan, who won a score of fights before he met Tom Spring for the British championship. Spring was a much bigger man than Langan, who scaled 165 pounds. Spring broke both his hands, but in the seventy-sixth round Spring either knocked or threw Langan down about sixty times, often falling on him as he fell. This was part of the game under the old rules.

Langan was knocked out, but made such a fight of it that Spring actually promised to give him £10 in appreciation of his gameness—which was very generous conduct toward a loser in those days.

WHEN JACKSON BEAT MENDOZA One of the greatest English fighters was John Jackson, a big man and a marvellous hitter, who beat all opponents easily. His last fight was with Dan Mendoza, the Jew, who was one of the cleverest boxers ever known in England.

The odds were two to one on Mendoza. Jackson outboxed Mendoza and knocked him down four times—each knock-down ending the round. The fifth round is described like this in Boxiana, a boxing chronicle published a hundred years ago:

"Fifth—The scene was now considerably changed, and some murmurs were expressed by the friends of Mendoza on witnessing Jackson take hold of his opponent by the hair and serving him out in that defensive state until he fell to the ground. An appeal was made to the umpire

upon the propriety of the action, when it was deemed perfectly consistent with the rules of fighting, and the battle proceeded."

Jackson knocked Mendoza out in the ninth round, in ten and a half minutes of fighting.

There were several great Jewish fighters in the old days in England. The best of these were Daniel Mendoza (one of whose descendants has a tailor shop near the Brooklyn Bridge in New York to-day); Dutch Sam, Barney Aaron and Abraham Belasco.

They were all noted for their skill. Dutch Sam (Elias Samuel) weighed only 130 pounds, yet he won a hundred fights against men of all weights.

Getting away from the ancients, we'll come down to a bit more modern times when John C. Heenan, the Benicia Boy, champion of America, went to England to fight Tom Sayers for the world's heavyweight championship.

Tom Sayers, heavyweight champion of England, was an extremely clever boxer and only a middleweight, like Charlie Mitchell, who afterward fought Sullivan.

He fought for eleven years. His longest battle was 100 rounds with Harry Paulson, and he lost only one fight, early in his career, when Nat Langham beat him in 61 rounds. The English idolized Sayers and thought him invincible.

HERMAN-SAYERS BOUT FIRST INTERNATIONAL FIGHT.

John C. Heenan was born in Troy in 1835. His height was 6 feet 2 inches and his weight 180 pounds. He was a great boxer. In 1860 he challenged Sayers and went to England to fight. This was the first international ring battle to attract wide attention.

The men met in a hastily roped ring in a piece of woods near Farnborough, England, before a great crowd that followed the fighters in carriages, cars or on foot to the rendezvous.

Sayers used all of his skill and Heenan pressed the fight desperately. It lasted two hours and twenty minutes—forty-two rounds—at the end of which time Sayers was badly beaten and entirely exhausted and on the point of being knocked out.

The Americans accompanying Heenan had wagered heavily on him to win, and rather than see their man knocked out and lose their bets, English roughs around the ring pulled up the stakes and tore the ropes down, stopping the fight. Heenan was roughly handled by the crowd.

SULLIVAN INTRODUCES GLOVE-FIGHTING.

The referee next day decided that the fight was a "draw," thus making the winners on the English champion.

The English sportsman who conducted it decided that the world's championship belt should be given to Sayers, and an exact duplicate of it presented to the American. However, Heenan's belt never materialized. He had to return home without it.

This was about the same treatment Jake Kilrain received later when he fought and whipped English Champion Jem Smith in Belgium, the ring being pulled down to save Smith from a knockout.

The last world's champion under London prize ring rules was John L. Sullivan, the great of them all. It was when John L. decided to introduce fighting with padded gloves instead of bare fists that a new era dawned in boxing, and Queensberry rules supplanted the crude brutalities of London prize ring days.

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How to Play Basketball

World's Greatest Player Will Explain Every Feature.

NAT HOLMAN, world's leading basketball player, Original Celtics star and author of "Scientific Basketball," will explain every angle of the game in a series of articles, with pictures and diagrams, starting next Tuesday, Jan. 2, in The Evening World.

The series will cover offense and defense, how to play individual positions, passing, goal shooting, winning plays, and tips on training and coaching.

The series will be as valuable as a prize coach and New York's many thousands of players should not miss this chance to improve their game.

OLD-TIME FIGHTS

(Copyright, by Robert Edgren.)



WHEN "GENTLEMAN JACKSON" HELD MENDOZA BY THE HAIR AND BEAT HIM SENSELESS THE UMPIRES RULED THAT IT WAS "PERFECTLY CONSISTENT WITH THE RULES OF FIGHTING"—1795--

PURCELL AND MCCARTY FOUGHT 125 ROUNDS WHEN EITHER WAS UNCONSCIOUS FROM BEING PUNISHED "IN CHANCERY" HE WAS REVIVED WITH BRANDY.

HEENAN HAD SAYERS NEARLY OUT AFTER 2 HOURS, 40 MINUTES OF FIGHTING—WHEN ROUGHS TORE DOWN THE RING.

DUTCH SAM FROM AN OLD PRINT.

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS O. K., BUT NOT STRENUOUS ONES, SAYS RESEARCH PRESIDENT

Many Sports Are Beneficial to Them, Says Daniel Chase, but Others in Which They Participate Now Are More Harmful Than Many Suppose.

By Joseph Gordon.

"WOMEN are going in for athletics too strenuously. The danger of women's athletic activities does not lie in the fact that it is under-developed, as stated by certain exploiters of amateur sports. The fact is that it is being over-developed and to such an extent that its over-development threatens its existence. The idea of girls competing in hammer throwing, hurdle jumping, distance running and other sports which require a great deal of physical endurance is a hindrance to the physical development of women."

The above statement was made yesterday at the opening address at the Sixteenth Annual Convention of the Athletic Research Society by its newly elected President, Daniel Chase.

In a statement given by Mr. Chase to The Evening World he said he was not opposed to women's athletics. In fact he was in favor of them, provided that the health of the athletes was considered and that as far as possible the standing of women's activities was put in charge of women directors and coaches.

"Many sports are beneficial in the development of women, but a great many in which they participate now are more harmful than many suppose," said Mr. Chase.

"Take for instance basketball games played by girls under rules meant for boys. In itself basketball is a fine game for girls—all throwing games are. But the rules under which most of the games are played make them too strenuous for girls. Rules, taking this fact into consideration, should be made so that girls may play without any fear of injury. "Another great sport I am in favor of is swimming. Girls can excel in that branch of sport without injury. It is not so much a matter of endurance, except long distance races, and it helps develop girls and women. It is one of the most wholesome sports we have."

"Sprinting and relay racing are also

CRIGUI WON'T BOX UNTIL HE MEETS KILBANE HERE

PARIS, Dec. 30.—As a condition of the terms governing his coming world's championship match with Johnny Kilbane, Eugene Criqui has undertaken to engage in no matches prior to Memorial Day, his manager, M. Eudeline, has announced. This declaration set at rest reports that a bout was being arranged between Criqui and Danny Frush.

The meeting between Criqui and Kilbane will take place at the Polo Grounds in New York, the European featherweight champion receiving an option of \$25,000 or 20 per cent. of the gate receipts as his share. All the other details remain to be settled after the arrival of Criqui and his manager in the United States about the middle of next March.

It is doubtful if there can be anything certain about a Kilbane and Criqui match taking place here, as the world's featherweight titleholder is still under the ban in this State. Until that ban is lifted he will not be able to box here. If there is a change in the Boxing Board rules, regulations and even suspensions ordered by the present board may be side-tracked. Otherwise Kilbane is still "on the ground."

Joe Woodman has just received a cable-

Low Tendler and Pal Moran Matched for Bout at Garden

Will Go Fifteen Rounds to a Decision Jan. 19, Weights to Be 135 Pounds.

By John Pollock.

Immediately after the bout between Pancho Villa and Terry Martin at Madison Square Garden last night Frank Flournoy, matchmaker at the Garden, signed up Low Tendler, the crack lightweight of Philadelphia, and Pal Moran, the New Orleans lightweight, to meet in the star bout of fifteen rounds to a decision, at 135 pounds, weigh in at 2 P. M., at the Garden on the night of Jan. 19. The managers of both fighters accepted the terms offered them by Flournoy. This will be Tendler's first fight in the Garden in many months.

As Gene Tunney, the Greenwich Village light heavyweight, is laid up with a cold, his manager, Frank Barley, was compelled to ask for a postponement of his bout with Jimmy Delaney from Jan. 15 to Jan. 18, and his fifteen-round go with Chuckie Wiggins of Indianapolis at New Orleans on Jan. 15 until after Jan. 22 or 23.

The fight promoters of Oklahoma City who will stage the Tunney-Jimmy Delaney bout there on Jan. 15, decided to bring off a bout between big fellows before that contest. They have just signed up Mike, of St. Paul, to go against Harry Polty, of Seattle, in a ten-round, decision bout, on the night of Jan. 12.

Pancho Villa, the lightweight champion, who fought Terry Martin at the garden last night, will be a very busy fighter for the next few weeks, as his manager has just signed him up for two more fights. The first will be with Frankie Mason, of St. Wayne, and for ten rounds, at the Arena A. C. of Boston, on Jan. 8, while his second will be with Bud Taylor, of Chicago, for ten rounds, at Milwaukee, on the night of Jan. 15.

Joe Woodman has just received a cable-

A Serio-Comic Near Tragedy And an Ability to Write It Up For 'What Did You See?'---\$100

Louis Stroening of Brooklyn Saw Something Unusual and He Graphically Told Evening World Readers All About It—Other Weekly Prizes.

Louis Stroening of No. 152 Graham Avenue, Brooklyn, got a \$100 start toward his next year's Christmas fund to-day by winning the prize for the week's best contribution in the "What Did You See To-Day?" page of The Evening World.

Mr. Stroening's contribution, "The Missing Passenger," was a really unusual happening with a happy ending. Other prize winners of the week, a full list of whom are printed on the "What Did You See To-Day?" page, include:

- GENERAL. Second Award, \$50—FLORANCE E. BRADY, No. 48 Holmes Street, West Haven, Conn. Third Award, \$25—MRS. ELIZABETH A. BROWN, No. 9010 Pleasant Street, Queens Village, L. I.
- UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE. First Award, \$50—DAN R. MAUE, Columbia. Second Award, \$25—BENJAMIN LIGHTMAN, College of City of New York.
- HIGH SCHOOL. First Award, \$50—ANNA R. FREEMAN, Girls' Commercial, Brooklyn. Second Award, \$25—HELEN MOORE, New Haven State Normal.

This is Mr. Stroening's story.

THE MISSING PASSENGER. Just as I entered a loft building on Washington Street to-day I saw the freight elevator settle at the first floor. The operator looked startled. He looked up, exclaimed: "Great Scott!" and quickly reversed his lever, whereupon the car shot upward. Presently he came down again, and on the floor of the lift lay a young man unconscious. This elevator is only a platform—no sides, no top. The operator told me later that he had taken the young man aboard at the fifth floor. He fainted as the car started and had fallen against the wall, from which protruded an iron bar. His coat was caught on this piece of iron, and as the elevator descended the young man had hung there on the fifth floor unseen until the operator looked up when he reached the ground and missed his passenger. The young man seemed no worse for his experience.

Here is the one written by Miss Brady: MAY BE HE DID IT ON PURPOSE. While visiting a friend in St. Raphael's Hospital, New Haven, I heard a commotion in the corridor. Two internes, with a stretcher, passed me on the run. When the excitement died down I inquired the cause. A nurse told me that one of the student nurses, very popular in the men's ward, had been operated on recently for appendicitis, afterward being placed in a room on the third floor. A male convalescent, with a broken leg, whom she attended, decided to visit her. He got up the stairs all right, but coming back he fell down the whole flight of stairs and broke his other leg. Now he is taking the kidding of his ward mates in good humor, being consoled by the fact that his nurse soon will be back on the job of taking care of him. This is Mr. Maue's:

NEWSPAPERS TO THE RESCUE. From my window I saw a large automobile that had been standing at the curb attempt to climb the grade to Broadway. The wheels were without chains and, after spinning on the icy pavement for twenty minutes, they had carried the car just about twenty feet ahead. The driver appeared about to give up the attempt in despair when a man carried a big bundle of newspapers form a building and threw some of them beneath the spinning rear wheels. Instantly the car moved slowly ahead, and as it progressed more papers were fed to the wheels. In this manner the level going of Broadway was easily reached.

And this one Miss Freeman's: GOOD TO TEACHER.

By running hard this morning I managed to catch a subway express at the Franklin Avenue Station just as the bell was ringing for the train to leave. The side door began to slide shut. I saw a girl galloping three steps at a time down the stairs, and she succeeded in poking her arm into the car before the door closed. Instantly the automobile door shot open and the girl held it for her friend, who was a trifle slower. Both of them stood in the doorway, despite the yell of "All aboard!" by the guard, until an elderly lady, whom I recognized as one of our Girls' Commercial High teachers, smiled and pushed her way into the car and to a seat. Then the girls permitted the door to close and away we went.

REEKIE IS WINNER OVER MAXWELL IN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Will Be Opposed in Semi-Final Round at Pinehurst by Brown.

PINEHURST, N. C., Dec. 30.—Norman H. Maxwell of Philadelphia, former North and South titleholder and one of the leading favorites in the midwinter tournament at Pinehurst, went down to defeat at the hands of William Reekie of Upper Montclair in yesterday's second round of match play, 7 up and 3 to play.

Reekie will be opposed in the semi-final round by T. Russell Brown of Montclair, who defeated J. C. McDonald of Sleepy Hollow 2 and 1 at the end of an uphill battle in which he was 2 down at the tenth hole.

John F. Dalley Jr. of Rochester, and Donald Parson of Yonkers survived in the lower bracket. Dalley came through at the expense of John D. Chapman of Greenwich, and Parson won against H. L. Scofield at Stamford at the nineteenth hole of a match in which the ultimate winner was 4 down with only 6 holes still to play.

JUNIOR GOLF TITLE WON BY FORBES WILSON

PINEHURST, N. C., Dec. 30.—The final contest in the Pinehurst junior golf championship, decided yesterday over the first nine holes of the difficult No. 3 course, was won by Forbes Wilson of Worcester, Mass. He defeated George T. Dunlap, Jr. of Summit, N. J., 1 up. Wilson disposed of the nine holes of the match in 43, winning with a final play card 4 on the last hole. The winner, son of White Wilson, the York Harbor and Pinehurst professional, is twelve years old. Dunlap, who is thirteen years of age, had held the Pinehurst junior title for the last two years.

DARTMOUTH IS WINNER OF HARDING TROPHY

LAKE PLACID, N. Y., Dec. 30.—Dartmouth won the President Harding Trophy for college outdoor winter sports in competition at the Lake Placid Club yesterday with a total of twenty points. The award represents the second consecutive victory for Dartmouth. McGill was second with 13 points and New Hampshire third with a score of 10. Other scores were: Williams, 8; Yale, 6; Wisconsin, 5.

Boy Scouts of America

The Evening World conducts a column of general and local interest to Boy Scouts each Saturday. Bronx and Manhattan items should be sent to Headquarters, while Scout leaders of Westchester, New Jersey and Staten Island are invited to mail their notes to the Boy Scout Editor, The Evening World, No. 68 Park Row, New York City. Brooklyn Scout news appears each Tuesday and Queens and Long Island news each Thursday in the Brooklyn-Queens Section of The Evening World.

means from observation as well as from book knowledge.

TROOP NO. 564 CHALLENGES.

The basketball team of Troop No. 564 wishes to arrange games with other troop teams. Team weight, 95 to 120 pounds. Kindly communicate with L. Sanford, Manager, No. 77 West 101st Street.

MONTCLAIR'S HOLIDAY CAMP.

Montclair, N. J., scouts and their fathers are spending part of the holidays at the camp in the Ramapo hills. Big competitions of dads versus lads are scheduled in snowshoeing, skating and skiing. The grounds cover over 600 acres of woodland and every scout has the privilege of building a cabin, provided he does it by his own labor. The camp now has shacks, lean-tos and cabins enough to house over 100 campers. Some of the boys have shown great skill in building and artistic taste in fixing up their cabins. A number of the cabins have been described by visitors as "quite elaborate and nicely furnished, containing even a victrola."

NATURE STUDY.

Describe fully from observation ten species of trees or plants, by their bark, leaves, flowers, fruit or scent. This does not mean that the boy is only required to know the bark and nothing else nor does it mean that he is only to know the leaves, but he is to know the bark, leaves, flowers, fruit and scent. Please note that this

DEMPEY OFFERED MATCH IN ENGLAND

When Jack Dempsey arrives here a little more than a week from now, he will find himself confronted with a brand new offer for a bout in Europe.

Dan McKetrick, the titleholder's Eastern representative, yesterday announced that he had received an offer of 40,000 pounds sterling guaranteed and 37 1/2 per cent. of the gate receipts for a bout between Dempsey and the winner of the Dick Smith-Joe Beckett English heavyweight title struggle, which will be held soon. The offer came from Charles Rose, manager of the Crystal Palace, London, for a bout to be held during Derby Week in May. According to McKetrick, Crystal Palace has a capacity of 50,000 and standing room for an additional 20,000. McKetrick said he transmitted the offer to Manager Jack Kearns, who is now with the champion in Los Angeles.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY BOOKS GAME WITH RUTGERS ELEVEN. BOSTON, Dec. 30.—A football game between Boston University and Rutgers, to be played at New Brunswick, N. J., on Nov. 17, 1923, is announced by the officials of local institutions.



NAT HOLMAN