

# Sporting and Athletic News

## HARBERTSON'S FRIENDS COME TO HIS DEFENSE AS A WRESTLER

(Continued from Page 2)

Warren C. Binford.—"The Ogdien Standard—I wish to make the following voluntary statement which I would appreciate very much if you would print in your paper:

"The writer was a ringside witness of the Harbertson-Brown match took place at the Alhambra theatre on the evening of the 16th, and will say that the decision of the referee Ben Petre was absolutely fair and impartial, if he hadn't awarded the decision to Mr. Harbertson, and stopped the brutal exhibition on the part of Mr. Brown, I am satisfied the police would have ordered it stopped as I was beside two of the city officers.

"From my position I could see Brown continually jabbing Harbertson with his fingers wherever he was fortunate enough to procure a hold about the lips, nose or eyes, and twice saw him hunch his fingers up his nostrils.

"I think Mr. Harbertson deserves the highest credit for holding himself enough to give the referee an opportunity to endeavor to get Brown to wrestle on the level, but it was plainly evident that Brown wished to lose the match in that way.

"Trusting the wrestling fans that were in a position to see are a fair-minded bunch, and want to see fair play given to the one who tried to give you a good exhibition the other evening, I write this to contradict some of the 'red journalism' which we are so unfortunate as to have in Ogdien. Very respectfully,

(Signed) "WARREN C. BINFORD," "Manager Binford Motor Co." G. O. Loomis.

"As a ringside spectator of the Brown-Harbertson wrestling match, in my opinion the decision of Mr. Ben Petre, in awarding the match to Mr. Harbertson, on the ground of employing rough tactics, he was correct. I think the insinuating reference in a morning paper, in regard to the last three matches staged in Ogdien, is unjustified, and should be classified as 'Small Town Stuff.' I remain an admirer of Jack Harbertson and his principles. Yours truly,

(Signed) "G. O. LOOMIS," "Curtis Allison."

"The Ogdien Standard, Gentlemen:—When asked the question in regard to the referee's decision in the Brown-Harbertson wrestling match, will say that he was perfectly justified in awarding the match to Harbertson on a foul. I was a spectator at the ring side and saw gouging and hitting on the part of Brown both before Brown had been cautioned and after, and in my opinion the referee could do nothing else after warning Brown several times and giving him an opportunity to stop rough foul methods.

(Signed) "CURTIS ALLISON," "Harry Hales."

"I witnessed the Brown-Harbertson wrestling match at the Alhambra theatre on Tuesday evening, and occupied a position sufficiently near the ring to clearly see what was going on. I saw Brown repeatedly hit Harbertson in the face with his head and use his elbows and fingers in, not only a rough, but foul manner upon Harbertson's head and face. I am firmly convinced that Brown started the unfair methods used and that he persisted in such foul tactics although repeatedly warned by the referee. If gouging an opponent in the face with the fingers and butting with the head is foul tactics, then Brown certainly fouled Harbertson time and again during the match.

(Signed) "HARRY HALES," "J. H. Riley."

"I viewed the match from the center loge. The rough work was started by Brown and continued by him after being warned repeatedly by the referee. He struck Harbertson with his fist whenever opportunity offered.

"My opinion is that when Brown found that he could not win by fair means he meant to win by dirty work.

(Signed) "J. H. RILEY," "Cashier Pingree National Bank."

"I had an unobstructed view of the Harbertson and Brown wrestling match, and no decision other than that rendered could have been justifiable. Harbertson wrestled fair. Brown broke the rules governing the art of wrestling by gouging and butting. Harbertson could have been as rough as Brown, but he would have taken a chance to loose the championship which he won fairly.

"And as to Brown's claiming the championship he was given the deci-

sion over Yokel while Yokel lay unconscious outside of the ropes where Brown had thrown him. Brown lost any claim he may have had to the championship by continually fouling Harbertson after being warned several times.

"Harbertson is entitled to the support of every fair minded lover of good clean wrestling.

(Signed) "F. A. DODGE," "Dr. S. E. Greene, A. B. Petterson, W. D. Ellis, Wm. H. Anderson and J. S. Young outside Brown repeatedly fouled Harbertson."

SIGNED ARTICLE BY JOS. P. CASEY.

"I have had a great deal to do with the wrestling game in the past two years—not for any financial gain I might derive from it, but because I like the sport, and was interested with other good men of Ogdien in helping Jack Harbertson, an Ogdien boy, to work his way to the top as a middleweight, a place to which I still think he is clearly and honestly entitled. And in these two years I have found Jack Harbertson square as a die and I do not believe he has been a party to any agreement to defraud promoters or the public. The charges that have been made since the regrettable ending of the Brown-Harbertson match are of a rather serious nature, as they reflect on the character and honesty of the men involved. It has been charged that the last three matches staged at the Alhambra theatre were 'frame-ups,' which is as much as to say it was fixed in advance for Harbertson to win. Parties making such serious charges should in fairness to the promoters and all concerned furnish the proof. This much is due the sporting public who paid good prices to see these matches. I assisted Ziemer and Ed. Skinner in arranging the Yokel-Harbertson match. I was present when the articles were signed and looked after Jack Harbertson's interests. I think I know all the details of that match and Harbertson won because he is a superior wrestler. I was present when the articles were signed for the last Harbertson-Clapham match and I am sure that there was nothing 'fixed' and that Harbertson won on merit.

I worked with the Alhambra Theater Company in the plans to bring Brown to Ogdien, and I managed the financial end of that match for Jack Harbertson. Brown was offered a cash guarantee of \$1250 and two round-trip tickets from Taylor, Texas, to Ogdien, which was the same as a \$1500 guarantee to come to Ogdien in April. He refused to give Harbertson the first match in Utah at any price and wrestled Mike Yokel in Salt Lake on April 14. That match went three hours and forty-five minutes to a draw, the police stopping the match, and Brown received probably \$300 for his share of the receipts. After that experience he decided to accept the \$1500 guarantee of the Alhambra Theater Company to meet Harbertson in Ogdien. For a long time he insisted that the money be paid to him as soon as he stepped in the ring. In fact, his manager, J. M. Forwood, drew up articles to that effect. He was finally induced to sign articles with the guarantee placed in the hands of T. Samuel Browning to be paid to Brown, win, lose or draw, at the end of the match. After the articles were signed, Brown, instead of coming to Ogdien to train and helping the promoters by his presence in the city, went on a meat-ticket wrestling tour. He lost a handicap to Walter Miller at Billings and another handicap to Davy Jones at Mad. Then he established his camp in Salt Lake and did not come to Ogdien until the day of the match.

"As I said before, I handled the financial end of that match for Harbertson and I know it was on the square as far as Jack and the promoters are concerned. The original articles drawn up by J. M. Forwood, Brown's manager, specified that Will Thornton should be the referee. Harbertson would not agree to this and, while Brown and his manager were in Billings, Harry Heagren, who was authorized to act for them, signed articles that contained the following clause on the selection of a referee.

"It is agreed that in case the two wrestlers cannot agree on a referee two days before the match a referee shall be named by the sporting editors of the two Ogdien newspapers." Brown made a false statement last Tuesday night when he said he had been promised a list of men named by Harbertson from which to select a referee and that the list was not given to him. The day before the referee was chosen I called his manager, J.

M. Forwood, and told him Harbertson named Jack Childs as his choice and had named no other men. I asked Forwood to suggest names of men that he would choose as referee. He refused to consider Jack Childs, and would not offer a substitute when the time for the wrestlers to choose a referee had expired. Ernest Spencer of the Ogdien Examiner, and Alonzo West of the Ogdien Standard, selected Ben Petre, the man who refereed the Yokel-Harbertson match, and, according to the articles of agreement, both wrestlers had no recourse from the sport writers' selection. Petre's reputation as a man and as a referee will bear the light of day. He lives at Green River, Wyoming, and has never been accused of crooked work by those who know him. When Brown found out that the newspaper's selection was binding, he at first refused to keep his part of the contract, but he wanted that \$1500 and agreed to wrestle if his manager was permitted to name two judges to act with the referee. This was agreed to and Ben Harker and Hyrum Lammers were the judges.

"It is not necessary at this time to discuss the details of the exhibition staged at the Alhambra Tuesday night. Fair minded and unbiased persons will agree that Brown apparently made up his mind to have the bout stopped by the police or else lose on a foul. He did lose on a series of fouls and with it he lost all his claims to the championship for the articles clearly specified that it was to be a world's championship match, provided Harbertson made the weight of 158 pounds, which he did.

"That is the extent of the 'frame-up' as seen from the inside and Jack Harbertson still has plenty of good friends in his home town who are not going to play in with Salt Lake by making false accusations against him.

(Signed) "JAMES P. CASEY," "T. Earl Pardee."

"Editor Standard.—It is certainly a great surprise to me that there could be any opinion adverse to the decision given by Referee Ben Petre at the Brown-Harbertson wrestling match. Anyone who has had experience in the wrestling game, knows that it is no pink-tea affair and that very few things are barred, but deliberate striking with the fist is certainly against the rules, literally and from any sport viewpoint. Mr. Brown avoided striking Harbertson on Harker's side, but three times in view of all on the south side of the mat, his clenched fist came into most striking evidence. Sticking the finger in the eye may be accidental once, but several times is enough to show that it was decidedly intentional.

"Nothing would have given us more pleasure than to have seen the match on the basis of legitimate wrestling. In actual wrestling, Mr. Harbertson showed the only rear aggression.

"No one doubts Brown's ability, but he knew Jack had a bigger knowledge of the game. Why Brown disobeyed instructions, only Brown knows. He would have made many friends had he remained a gentlemanly sport. Sincerely yours,

(Signed) "T. EARL PARDEE," "WILL PUT TO END UNEVEN MATCHES"

## JAY GOULD HAS GREAT RECORD

### Court Tennis Champion of America Was Proficient Player at Age of Seventeen—Still Winning at Game.

New York, May 20.—Champions may come and champions may go, but, like the proverbial brook, Jay Gould on forever, winning the court tennis championship of America.

Eleven times in as many years has Gould defeated the finest amateur exponents of court tennis in this country on three occasions he captured the English amateur title, in 1908 was victorious in the Olympic games matches in London, and two seasons ago he performed the miraculous feat of defeating George Covey, the English professional, for the world's open championship.

At the age of seventeen, Gould, a mere youth, of slight frame and bearing and none of the distinguishing marks of great athletes, first took the American honors away from Joshua Crane, of Boston, and since that time he has gradually widened the gap existing between himself and all of the other great players of the world, until now, in his prime as an athlete, he stands so far above all amateur and professional players that his constant winning of championship is a foregone conclusion.

Followers of all kinds of athletics, men who have excelled in many ways, credit Gould with being the greater athlete in the world in that he surpasses all his rivals in his own sport to a far greater extent than does any other champion of the world.

As a mere boy, George Gould, the father of the champion, took from his work in the New York Tennis and Racquet club, Frank Forester, a professional, then a youth of unusual court tennis ability, and turned his young son Jay into his hands to be developed into court tennis star.

The combination of Gould's will, his stamina, quick mind and love of all forms of athletics and Forester's enthusiasm knowledge of the game and ability as a player, made the development of the young millionaire a matter of great speed. At the age of seventeen he had become so proficient that when he entered the national championships he was able to take the measure of Joshua Crane, then a remarkable player, and even now Gould's greatest rival among American amateurs.

Fired with his success, Gould went abroad that season and captured the English amateur title.

To cap the climax of his brilliant career, Gould met Fred Covey, the English professional champion, in a match at the Philadelphia Racquet club, in March 1914, for the open court tennis championship of the world. Gould was at the top of the form, and astounded the tennis world, only a few of his friends believing he could so easily master such a famous professional. Covey was a baby in his hands, and Gould allowed him only one set in the match.

Gould has the "railroad" service and all others down to perfection; is the finest position player the game has ever known, is cool as the proverbial "ice," has no weakness in his backhand, a remarkable fact, and has a cut and spin to the ball the like of which no American amateur has ever achieved.

As a double player he loses nothing of his brilliance. Playing with William H. T. Huhn, of the Racquet club, he has helped his team into a number of national championships.

He is a keen lover of baseball, played the game during his undergraduate days at Columbia University, follows the sport closely, and never tires talking of the game. He is equally fond of motor cars, knows them thoroughly as only an expert can, and gives considerable of his time to the subject. He also has a leaning toward high-class dogs.

He has been playing a certain amount of racquets during the years he has been a court tennis champion, but the time he has been forced to give to his greatest game has prevented him from becoming a great racquet player, though at the latter game he has developed a considerable amount of ability. He also plays better than the usual game of lawn tennis.

On the face of it, there does not seem to be any reason, why Gould should be separated from his championship title for many years to come.

### TENER THINKS HIS MEN ARE CLASSY

New York, May 20.—President John M. Tener, of the National League, advances the opinion that the short-stops

of his circuit are in a class by themselves.

"Individually or collectively, the National Leaguers are far beyond anything in the American League," said the old league executive. "But that isn't anything really new. The National always has been superior to the American in the short-stopping end of the game."

"The American League hasn't a man in Bancroft's class as a fielder. He appeals to me as one of the greatest short-stops the game has produced. And he hasn't reached the crest yet. Then there are Maranville of the Braves, Herzog of the Reds, Fletcher of the Glants, Wagner of the Pirates and Olson of the Dodgers."

The second was an uneven battle between Blackie Mallon and Alias Charlie Chaplin of Ogdien. Mallon being awarded the bout in the second round, while Chaplin was still able to choose some other profession.

Eddie Murphy of Denver went into his bout with Frankie Richie of Salt Lake, without being properly conditioned to battle with the hard hitting boy from the city on the south. He stayed two rounds that were interesting all the way, but Richie got to him in the third and was given the

decision. In the general opinion of the big crowd of fans that saw the bouts last night, two or three even rounds are better than four uneven, and the program as conducted under the direction of Matchmaker Dallas was approved.

### GOTCH MAY NEVER WRESTLE STECHER

Chicago, May 20.—Frank Gotch may never wrestle Joe Stecher. The world's champion is in Chicago consulting a specialist in stomach troubles and he is in bad shape physically. He says he will never go into the ring unless he is in perfect shape, which now seems improbable.

Gotch has been unable to retain food and for several weeks he has been losing weight steadily. He is now

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## A SAVINGS ACCOUNT IS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

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## WILLIE BYRNE PROVES TO BE A FIGHTER OF CLASS

Eddie Dallas, matchmaker of the Elite Athletic club, put over a winner last night when he sent Willie Byrne of Oakland against Jimmie Johns of Ogdien for four rounds. These two featherweights battled to a draw, both being strong at the finish, and the decision of Referee Bert Herrick met with popular approval. Byrne, hitherto unknown locally except for Dallas' introduction, wears the Olympic club colors and his staying with Johns for the period scheduled was sufficient to recommend him to the favor of the local fans. He is a clever boxer for his years and, though punished considerably in two rounds by the local "pride," he returned some of John's stiff jabs with sufficient force to draw the claret and a hard swing that landed over his opponent's left kidney, showed that fighter up perceptibly for several seconds.

Johns fought his usual strong battle and appeared able to win from the Oakland lad in a longer fight.

"Kid" Davis, one of the favorite local welterweights now traveling under the name of Jimmie Hayes, for the reason, he says, that a couple of other "Kid" Davies in this part of the country are losing battles and spoiling his reputation, assisted Buss Boyle, also of Ogdien, in staging what appeared to be a wrestling match by rounds. Neither were up to their old form, Davis having been out of the game for a couple of months on account of an injured nose. In his brief training period, however, he has developed a noticeably stronger punch and "if" one of his swings last night,

## PIERCE'S

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### PIERCE'S

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