

Pacific Sports

Once again the Amateur Athletic Union of America is facing the challenges of small organizations as to how and why the American amateur governing body takes unto itself the jurisdiction of and the protection of amateurs. At the present time a "war baby" organization, known as the "American Industrial Athletic Association" takes issue with the A. A. U. on the question of jurisdiction over the amateurs.

Since the early days when the late Jim Sullivan organized the A. A. U. this body has always been the butt of small organizations which questioned the right of the American amateur body to place itself in the position of being the "czar" of ama-

teurism in this country. The Industrial organization takes the stand that its amateurs are just as good amateurs as the A. A. U. men, and therefore are eligible to compete in the Olympic games.

The "war baby" organization, however, does not take into consideration the fact that the A. A. U. is publicly recognized throughout the world; that it is the legitimate parent of amateurism. It does not know that the American A. A. U. is just one of a chain of A. A. U.'s throughout the world which come together in a common world federation for the upholding of the amateur principles; nor does it know that only members of the world A. A. U.'s are the only men eligible to participate in Olympic games, due to the written contracts of all countries of the world to this effect.

It is granted that the A. A. U.



The
VALLEY OF THE GIANTS

By
PETER B. KYNE
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makes mistakes. All big organizations or corporations do that many times, but the A. A. U. is ready to accept the "war baby" organization as one of its affiliated branches if the latter will comply with the laws of amateurism as laid down by the nations of the world. The "Industrial Athletic Association" can gain membership by the simple act of making such application, and thus place its athletes in line for selection for the Olympic games team.

The Industrial association idea is growing. Branches of the governing body have been formed in San Francisco, Cal.; Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Ore.

San Francisco, March 23.—The English code of Rugby football that once held pride of place in California and Nevada universities and schools is the center of a big fight in that the local board of education has ruled that the foreign game be continued as the major football of the high schools. No other schools in California are playing the game, and football followers are making a determined fight to have it eliminated and the American code put back on its old pedestal. The students of all the city schools have voted for the American game and are against playing the Rugby code. George Spaulding of the Olympic club is heading a movement to restore the game in the schools and a big delegation is to wait on the mayor of San Francisco at an early date to discuss the question.

Portland, Ore., March 23.—For the first time in the history of amateur boxing on this coast the best boxers of Oregon and California will contest for national honors at Boston next month. The Multnomah club is figuring on sending one or two men East and special trials will be held at the club to determine on the men. Word has been received from San Francisco by Fred Carlton, manager of the Multnomah club, that the

Olympic club is sending two men East in charge of Frank Foster, the club coach. Jimmy Dunning, one of the cleverest 108 pounders that has ever stepped into the amateur ring in the Golden State, has already been selected and another boy will be named to leave for the East on March 28. Los Angeles Athletic club is sending a fast welterweight in Joe Farquhar. These boys, with whatever boys the Multnomah club decides on, should make a good showing as Coast representatives. The winners of the Boston events will be named to go to Stockholm as American representatives for the Olympic games.

Followers of wrestling are inclined to the belief that Joe Stecher is destined to hold the heavyweight wrestling championship of the world for some time to come. There are few who dispute his claim to the title made vacant through the death of Frank Gotch. His two most formidable rivals in the mat game are Earl Caddock and Strangler Lewis, and Stecher has shown conclusively that he is the master of this pair.

No mat man in the memory of wrestling fans ever has been a more expert exponent of the scissors hold than Stecher and his application of this hold is a deadly one which, once firmly clamped on an opponent, spells the beginning of the end. He has a tremendous power in his legs and to get in their vise-like grip is not far removed from being in the coils of a boa-constrictor. The pain that he is able to inflict is shown on the faces of the men unfortunate enough to become his victims.

Caddock is credited with a victory over Stecher but at the time this was achieved the former already was a veteran at the game and at the height of his prowess while Stecher was little more than a novice at the game.

Lewis lacks the size and weight ever to be a formidable opponent for Stecher and his headlock hold is the only really dangerous hold that he has. It so happens that the conform-

ation of Stecher's head is such that Lewis has found he has been unable to make this headlock "stick" even after he has been able to apply it on Stecher. This is because the champion's head is comparatively small and obloid so that he is able to slip out of the grasp.

It must not be inferred that neither Lewis or Caddock ever will beat Stecher. It is possible at any time but unlikely. Stecher probably could dispose of either man three out of four times. If the ratio were only two out of three it would be sufficient to prove Stecher to be the best man of the three.

Of the other heavyweights that stand a remote chance against the champion is Wladek Zbyszko, the Pole, but followers of wrestling are convinced that he practically is out of the running. While the Pole is rated by many as the strongest man physically of the quartet, he does not possess the versatility or the powers of quick thinking which are a part of the champion's repertoire.

Oakland, Cal., March 23.—Those who witnessed the recent bout between Frankie Burns of Oakland and Joe Azavedo of Sacramento at the Oakland Auditorium, which ended in a four-round draw, harked back to the days a few years ago when both of these boxers were thought by many to have a splendid chance eventually of reaching the pinnacle of ring fame. Both were fast, clever boys, and were able to hold their own with the best of them.

It was Azavedo who finally put the skids under Ad Wolgast. To be sure,

Wolgast already had lost his title to Ritchie, but the Dutchman was in hopes of rehabilitating himself at the expense of Azavedo, who then was regarded as a comer. Wolgast failed miserably.

The main drawback to the progress of Burns was the fact that he was lacking a punch in either hand, and there were some who were of the opinion that the Oaklander was lacking in the necessary courage to carry him up to the heights. The combination of the two doubtless kept him from ranking among the top-notchers.

In this last meeting between the men, neither showed anything of the old-time form which caused fans to predict their rapid rise to fame. The bout was a dismal hugging mitch in which neither did any execution. Burns, notable chiefly for his left, which he used to work with piston-like regularity to the face of an opponent with a view to wearing him down, evidently had forgotten that he ever had possessed this asset.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bowman of this city enjoyed a short visit over Sunday from their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright of Tacoma.

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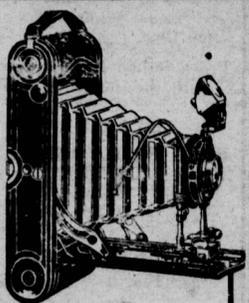
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