Neglect of Physical Welfare Has Resulted in the Loss of Many Championships to Boxers of Prominence

TRUE TRAINING FACTS RARELY TOLD OF BOXERS

"Pink of Condition" Seldom Means That Pugilist Is Fit for Fight.

SULLIVAN FOOLED FANS IN CORBETT CONTEST

By THE VETERAN.

"The pink of condition" is a phrase that has been used to cover a multitude of pugilistic sins.

Scores of prominent boxers who a few days previous to important contests have been reported to be so full of physical vim they really had to be restrained have crawled into the ring looking like invalids or candidates for a fat man's race.

And their performances in the ring have not only saddened the onlookers, but have been a fraud on the ticket buyers.

Take the case of John L. Sullivan, who in 1892 went into training at Shinnecock Hills, at the easterly end of Long Island, for a bout with James J. Corbett.

Sullivan had Phil Casey, the handball champion, as chief trainer, and a large staff of helpers, who were supposed to be engaged in the task of putting the mighty John L. in condition to knock out Corbett in short order.

The reports that came from the training quarters were to the effect that Sullivan was working like a Trojan and would be in the best condition of his life when he faced Pompadour Jim at New Orleans.

He was pictured as being in the same superb condition he exhibited on the day ten years previously when he knocked Paddy Ryan out in nine rounds and thus became the heavyweight champion of America.

No Corbett Money.

The delighted supporters of the Boston Strong Boy, basing their action on the reports from Shinnecock, wagered 4 and 5 to 1 that Sullivan would be returned the winner. And there was very little Corbett money in view even at those figures.

But it appears that the reports from Sullivan's training quarters were all carefully censored and that the champion, far from training faithfully, spent his days in idleness and his nights in wassail.

Phil Casey, utterly unable to control the champion or get him to do any work, resigned as chief trainer and withdrew from the camp—a fact that also was kept secret.

However, with execrable judgment, or else in a spirit of bravado, Sullivan decided to give his supporters a view of his physical condition the night before he started for New Orleans and he sparred a few rounds with one of his trainers in a hall in Brooklyn.

When the folks who went to that hall to cheer for Sullivan got a look at his aldermanic girth, his flabby arms and back and the unmistakable evidence of lack of condition they were aghast and looked stunned.

But Sullivan himself seemed unconcerned and marched in and out of the ring with all the pride of a prize Percheron at an agricultural show.

Corbett Worked Hard.

Some of the more sanguine of his admirers affected to believe that Sullivan would win, fat or no fat.

"All he has to do is to hit that Californian just once," they said, and went along with undiminished confidence.

All the time that Sullivan was dawdling on Long Island Corbett was working like a beaver at Asbury Park. In the flower of young manhood, full of ambition and the most skilful heavyweight boxer America had ever produced, he was at the close of three months of conscientious work the most perfect athlete that ever jumped into a 24 foot ring.

The day before he started for the battle ground Corbett went to Madison Square Garden and trained the entire day in public. He went through every conceivable form of preparatory exercise and wound up by running a mile, sprinting the last hundred yards. And he was not breathing hard when he went to his dressing room.

Even after the Sullivan adherents had seen both Sullivan and Corbett in the ring the betting was still 4 and 5 to 1 that the champion would win.

It was not surprising that the magnificent young athlete Corbett, fortified as he was with superlative boxing skill, should have beaten the fat, logy, muddled Sullivan, and that the champion did not put a glove on his young opponent with telling force.

I do not desire to be understood as attributing Corbett's victory to his superior physical condition, for in my opinion Corbett, in the trim he showed at New Orleans September 7, 1892, could have beaten John L. Sullivan in the best form the Boston Boy ever possessed.

Corbett had proved in his sensational sixty-one round draw with the formidable Peter Jackson that he was too clever to be hit by any of the leading heavyweights, and as Jackson was a far better boxer than Sullivan, and a more scientific puncher, it is evident that the Bostonian at his best would have been unable to bring Corbett down.

A Test Against Jeffries.

Singularly enough Corbett, with the great lesson of physical unpreparedness as exemplified by Sullivan's condition at New Orleans before him, either failed to understand it or else thought his own constitution stronger than that of Sullivan. In any event as soon as Corbett had begun to bask in the glare of championship popularity he neglected his physical condition and deteriorated to a pronounced degree.

He discovered this when in 1897 he went to Carson and was beaten by Fitzsimmons, a man who never contracted habits calculated to lower his stamina. The wonderful vitality that enabled Corbett to stand for sixty-one rounds before Peter Jackson, and to tantalize Sullivan for twenty-one rounds without getting a hard blow, was gone when the champion faced Fitzsimmons and he succeeded to superior physical strength in fourteen rounds.

Still another test that Corbett made of his endurance later on must have convinced him he was done as a fighting man. In 1900 Corbett decided that he could take the title away from Jeffries, who had captured the championship from Fitz.

Therefore Corbett decided to work conscientiously for the event and he actually spent six months in preparation. He went to Lakewood and for four months did little else but ride horseback, take long walks and loll about to build up his constitution.

Then in the last two months he settled down to hard training work and when he emerged he was in as good condition as it was possible for a man to get into who had gone the pace he had. When he got into the ring he acted like the old Corbett, dancing about, jabbing the clumsy Jeff on the nose seven times in succession without a return in one round.

For twenty-two rounds of the scheduled twenty-five Corbett outpointed Jeffries 100 to 1, and could the challenger have lasted the twenty-five rounds nothing could have prevented him getting the decision and the title.

Jeffries's handlers, Tommy Ryan, Billy Delaney and Billy Brady, wept with vexation at the utter lack of combativeness on the part of Jeff and assured him he would lose the title unless he put a little pepper into his work.

Corbett Collapsed.

But Jeff was saved the trouble of forcing the fight, for in the twenty-third round Corbett's vitality was at so low ebb that he practically collapsed on his feet. He was unable to defend himself and the lumbering Jeff, seeing that his opponent could hardly move, promptly hit him on the jaw and retained his title.

George Lavigne, the man who brought the world's lightweight title to America, was another aggravated example of an athlete losing his honors because of neglect of his physical condition.

When Lavigne claimed title on the retirement of McAuliffe in 1894, the Saginaw Kid was a wonderful athlete. He seemed to have steel springs in his feet, and he was so rugged it seemed impossible for the hardest punches to make the slightest impression on him. After Lavigne had held title for a few years he became careless of his physical welfare, and seemed bent on having a merry life, no matter what befell him pugilistically.

When Frank Erne, a clever boxer of Buffalo, challenged Lavigne for a title bout in 1899, the champion was in deplorable physical condition, being fat, slow and flabby.

Erne, trained to the minute, went into the ring at Cheektowaga, near Buffalo, with plans laid to win on points in the twenty round encounter. As Lavigne's reputation as a heavy puncher still abided with him.

But Lavigne was a forlorn figure that night. He could neither hit Erne, who was a shifty chap in those days, and he could not avoid the jabs of the Buffalonian, although they were not heavy enough to do any special damage.

Round after round the Saginaw Kid went out in a desperate effort to land one effective punch, but he could not get the range of the challenger.

Light Hitter.

Lavigne was outpointed decisively, but he lasted the twenty rounds and in fact was none the worse for wear at the close.

As showing the ineffectiveness of Erne's blows, the Buffalo boy uppercut Lavigne as the Michigan boy was charging in head down, and Lavigne was groggy. He was so helpless that he could not hold up his hands.

This blow was struck twenty seconds before the end of the seventh round, and Erne, measuring his helpless opponent, hooked him on the jaw with rights and lefts at least a dozen times and never even brought the champion to his knees, let alone flooring him.

Lavigne recovered in the eighth round and went the limit. Had Lavigne taken good care of himself he would doubtless have held the lightweight title longer than any champion in the history of the class, for he was so powerful and if seemed impossible to hurt him.

But he was one of the athletes who held the mistaken idea that he could mix pugilism and injurious habits, and when he lost his title he realized that his health and strength were the only assets he possessed.

Terry McGovern, Brooklyn's pugilistic tiger, also followed in the footsteps of Lavigne, for after he had defeated Dixon for the featherweight title the Brooklyn Terror apparently decided to cut out athletic drudgery and enjoy himself for a time.

He certainly did cut out training, for when he faced Young Corbett on that fateful afternoon at Hartford he was in anything but good condition.

On the other hand, Corbett, realizing the value of the stake, had trained like a race horse and was fit as could be.

While many expressed the opinion that Corbett could beat Terry any time, I disagree with them, for McGovern at his best could have swapped punches with Corbett and with good chances of success.

Stage Life Hurt Him.

As a matter of fact McGovern never recovered from the effects of his gay life as an actor, and his wonderful stamina had been reduced to a point where he was unable to stand the knocks as he formerly had done.

The object lesson furnished by McGovern does not seem to have made a lasting impression on Young Corbett, who also conducted himself after beating Terry like a man who had inherited ten millions or so.

The pace that Corbett set soon reduced his natural stamina and made him an easy mark for Battling Nelson when they met in California.

Twice the rugged Nelson, a chap who always took good care of himself, disposed of Corbett, and in each case it was due to reduced vitality, the result of a warm pace socially.

A recent case of ill conditioning was that of Frank Moran, who in preparation for a bout with Jack Dillon trained at White Sulphur Springs, near Saratoga. The reports that emanated from Moran's training quarters were glowing, and the prodigious deeds he was reported to have performed aroused the fear in some quarters that he was overworking.

Spectators Astonished.

Imagine the astonishment of the onlookers when Moran stepped into the ring at Washington Park with an obtrusive paunch and looking fat and flabby.

While it is true his miserable condition militated against him, still at his best he would not have much chance with the Hoosier Bearcat.

At the same time the falsity of the reports from his quarters would seem to call for closer inspection by officials of the Boxing Commission of men training for important contests.

There is no good reason why a boxer and his staff should be permitted to deceive the public as to the condition of the fighter, when the aforesaid public is called on to pay big prices to see the ill conditioned boxer in action.

There is small doubt that Willard if he enters the ring again in a championship contest will be utterly unable to get into good condition, for he is enormously fat and heavy and years would be required to get him into passably good form again.

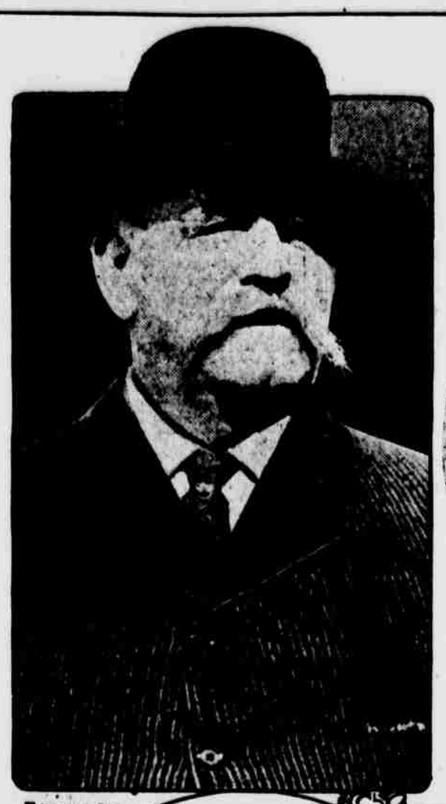
Therefore, it is not unlikely that the public will be served with much misleading information as to the champion's condition if he tries again to train.

In the case of Jim Jeffries and his match with Johnson, the alfalfa merchant knew very well that he could not get into good physical condition again after a layoff of five years, and he never would have made the match had he not believed that Johnson would stick to his promise to "flop" in the twelfth round.

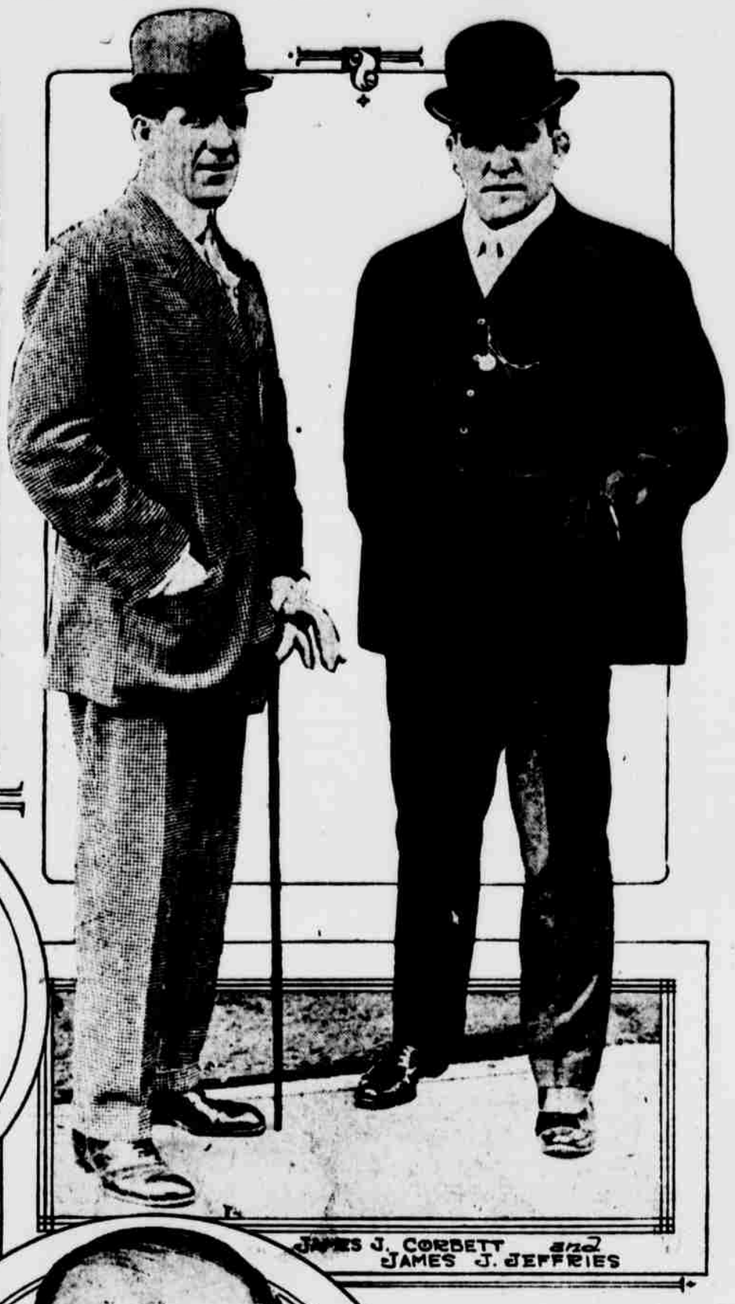
Jack Dempsey, as the result of long years of fast living, was not in good condition when he faced Fitzsimmons. Nevertheless Fitz would have beaten Dempsey the best day Dempsey ever saw.

In conclusion, it is time for a halt in the indiscriminate use of the term "pink of condition," for few boxers ever achieve it.

CHAMPIONS OF ROPED ARENA WHO COULD NOT STAND PROSPERITY.



JOHN L. SULLIVAN



JAMES J. CORBETT and JAMES J. JEFFRIES

TERRY McGOVERN

GEORGE (KID) LAVIGNE

CUBANS AT LENOX OVAL.

Will Tackle the Bronx Eagles in Double Header To-day.

The All Cubans, a team that has played the leading local nines, will make its first appearance of the season at Lenox Oval, 135th street and Lenox avenue, this afternoon. The Cuban nine will play the Bronx Eagles a double header, the first game to start at 1:30 o'clock. The visitors have a fast infield and a heavy hitting outfield that has caused considerable trouble for the best local teams, and if past performances are any criterion the Eagles will have to travel at top speed to win. Armenteros and Suarez will pitch for the Cubans and Rojo will catch.

The Eagles will come down from The Bronx in buses.

WERNECKE IN L. I. CITY.

Star Bronx Pitcher Will Play at Degnon Field To-day.

The Degnon Grays and the Highbridge Athletics, who recently played a six inning game which was halted by a heavy downpour when the Grays were in the lead, 2 to 1, will play the second of their three game series this afternoon at Degnon Field, opposite the Hunters Point station of the Steinway tube. In their last contest the teams played the fastest fielding game seen at the Long Island field this season. Wernecke allowed the Grays only two hits, while the Athletics garnered five off Moelker, now with the Cleveland club.

This Sunday Wernecke will be opposed by McQuillan, star pitcher of the Eastern League. The St. Mary's team will play a preliminary game at 1:30.

AMATEURS HAVE DAY AT SYRACUSE RACES

Only Two Grand Circuit Events Held—Wagons Used in Others.

SYRACUSE, Sept. 16.—Two Grand Circuit races, the 2:10 trot and 2:14 pace, left over from yesterday, and nine amateur races with wagons were decided today at the State Fair. In all, twenty-seven heats were raced, which is the most ever held in one day.

Brissac, the favorite in the 2:14 trot, and Major Woolworth, the best liked in the 2:10 pace, won. Capt. David Shaw, the seventy-eight-year-old horseman, won two matinee races. The summary:

Senior League Sweepstake, for two-year-old amateur drivers.
Lady Marin, ch. h., sire Peter the Great (E. I. White) ... 1
Aurora, b. f., by Sir Morgan Axworthy (F. W. Dole) ... 2
Time—:29½, :29½.

Senior League Sweepstake, for three-year-old amateur drivers.
Beverly, blk. m., by Morgan At Gentry—Elmore Wilkes (F. W. White) ... 1
Ray Singer, b. g., by Hugh Sly—Maud W. (W. J. McDonald) ... 2
Pagan, blk. g., by Worth McKinney (Gifford Hartland) ... 3
Lackawanna, b. f. (E. I. White) ... 4 dis
Time—:32½, :32½, :32½.

Senior League, 2:30 trot, amateur drivers.
Prince Loree, br. s., sire Prince McKinney (Shaw) ... 1 1 1
May Boy, b. g., by Moko—Ringen (W. A. Harriman) ... 2 2 2
Ringola, W. J. McDonald) ... 3 3 3
McKover Girl, ch. m., (McElroy) ... 3 5 4 ro
Moiseko, b. s., Tom White) ... 4 4 5 ro
Time—:32½, :32½, :32½, :32½.

2:14 pace (2 in 3), amateur wagon race.
Silver Gentry, ch. g., sire John R. Gentry (W. A. Harriman) ... 2 1 1
Sweetie F., blk. m., sire Baron Hurst (W. J. McDonald) ... 1 2 2
Ethel Direct, blk. m., by Lord Direct (Forbush) ... dis
Time—:32½, :32½, :32½.

2:14 trot; three heats; purse, $1,200.
Brissac, br. h., by Bingara—Karata (Murphy) ... 1 1 1
Empress of Russia, ch. m. (Murphy) ... 2 2 2
Tregantle King, blk. h. (Tallman) ... 3 3 3
Trust McKinney, b. m. (McDonald) ... 4 4 4
Zombro Rex, b. m. (Tyson) ... 5 5 5
Time—:32½, :32½, :32½.

HOLLYROOD JACK WINS.

Takes Class AA Trot in Straight Heats at Parkway Track.

A. Phillip, piloting Hollyrood Jack, Wilson Reid's fleet bay gelding, carried off the blue ribbon in the Class A A trot at the regular weekly matinee of the Parkway Driving Club yesterday on the Parkway race track. Fort Orange Lad, A. Warner's bay gelding, and Courier Boy, a bay gelding owned and driven by J. P. Kennedy, were second and third respectively. The victorious gelding triumphed in straight heats. The summaries:

Class C, trotting:
Forest J., br. g. (C. J. Feudt) ... 2 1 1
Beroon, b. m. (P. Gibbons) ... 1 2 2
Time—:32½, :32½, :32½.

Class AA, trotting:
Hollyrood Jack, b. g., by Phillip (Wilson Reid) ... 1 1
Fort Orange Lad, b. g. (A. Warner) ... 2 2
Courier Boy, b. g. (J. P. Kennedy) ... 3 3
Time—:32½, :32½.

Class B, trotting:
Nell McLintock, b. m. (J. J. Morris) ... 1 2 1
Brigadier General, blk. h. (J. Platt) ... 3 1 2
Marie Winter, b. g. (Dr. Manning) ... 2 3 3
Time—:32½, :32½, :32½.

Class B, pacing:
Ben B., b. g. (J. Grafton) ... 1 1
Molanda, b. g. (C. Leary) ... 3 2
Andy N. J., b. g. by Whitz (C. Ring) ... 2 3
Time—:32½, :32½.

Questions & Answers

By TOM MAC NULTY

Dear Tom—(1) Does a fielder's choice count a time at bat? (2) Was there a time when a fielder's choice did not count a time at bat? (3) With a man on first base and one out batsman hits a ball over second base. Batsman could have beaten throw if play was made for him, but man on first base was put out going to second base. Is batsman credited with a hit?
M. HOLLAND.

(1) Certainly. (2) Not as far as I can recollect. (3) No.

Dear Tom—Kindly let me know who made Matty and Marquard the pitchers they were when they were going good; also who is the better manager of baseball players, McGraw or Pat Moran? J. A. M.

All a matter of opinion, old top. I prefer not to answer questions of opinion.

Dear Tom—John Warwick says if batsman faces pitcher and receives four balls he is not charged with a time at bat. I, Henry A. Busling, say he is charged with a time at bat. Who is right? H. A. B.

John Warwick is right, old dean.

Dear Tom—Kindly publish in how many consecutive games Jack Ness, now of White Sox, hit while playing on the coast.
S. D. AND L. L.

Forty-five consecutive championship games while playing with Oakland, Pacific Coast League, May 31 to July 21, 1915; 183 times at bat, 81 one base hits, 14 two base hits, 2 three base hits and 7 home runs.

Dear Tom—A bets B $30 to $10 that the New York Giants do not win a double header. They win the first game, but the second is called off. Is it a bet or not?
A CONSTANT READER.

If two games were not played the bet is off.

Dear Tom—Man on first. Batter hits around ball to first baseman. First baseman touches first, then throws ball to second. A says only batter is out because runner is not forced. B says both are out because man must run on batted ball.
S. H.

Force out ceased to exist after out was made on batter at first and runner between first and second had to be touched to be put out. He had privilege of trying to get second or to regain first.

Dear Tom—(1) With what circus is Jess Willard travelling? (2) How much does he get per day?
JOE AND MACK.

(1) Sells-Floto circus. (2) Never asked him.

Dear Tom—Is Longboat, the Indian runner, still living?
E. S. P.

Yes.

Dear Tom—At a local candy store recently a quantity of marshmallows was placed upon a tray and three prizes offered for the ones who would be the nearest to the correct number.

It happened that on the tray there were 318 marshmallows and that the first prize was given to 8 parts who guessed 317; there was a tie for second prize, due to the fact that there were five guesses of 300 and one guess of 298, so the proprietor of the store divided the second prize of one and one-half pound of candy to the six and thirty-six cents of a pound of candy to what he did not to be the third best guess, 400.

Mr. Editor, as what second and third prizes should have been played together and then the two and one-half pounds of candy should have been divided among the six who came nearer second, while the proprietor of the store says that it would not be proper to leave the party who guesses 400 out of the running.

Will you kindly express your opinion?
FRANK J. FITZPATRICK.

The five who guessed 500 and the one who guessed 538 each get one-sixth of the total of second and third prizes; 400 does not figure.

J. C. P.—Unless ruptured or otherwise injured would not advise wearing of bandage, not mention except when exercising or competing.

Dear Tom—Will you please enlighten me as to the score of that twenty four inning game that Jack Quinn pitched in 1906 against the Red Sox?
H. BERMAN.

Philadelphia, 4; Boston, 1.

Dear Tom—A bets B that the home baseball team will win the game providing it goes nine innings. The game is called on account of darkness at the end of the sixth inning. The score is 4 to 3 in favor of home team. Now A claims the bet is won, while B says the bet is off, as it did not go nine innings. Will you please decide?
J. G. F.

If game went five and a half innings A wins.

Dear Tom—Kindly let me know if Johnny Kilbane ever fought a twenty round bout with Patsy Kline of New Jersey.
J. B.

Not a draw. Kilbane and Patsy Kline of Newark—no; Patsy Cline of Harlem—went twenty rounds in Los Angeles in 1911, Kilbane getting the decision. Kilbane knocked out Patsy Cline of Harlem in two rounds.

Dear Tom—A bets B that Freddy Welsh won the championship from Willie Ritchie in 1914 on a foul. B says he won on points.
WILLIAM FORTSANG.

B is right. Welsh won on a referee's decision in dear ol' Lunnon.

Dear Tom—Does a boxer get credit for a K. O. when his opponent for any reason excepting a foul fails to finish bout?
GEORGE AND AL.

Certainly. When boxer quits or is unable to continue opponent is credited with a knockout.

Dear Tom—A bets B that Alexander wins his game. Alexander is taken out in the sixth inning with the score 5 to 2 against him. Another pitcher goes in and wins the game. Does A win his bet?
BASEBALL GEORGE.

I should say bet was off, as Alexander neither wins nor loses.

Dear Tom—Which is the better hand in poker, a color flush or a full house?
J. P. AND S. S.

All flushes are cards of the same color, and a full always beats a flush unless it is a straight flush.

Dear Tom—A lays down the ace, ten, king, jack of diamonds with the queen of hearts for the trump sequence in auction pinochle. When the meld is challenged he produces the queen of diamonds. B bets he cannot correct the meld.
HOBOKEN.

B is wrong. As long as A has the cards he can meld them.

Dear Tom—Playing call ace euchre, can the bidder call on the ace of a suit when he has none of that suit himself? B. B.

Yes. Which suit to call, one you have or have not, is one of the fine points of the game.

Dear Tom—In poker which is the better hand, a royal straight, ace king, queen, jack, ten, or an ace high flush?

A flush will beat any straight, no matter how high it is, unless it is also a flush.

Dear Tom—Playing poker, A has three of a kind and bets a chip. B passes and C calls. On seeing A's hand C tells him to take the pot. An outsider then calls C's attention to the fact that he held a flush. Who wins the pot, A or C?
N. AND J.

There is no pot after C has told A to take it. Players who will not follow the rules of the game and lay all hands in the call face up on the table have themselves to blame if they overlook anything.

Dear Tom—Playing pinochle two hand. A wants 140 to go and B wants 80 when the melds are taken up. A leads a ten, B wins it with an ace and calls out, as he has already taken in 70 in cards, A bets the deal must be played out.
FLETCHER COURT.

A is wrong. In two hand the moment a player calls out the game is ended if he is right he wins; if not he loses.

Dear Tom—Although I am sure a round house or four pairs are worth 240, to convince a friend will you state whether it is 240 or only 220.
SAMMIE.

It is only 220, so your friend can convince you.

Dear Tom—Who won the fight between Irish Patsy Cline and Leo Johnson about three weeks ago?
KID GEIER.

Sun gave it to Cline.

Dear Tom—Can you tell me what paper J. P. Norton is writing for?
ANXIOUS READER.

He was with the Newark *Eagle* until recently. I do not know where he now is.

Dear Tom—A opens a jack pot. B and C stay, but D raises. On the draw, D stands pat, and the three others throw up their hands without a bet. Does D win the pot without betting or showing his hand?
WILLIAM YOUNG.

Certainly he does. There is no one to bet against, and as he did not open the pot he need not show anything.

Dear Tom—Playing auction pinochle, A gets the bid for 240 and wants 180 in cards, but gets only 155, as one of his opponents revoked. Does B forfeit 250 for revoking and A go in the hole for failure to make his bid, or what is the rule?
LEFTY.

There is no fixed fine for the revoke. The player or side in error loses its entire score for cards on that deal, but keeps its melds, as they are not affected by revokes. The bidder cannot be set back, so A scores the 240 he bid, just as if he had made it.

Dear Tom—A bets B that if a champion fighting a ten round bout is knocked out he does not lose his title according to boxing rules. Please state your opinion.
SAM RUTKIN.

He loses his title if knocked out.

Dear Tom—No doubt you don't know but perhaps some reader could tell me who is credited with hitting the longest home run in Van Cortlandt Park. Thanking you very much, Tom, for your help in my securing this information.
D. C. B.

Sorry, old top, I cannot give you the information.

Dear Tom—A bets B that 150 trumps and the round trip is only 360; B bets it is 370. Please explain which is right.
EXEL.

B is right if he is allowed to make the six melds in their right order. One marriage must be lost. A loses the trump marriage, B loses only a 20.

Dear Tom—Three hand pinochle, if the round trip is worth only 220 which king or queen would be needed in addition to make it 240?
H. KINDLER.

Any extra king or queen in plain suits could be used to make it 20 more. An extra trump would make it 40 more, or 260; but if it were a king the 60 queens would have to be melded first instead of the 80 kings. Then the lost marriage when 80 kings were scored could be made up with the extra king.

Dear Tom—Who is the fastest man going down to first and on the bases, Ty Cobb of Detroit or George Sisler of St. Louis Americans?
P. M.

Cobb.

Dear Tom—Kindly let me know the address of Mike Donlin, formerly of the New York Giants.
H. CARACCIOLO.

Mike Donlin, Hotel Braddock, N. Y.

Dear Tom—When two games are played, one being a scheduled and the other a postponed one, which is played first?
J. C.

The scheduled game.

Dear Tom—To settle an argument in a game of casino is this play permissible: A holds two aces, a four and a five, there being a trey on the table. A builds it to four. No one taking it, A puts on the other ace and takes it in.
A. T. H.

A's play is correct. As long as he has the card to take in the builds he makes he can make as many as he likes.

Dear Tom—A deuce on the table is built to five by A. On the next play A puts the five down, but instead of taking in the build calls it a ten. B bets this cannot be done.
J. B.

B is wrong. A could have taken in either build.

Dear Tom—Was Kid Williams bantamweight champion ever knocked out by George Chaney of Baltimore?
T. W.

No.

Dear Tom—In reply to interested Query about pronouncing Kocher, name of the catcher on the Giants, I wish to say that I know Mr. Kocher personally and also that he does not pronounce his name Coucher as you say, but Cokker.
A FAN.

Thank you.

Dear Tom—In a poker game, no previous agreement as to splitting openers, A has jacks, splits to make a straight and puts the discarded jack in the middle of the table. This is picked up and mixed with the discards. B has aces, but is bluffed by A's one card draw and refuses to call. A has not made the straight and cannot produce the other jack.
H. J. S.

A should have protected his discard. The modern rules require it to be placed under the chips in the pool and not to be disturbed for any purpose until the opener's hand is shown. As A did not protect his discard he must suffer for his carelessness, just as if he had discarded wrongly in an ordinary hand. The pot remains to be played for on the next deal.

Dear Tom—What is the batting average of Benny Kauff of the New York Nationals? Also state how many games Joe Bush of the Athletics won this season.
A CONSTANT READER.

See SUNDAY'S SUN. The averages appear in THE SUN each Sunday.

Dear Tom—C and N are on the putting green. Before N putts C says, "We are going alike." N takes three putts and C goes down in 4 and claims the hole. As a matter of fact, C had played five strokes and N four when the statement was made. N claimed the hole under Section 2, Rule 4 of Alexander Taylor & Co., Inc., Golf Rules. C disputes and the matter is left to you for determination.
J. M.

The penalty for misinforming your opponent is the loss of the hole. N wins.

Dear Tom—A bets the four kings and queens can be laid down at one time for 320 in two hand pinochle.
CONSTANT READER.

A is wrong. There must be a trick won before each of the five melds and one of each must be made before drawing from the stock. In bezique, which is very much like pinochle, the player may lay down the eight cards, score 80 kings and announce the scores that are still to be made, but he does not lay them until he wins a trick for each.

Dear Tom—Do you know of any athletic club having moderate dues and situate in The Bronx which is open for a new member? I am 17 years of age and am very interested in all branches of sports, especially basketball, which I have played a good deal.
BOBBY.

Try the Mohawk A. C., Bronx Church House or Pastime A. C.; three excellent athletic organizations in The Bronx.

Dear Tom—Playing pinochle two hand A lays down 80 kings, wins a trick and marries one king, wins another trick and lays down three more queens for 120. Is this correct?
HUDSON TERMINAL.

No, it is only 60 queens. The other marriages are lost, as they were not made first.

Dear Tom—Your information regarding Jack Leary is just a bit out of true. You made a mistake in one word. Leary is playing in the American, not the Southern Association, having played first base and catch for the Indianapolis team since the A. A. season began. Up this way we are all proud of Leary and his glowing work with the Utica team and we doubt that his friends should know where he is so as to get a full line on him.
PAT C.

Thank's, Pat, very much. Wurra! Wurra! An' how did I loose track of as foine a harp as Leary?

TITLE HOLDER SETS WEIGHT FOR BOUT

No Recognized Poundage Accepted Now Among American Boxers.

WELSH FOUGHT AT 135

By CROSS COUNTER.

Some very hard jolts were registered during the Labor Day bouts, but by far the most jarring was that received by the assertive gentlemen who insist that there is an authoritative scale of weights in America, and that those who do not conform to them cannot be regarded as legitimate members of the classes they assume to represent.

The scale of weights dogmatically set forth by these oracular persons is 116 pounds for bantams, 122 for featherweights, 133 for lightweights and 158 for middleweights. It is declared that these weights must be made at ringside, or the contests cannot be regarded as championship in character.

Then came the match between Freddie Welsh, world's lightweight champion, and Charlie White, challenger, the weight being officially 135 pounds six hours before ringtime.

Even the loudest contenders for the 133 limit admitted that the bout between Welsh and White was for the lightweight championship of the world, and every man jack conceded that Welsh had been successful in retaining his title.

133 Pounds Not Governing Weight.

Therefore, if the bout was for the title, then it becomes evident that 133 pounds ringside is not the governing weight in America, and that a championship bout may be boxed at the weight set by the title holder.

It is of interest to point out that 133 pounds six hours before ring time is the official limit of the lightweight class of England, Australia and France, the only countries where official weights set by authoritative organizations are enforced.

So far as America is concerned there never has been an organization with authority to name the weights in the different classes. This has been done by the champions, who have set the poundage at figures suitable to their own physical requirements.

Here Are the Figures.

In order to provide facts and figures for the guidance of the assertive gentlemen, I herewith submit the weights at which a majority of the battles for the lightweight title were contested:

McAuliffe-Myers, 137; a majority of McAuliffe's bouts at 133.

Lavigne-Runge, world's title, 136.

Lavigne-Erne, world's title, 135 at 3 P. M.

Erne-Gans, world's title, 136 at 7 P. M.

Gans-Nelson, world's title, 131½.

Nelson-Wolgast, world's title, 133 ringside.

Wolgast-Ritchie, world's title, 133 ringside.

Ritchie-Welsh, world's title, 135 six hours before ring time.

Welsh-White, world's title, 135 six hours before ring time.

Which goes to prove that out of nine bouts for the lightweight title two have been contested at the much talked of 133 ringside.

Gans Signed for 133 Lbs. Ringside.

It is true that Joe Gans signed articles with Nelson calling for 133 ringside, but Nolan and Nelson compelled the champion to weigh with trunks and shoes on, making his actual weight 131½ pounds. Nelson was a little chap and could easily make 130 pounds.

The fact that Kilbane and Chaney boxed at 122 ringside affords cold comfort to the upholders of the alleged scale of weights. Kilbane finds 122 easy to make, and he rightfully thought that Chaney would be weak at the poundage. If Kilbane could not make 122 he would change the weight in a hurry.

The unanswerable precedent established by the battles in the lightweight class applies with equal force to the other classes, and the supporters of the scale have not a leg to stand on.

McAuliffe Grieves.

Low moans heard in the direction of Brooklyn were identified as issuing from Jack McAuliffe, formerly lightweight champion of America, who was grieving over the passing of "the good old days" of pugilism. This member of the Three Jacks bewailed in anguished tones the changed conditions in boxing.

"No more," he murmured, "the bare fist fights in which two men pounded each other till one or the other was left senseless on the grass. No more the small glove fights with the fingers cut off kid gloves."

McAuliffe adds that all the excitement has been taken out of boxing by modern methods and that the sport has been commercialized to death. He points out that there were no purses in his day, that it took the principals three months to prepare for a battle, and then fought for a side stake, the winner taking all.

McAuliffe most decidedly does not like the present day methods and expresses the fear that the boxers and managers will kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

Far From Perfect Now.

Let Mr. McAuliffe dry his tears. The boxing game at present is by no means perfect, but it is steadily improving and will doubtless take its place in a few years with the leading rough sports of the world. One of the surest indications of improvement is the almost complete obliteration of all the atrocities that marred the game in the "good old days" when McAuliffe was in his prime.

No more do fighters enter the ring with bare hands or skin tight gloves and mangle each other so they are unrecognizable.

No more do the partisans of a favored fighter cut the ring ropes and, entering the enclosure, beat a victorious boxer with clubs till he is glad to beat a retreat.

No more are drugs introduced into the water bottle of a winning boxer, a practice that was common in "the good old days."

Bouts Decided on Merits.

In fact, the pet slogan of "the good old days," which was "win, tie or wrangle," has been thrown into the discard, and fully 90 per cent. of modern bouts are decided strictly on the merits of the contestants.

Therefore, McAuliffe should cheer up and look on the bright side of things.

It is true that boxing has changed but all for the better, and there is not the slightest occasion for any of the old London rule fighters to indulge in grief over the present conditions.

FITZGERALD AGAIN FIT.

Justin Fitzgerald, [illegible] the game to [illegible] for duty again with the [illegible] but he will [illegible] much use [illegible] front now.