

# Mistakes by the Third Man in Ring Have Caused Many Boxers to Be Deprived of Well-earned Victories

## FOULS FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN TITLE CONTESTS

Many Championships Have Been Lost Through Illegal Blows.

### FITZ WAS DEPRIVED OF HARD EARNED HONORS

By THE VETERAN.

The claim of Ad Wolgast that the blow which laid Freddie Welsh out cold in the third round of the bout at Denver July 4 was not foul and that Welsh lost his title then and there has been sustained by so much reliable testimony that there can be little question as to the correctness of the former champion's contention. The verdict of the club physician that Welsh showed no evidence of having received a foul blow is convincing, and the action of referee Floto in giving Welsh twenty minutes in which to recover from the effects of the blow is difficult of explanation from the point of view of boxing rules or common justice.

Floto in his defence says he wanted to give the spectators a "run for their money." This is puerile, and will not stand the acid test. The spectators got a "run for their money" when they saw the lightweight champion of the world toppled over with a clean body punch for the first time.

It does not follow that Floto was solicited for Welsh's championship welfare when he failed to count him out in the third round, but the fact remains that he did a bitter injustice to Wolgast when he failed to declare Welsh a beaten man, thus giving Wolgast the title.

Referee's Ruling Stands. Wolgast's subsequent claim of the title because of the apparent injustice done him by the referee will not affect the situation, for the reason that under the Queensberry rules the decision of the referee final. The wording of the rule on that point is as follows: "The decision of the referee shall be promptly and irrevocably given, and shall be binding as to the battle money and other matters."

Therefore, as Floto decided that Welsh was not knocked out in the third round Welsh retains his title and Wolgast cannot get recognition of his claim.

The one unfortunate feature so far as Wolgast is concerned has been the tendency of the former champion to hit foul blows and the fact that the blow that finally brought his bout with Welsh to a close was adjudged foul.

It is also worthy of note that Wolgast lost his title to Ritchie on a foul, the champion being on the verge of knocking out himself in the sixteenth round when he brought the battle to a close with a low blow.

Operate Against Wolgast. All these things have operated against Wolgast in his complaint against Floto, but the evidence is now so overwhelming in his favor that no fair minded person can well deny that he has been wronged.

However, all the world over the referee's decision is final, and Wolgast is not the only sufferer from mistakes by the third man in the ring.

Beyond doubt the most outrageous instance on record was that in which Robert Fitzsimmons was deprived of a well earned victory over Tom Sharkey at San Francisco December 5, 1895.

No championship blinged on this battle, but there was a big betting scheme in operation, and it was not in the cards for Fitz to win. The Cornishman was a favorite, but owing to the abundance of Sharkey money the Fitz backers smelled a mouse and held back their cash.

Enter Wyatt Earp. In order to make certain that Sharkey should not lose, the clique in charge of the scheme selected Wyatt Earp, a notorious gunman of the West, to act as referee, and this interesting gentleman was accompanied into the ring by a shooting iron, the stock of which is said to have contained many notches.

It was generally intimated to Fitz just before the battle that if he used any unnecessary roughness in handling the gallant sailor he would be more than apt to get a lesson warning from the referee. This did have a tendency to make Fitz cautious, and he went along very carefully watching for an opportunity to land a knockout punch.

The same in the eighth round, when the Cornishman worked his left jab and landed his left flat full in the pit of Sharkey's stomach, the sailor curling up on the ring floor completely stopped, although not quite unconscious. As evidence that Sharkey was a party to the scheme he began to groan loudly and yell foul.

Sharkey Goes Into Hiding. Wyatt Earp gave Sharkey a brief inspection and then said: "Foul blow, Sharkey wins."

Under the circumstances the referee was obliged to carry out the decision and remained in hiding for a few days, but inquisitive persons who investigated reported that the sailor was seen sitting on two chairs and smoking a fat cigar an hour after the "foul" was committed.

It was only Fitz who defrauded of the decision but he never got any of the prize that was promised him.

But Fitz got some satisfaction for the injustice. On August 24, 1896, he got Sharkey into the ring with him at Coney Island. A more terrific beating never was handed to a supposedly first class heavyweight. Fitz battered the sailor all over the ring for a round and a half, and then in the middle of the second round he struck him fair and square with the same blow that stopped him on the coast.

The sailor was knocked cold and could not give a word for he had no desire to. In any event it would have done him no good to have claimed foul, and winning blow was not fair and above the belt that even a novice referee could not have done otherwise than count Sharkey out.

Saylor Stopped Welsh. The Wolgast episode is not the only one in which Welsh's title was saved through the erroneous work of a referee. Milburn Saylor knocked Welsh out clean with a body blow at Winnie October 20, 1912.

There was much confusion following the knockdown, and the club physician declared that Welsh lost no time in declaring that his man had been fouled.

The referee, a novice of Winnipeg, became confused, and neither counted Welsh out nor called the blow foul. In the lull Welsh left the ring, and as there had been no official action by the referee, Welsh's manager had little

## FISTIC PERFORMERS WHO WERE PRINCIPALS IN BATTLES IN WHICH FOUL BLOWS MADE RING HISTORY



AD WOLGAST FORMER LIGHT WEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD



FREDDIE WELSH FORMER WORLD CHAMPION



MILBURN SAYLOR FORMER LIGHT WEIGHT CHAMPION



WILLIE RITCHIE FORMER LIGHT WEIGHT CHAMPION OF THE WORLD



TOM SHARKEY FORMER HEAVY WEIGHT CHAMPION OF U.S.A.



GEORGE CARPENTIER EUROPE'S MIDDLEWEIGHT AND HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION



CHARLES LE DOUX EUROPEAN BANTAM CHAMPION



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BILLY JOE FORMER LIGHT WEIGHT CHAMPION OF U.S.A.



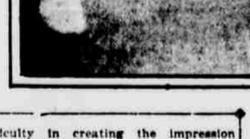
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difficulty in creating the impression that Welsh had been the victim of a foul blow.

Later on the referee issued a statement in which he admitted he had not made a decision but expressed the unofficial opinion that the blow was low. He also expressed the unofficial opinion that Saylor was having a better of the argument up to the time of the blow that brought the champion to the floor.

All of which goes to show what rare birds are appointed to act as referees in the far West.

Billy Joe's Action. A decision similar to that of Floto, though not so flagrant, was that rendered by Billy Joe during a contest between Jos Jeannette and Battling Jim Johnson July 1, 1914, in this city.

Johnson landed a terrific wallop in the pit of Jeannette's stomach in the first round and brought Joseph to the canvas knocked out, though not unconscious. Jeannette claimed foul, which was not allowed by the referee, who still failed to count Jos Jeannette. The beaten man was carried to his corner, and after some hard thinking Jos announced that Jeannette was down three minutes in which to recover from the effects of the blow. This was done and the bout then was resumed and went the limit of ten rounds.

Job's Defence. I had Referee Joh summoned before the Boxing Commission to explain his remarkable action, and while he admitted his action was not in conformity with any known rules on boxing he submitted as his chief defense that he "acted with good judgment."

What Job meant by that was that had he counted Jeannette out in the first round he would not only have deprived the on-lookers of nine rounds of boxing but he might have aroused the ire of the club manager, in whom Job depended for his weekly compensation.

This furnished poor positive that no referee under the present system of a penalty on club managers dare make any decision calculated to ruffle the temper of the manager.

After listening to the evidence in the case the commission instructed Referee Joh in future, when in doubt as to the fairness of a blow, to call the club physician and be guided by his verdict.

Moha Also Among Victims. Bob Moha declares that he was deprived of a decision over the illustrious Mike Gibbons because of a chain of foul, which was not allowed by the referee. Moha got into the ring with Gibbons at Hudson, Wis., December 4, 1914, and in the second round hit the St. Paul ward a punch in the body that curled him up on the floor but did not affect his vocal organs. Mike screamed foul in a high key and was hurriedly removed to his dressing room. He the referee, the club physician, reached the couch of the wounded warrior he was ready to display to them a part of his defensive armor with numerous dents in it.

Moha's opinion that a blow delivered in the ring would certainly have sent the St. Paul man to the hospital.

Carpentier Saved by Foul. Carpentier, the great French middleweight and heavyweight who when he went to the fight for his title over the undoubted champion of Europe in these two classes, was saved from complete knockout by a foul on one occasion, though it was not a foul blow. Carpentier was in the ring in Paris with Frank Klaus June 24, 1912, fighting for the world's middleweight title. In the nineteenth round Klaus had the Frenchman going and was just about to land the finishing blow when Carpentier's manager rushed into the ring screaming "Foul!" and carried his battered champion to the corner.

It happened that the referee was not to be misled by the use, and he promptly disqualified Carpentier for the foul action of his manager. This was the worst beating that Carpentier received as a middleweight, and it was the blow that made Klaus the middleweight champion of the world.

Ledoux Claimed Foul. Charles Ledoux, the bantam champion of Europe at the time he joined the French army, also had a complaint to make of a foul blow. Ledoux was the worst beating that Carpentier received as a middleweight, and it was the blow that made Klaus the middleweight champion of the world.

When I met Mr. Lamont and found him arguing heatedly and surrounded by natives, it was my sincere opinion that his plight was grave. A purer and plainer "gringo" never lived. But he was not alone in the debate. Two of the Mexicans sided with him, energetically adding their heads to all his half-cooked expressions. Two other Mexicans held the other end of the discussion.

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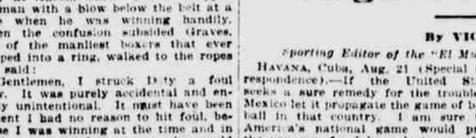
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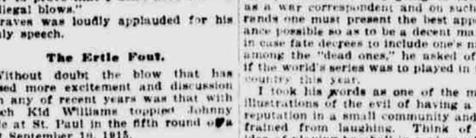
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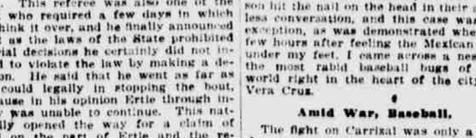
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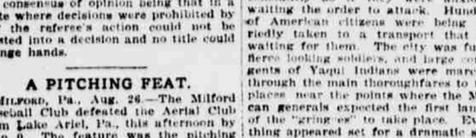
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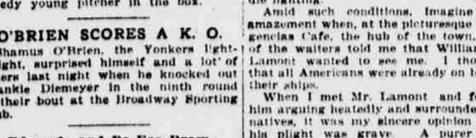
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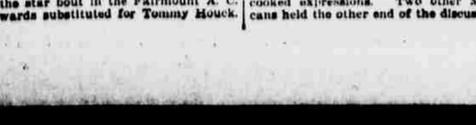
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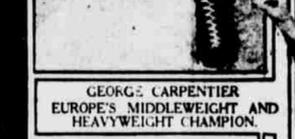
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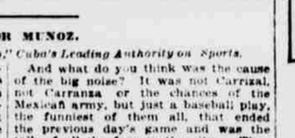
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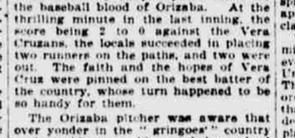
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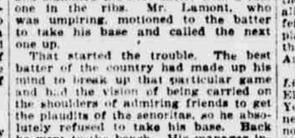
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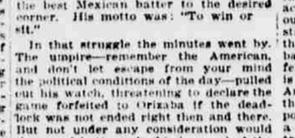
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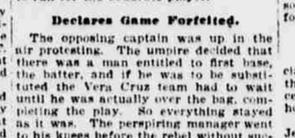
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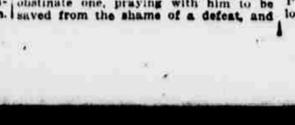
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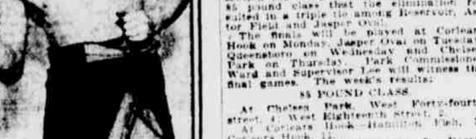
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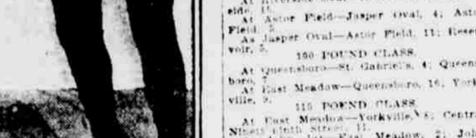
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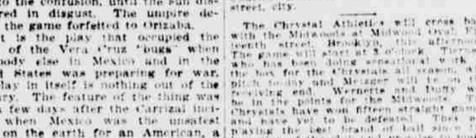
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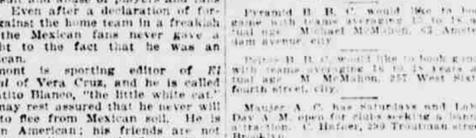
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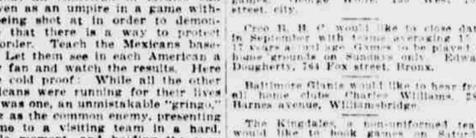
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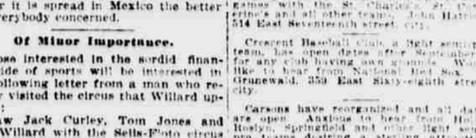
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## BITTER LESSON FOR BOXERS LURED TO SOUTH AMERICA

Golden Promise Made by Argentine Representative Faded Into Air.

WILL TRY TO LOCATE MONEY DEPOSITED HERE

By CROSS COUNTER.

The deplorable condition of the valiant cluster of North American boxers who, stranded in Buenos Ayres, are eating home for home, will at least have to be remembered.

It can be asserted without the slightest fear of contradiction that any South American promoter, no matter how high standing and patriotic his name, who asks any New York promoter, manager or boxer to journey to that land of foliage and finance and engage in a "promoter looking carnival," will get a sharp left hook on the original invitation, and doubtless a digital jab for a repetition.

It should prove a lesson that boxers and managers ever will bear and the only strange feature of the whole affair is that astute managers like Buckley McKelvey and Johnston should have been led into the scheme like lambs to the slaughter.

Because a rather distinguished looking person, South American style and bearing, the double agent of Marcel Pagan Del Sar, assured them wise managers of the North that they would get barrels of gold for the services of their money in Buenos Ayres, it does not follow that the managers should have swallowed the yarn without the customary application of salt.

If making a dash for New York one of these extreme up to date managers would insist on a guarantee and then be assured of the assistance of the Boxing Commission in the event of failure on the part of the promoter.

What's in a Name?

Yet as soon as they heard that satisfaction could be had, they were lured into a trap. As soon as the boxers reached Buenos Ayres the scales fell from their eyes, as the South American promoters avoided every agreement, and as the attendance was light at the bouts, the receipts amounted to practically nothing.

That Mr. Del Sar, Albert Baddock, Jim Brophy and others have been calling for Tunis.

There is just one chance that the victims may be reimbursed, and that is if the statement of Billy Gilman, agent for Pagan, Del Sar, that sufficient money to protect all the boxers was deposited in a New York bank before they sailed has foundation in fact.

Mr. Gilman can bring box to the hearts of a number of distressed boxers by ascertaining from the money man in New York and will be paid over to the rightful owners.

Ritchie Challenges Welsh.

Just at a time when it was supposed Welsh was to be the world's champion, Ritchie challenged him to a fight. Ritchie was to fight Freddie Welsh for the world's lightweight title at 135 pounds. Ritchie had a record of 100 fights, 75 wins, 10 draws and 15 losses. Welsh had a record of 100 fights, 75 wins, 10 draws and 15 losses.

Ritchie's challenge was a surprise to many, as he was generally considered a second rate fighter. However, he was a determined man and was willing to take on the world's champion.

The fight was scheduled for September 15th at New York. It was expected to be a great draw, as both fighters were well known.

However, the fight was postponed due to a lack of interest. The promoters were unable to find a suitable venue for the bout.

The fight was eventually cancelled. Ritchie and Welsh were both disappointed, but they were glad to have the opportunity to fight.

Ritchie's challenge was a bitter lesson for boxers lured to South America. It showed that promoters in that land were not to be trusted.

Boxers and managers should be warned that any offer of a large sum of money to fight in South America is almost always a trap.

The only way to avoid such a fate is to stick to the United States and fight for a title that is worth something.

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## With War in Air, Mexicans Argued About Baseball

By VICTOR MENDOZA.

Sporting Editor of the "El Mundo," Cuba's Leading Authority on Sports.

And what do you think was the cause of the big noise? It was not Carrizal, not Carranza, or the chances of the Mexican army, but just a baseball play, the funniest of them all, that ended the previous day's game and was the talk of all the fans in the city.

It was in a sensational game at the Vera Cruz grounds between the local team and one fully representative of the baseball blood of Orizaba. At the thrilling minute in the last inning, the score being 2 to 0 against the Vera Cruzans, the locals succeeded in placing two runners on the plate, and two were out. The faith and the hopes of Vera Cruz were pinned on the best batter of the country, whose turn happened to be so handy for them.

The Orizaba pitcher was aware that over yonder in the "gringos" country such problems as his are being solved sometimes by the issue of an intentional pass to first. However, the Orizaba hurler decided to take no chances and slammed the best batter with a fast one in the ribs. Mr. Lamont, who was umpiring, motioned to the batter to take his base and called the next one up.

That started the trouble. The best batter of the country had made up his mind to break up that particular game and had the vision of being carried on the shoulders of admiring friends to get the plaudits of the multitude, so he absolutely refused to take his base. Back he went to the bench. His manager interposed his body between him and his objective, his teammates ran to him and grabbed him by the sleeves trying to pull him to the bag. Nothing could move the best Mexican batter in the desired corner. His motto was: "To win or not."

In that struggle the minutes went by. The umpire—remember the American, and don't let escape from your mind the political conditions of the day—pulled out his watch, threatening to declare the game forfeited to Orizaba if the deadlock was not ended right then and there. But under any consideration would the proud batter take his base. And the poor manager, who had plenty of money to bet on the game, went to the umpire and asked permission to put somebody else to run for the old-timer player.

Baseball is the panacea, and the sooner it is spread in Mexico the better for everybody concerned.

Of Minor Importance. Those interested in the social financial side of sports will be interested in the following letter from a man who recently visited the circus that Willard upholds:

"Saw Jack Curley, Tom Jones and Jess Willard with the Sells-Floto circus Monday. Willard is getting \$50 a day from the circus, while Jones and Curley are receiving 20 per cent of the \$500, meaning \$50 a day for each of them. Pretty soft for these birds. Willard looks very large."

Declares Game Forfeited. The opposing captain was up in the air protesting. The umpire decided that there was a man entitled to first base, the batter, and if he was to be substituted the Vera Cruz team had to wait until he was actually over the bag, committing the play. So everything stayed as it was. The perspiring manager went to his knees before the rebel without success, and while the visiting players were claiming the game in the loud tones employed everywhere to draw such clatter from the home team surrounded the obstinate one, praying with him to be saved from the shame of a defeat, and

Without doubt, the blow that has caused more excitement and discussion among the "dead ones" he asked of me if the world's series was to be played in that country this year.

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After listening to the evidence in the case the commission instructed Referee Joh in future, when in doubt as to the fairness of a blow, to call the club physician and be guided by his verdict.

### With Amateur and Semi-Pro Teams

Park Playground League.

The game of the Public Park Playground Athletic and Recreation League was held at the Bureau of Recreation, Department of Parks, on Saturday, August 26, 1916.

The game was held at 8 o'clock, and the competition was so keen in the 45 pound class that the winner, Arthur J. Ward,