

# It Often Takes Ten Years to Make a Champion, But Ten Seconds Will Break Him

# CALLS OFF FIGHT OF RITCHIE

## RITCHIE GETS NOLAN AS HIS MANAGER BUT PLAYS IN HARD LUCK

This is the fifteenth of a series of stories of the life and battles of Lightweight Champion Willie Ritchie, written exclusively for The Call.

By WILLIE RITCHIE

Before departing from Los Angeles I was approached by Billy Nolan, who made the trip to the south to witness the Wolgast-Rivers battle and also to discuss a business proposition with me. Nolan did not admit this at the time, but from what I have learned since I feel convinced that he started out on my trail after reading how I beat Mandot.

We had a long conference, in which Nolan told me how I needed a manager and how he would be in a position to bring me to the front. I had a great deal of respect for him, having read of how successful he was in getting so much money for Battling Nelson.

"Willie," he said to me, "I believe that you have the makings of the lightweight champion of the world in you, but you need somebody to boost you to the front. I think I am the man, and I would like the job."

"I am not ready to talk business with you right now, Mr. Nolan," I answered, "but I will think the matter over and give you an answer when I get back home. I know that I have lots to learn about the game."

Nolan's proposition sounded good to me, and I thought it over for several days after I arrived in San Francisco. He called on me a couple of times and we talked the matter over, but I still decided that I would hold out a while longer before signing up with him.

### SIGNS UP WITH BILLY NOLAN

I was a bit disappointed because there were no big matches in sight for me. I thought, after beating Mandot, that I would be able to land a 20 round event in my home town. But there seemed to be nothing in sight, for the talent was scarce then and the promoters were not at all anxious to warm up to me. No wonder I felt gloomy.

The only match in sight was a four round affair with my old rival, One Round Hogan. He had come down off his high horse after taking a few beatings around New York, and he seemed willing enough to accept a match with me over the four round route. As I wanted to keep busy, I signed to meet him; but we never fought.

I worked for a week and was in condition to give my old friends a surprise. But hard luck operated against me. Hogan was taken ill on the day of the fight, and the match had to be called off.

A few days later I had another talk with Nolan and this time we came to terms. He was to be my manager—the first one I ever had. I liked his line of talk, and I felt confident that he would be able to send me to the front, and perhaps get me a match with Wolgast.

But there were no big ones in sight, so we got our heads together and accepted an offer from Promoter Jim Coffroth to box 20 rounds with Hogan in August, the following month.

### CALLS OFF MATCH WITH HOGAN

Once more the old hard luck tale had to be told, and this time the jinx was that I suffered a great rain in my left eye which started to train. This was the result of an injury which I suffered in my first battle with Wolgast, several months before.

I called upon a doctor and had the injured wrist put in a plaster cast immediately. He warned me not to attempt to use it for at least six weeks and told me that I might cripple myself for the balance of my life and ruin my ring career. I told him that I had a match on for the following month, and he replied that if I took a chance I certainly would be beaten and perhaps never fight again.

This talk frightened me, and I went to Nolan with my tale of woe and my hand in a plaster cast. Nolan did not hesitate a moment in telling me to call the match off, although I objected.

"You do as I tell you, Willie," he said. "Never mind what stories they start to tell about you. Let them call you a coward, and everything else. But keep that plaster cast on and come up to my ranch. I never will forget how I hated to face Coffroth and inform him that the match with Hogan was off. But I simply had to do it. There was no other way out, so I went right ahead and told a straight-forward story to the promoter, who was in no one too cheerful a mood.

### CALLED A COWARD BY FANS

He raged and stormed and accused me of being afraid of Hogan. He told me that if I had a match with him I would never would get another chance for a big match here. Coffroth tried every means to persuade me to take a chance, but I stood pat and obeyed the orders of my manager and my doctor, although I was just crazy to fight Hogan.

Then they started in on me. They called me a quitter, a coward, and said that I was lucky to stay four rounds with Wolgast and that I was something about my fight with Mandot. I certainly got a beautiful panhandling all along the line, and for a while I came to the conclusion that I had very few friends left in the world.

"Let them roast you and call you all the names they want," said Nolan. "I will stand by you. Just come up to my ranch in Lake County and take a good rest. Then we can talk business again."

When I look back, I always thank my lucky stars that I did as Nolan told me. My hand pained me more and more every day, but I did not dare take the plaster cast off. I felt worried, but I realized that if I did meet Hogan then he would beat me, and then I would be a dead one.

Nolan and I went up to his ranch a few days after I had called off the match with my old rival. We departed very quietly, for nobody seemed to pay much attention to us, for we were in the discard.

I just laid around Nolan's ranch for six weeks, taking my things easy and building up. I used to tramp all the country and take long horseback rides, but I dared not use my injured hand, and therefore did no boxing nor gymnasium work. However, I felt that the outdoor life was just the thing for me, for I felt strong and active.

The next chapter of the life of the lightweight champion will appear in Saturday's Call.

### McGoorty and Smith Toe the Scratch in Australia Tomorrow

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Although Eddie McGoorty, the American boxer, will meet Dave Smith in Sydney, N. S. W., in a 20 round bout tomorrow, boxing day, the result will be known in this city late tonight. This battle will be limited to 20 rounds, and with the result goes the title of lightweight champion of Australia, according to pugilistic authorities in Australia. Smith recently whipped Bill Lang for this title, the former weighing only 162 1/2 lbs.

This will be McGoorty's first fight in Australia. The men will meet at catchweights. In their first meeting McGoorty won from Smith by a knockout in the first round.

Word was received here from Paris yesterday that Georges Carpentier probably will be matched to box Joe Jeannette there some time next month. The Frenchman apparently does not care for Langford's game.

### Seattle Scribe Gets Statistician's Job

PORTLAND, Dec. 25.—Portus Baxter, sporting editor of a Seattle newspaper, will be official statistician of the Northwestern league in 1914. Fielder A. Jones, president of the league, made this appointment known yesterday.

### New Mogul at Head of Boston Red Sox

BOSTON, Dec. 25.—Joseph J. Lannin of New York and this city was elected president of the Boston American league baseball club today. He succeeds James R. McAleer of Youngstown, O., whose interests, together with those of Chicago men, Lannin recently acquired.

### Racing Motor Boats Will Be Tried Out in the Windy City

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Elimination races to pick the American challenger for the Harnsworth trophy, emblematic of the motorboat championship of the world, will be held in Chicago next summer. H. H. Melville, commodore of the Motorboat Club of America, so announced yesterday.

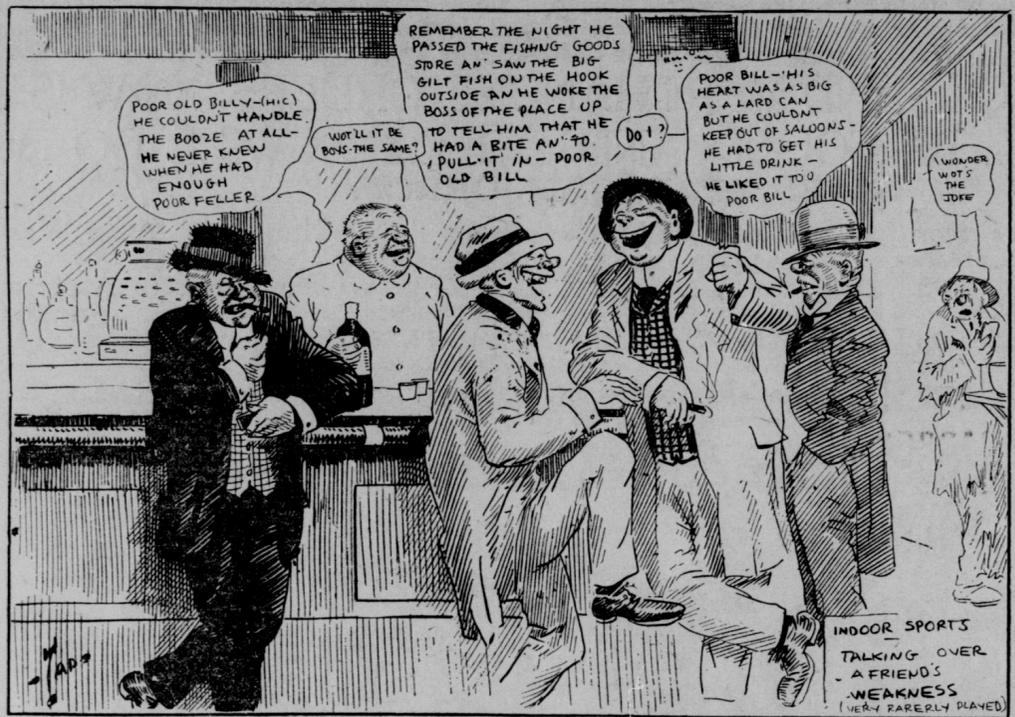
He held the races were awarded to this city in recognition of the advances in motorboating made by the west. It is probable the races will be held in July. Commodore Melville will leave December 31 for England to carry the formal challenge for the Harnsworth trophy.

James A. Pugh, who entered his Distinct in weight, in the Harnsworth races last fall, is planning a new 40 footer to be driven by two engines of 500 horsepower each, the most powerful ever placed in a small boat.

### Mighty Reliance Is Destined to Finish in the Junk Yards

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—From the proud position of queen of all yachts to the junk yards, is the probable fate of the America's cup defender, Reliance. She started upon the last leg of her career today when C. Oliver Healy, head of the syndicate that built her ten years ago sold her to Captain Leonard Miller, who was associate skipper with the late Captain Charles Barr.

## A Little Sympathetic Stuff :-: :-: By Tad



## Slattery's Spikes

THEY are looking for a Pelkey boom all along the line and if this shows, Gunboat Smith is not going to be such a heavy favorite as many believe. Pelkey has worked well during the last couple of weeks and his manager, Tommy Burns, has made many a convincing speech in his behalf. It is rumored that hundreds of converts have been won over to the Pelkey cause and that they will come to the front with such a rush at the last minute that the Smith followers are going to back up and holler for mercy. Anyhow, this is the tale that is going the rounds.

A FEW bets already have been made at odds of 10 to 8 on Smith, but not enough money has shown itself yet to establish a uniform price. As usual, each side is holding out for the best it can get, which is only natural and only a repetition of the same old story. Nobody can blame them for getting the edge if there is a possible chance.

PELKEY has worked out to the satisfaction of all those who have watched him. They know that he is sincere and that he is trying every minute of the time. He has the size, the strength, the heart and the will, there is no doubt but that he will add some spectacular stuff to that bout next Thursday afternoon.

HEAVY weight battles generally are looked upon as uncertain affairs. It is hard to size the big fellows up and in this instance, the task is all the more difficult because Pelkey never has been seen in action by any of the local fans. They have to believe what they hear and they have to rely upon what Tommy Burns has to say about his New England hope.

THE Gunner on the other hand is well but not favorably known in the city. His past record in this city is not a very bright one, but the form which he displayed in all of his eastern bouts has led his old enemies to believe that he must have undergone a change of heart since his departure from the city where he got his start.

BUCKLEY, manager of the Gunner, has been making the rounds, telling all comers to back his white hope. Buckley believes that the Gunner will put the crusher on Pelkey within ten rounds. Never was a man more confident of a fighter. If Smith loses this battle, the jovial Irishman will be broken hearted beyond the question of a doubt.

AND Burns is just as confident that Pelkey will flatten the Gunner. He figures that the advantage is in weight, in height, strength and reach will count. He doesn't accuse Smith of being at all timid hearted, but he declares that Pelkey will always fight harder after he has been stung and that he can always get an opponent who slows up.

HARLEM TOMMY MURPHY is spending his holidays on the vaudeville stage, while his opponent to be, Champion Willie Ritchie will eat his turkey dinner in the city of his birth for the first time since he became famous as a ring star. Thus the fates deal a different sort of package to different men in the same walk of life.

"I WOULD like to be back in Harlem doing the Santa Claus act for the two babies instead of being here and trying to make good at a game that I don't know anything about," said Murphy yesterday afternoon. "Well, I'm just tickled to be home for my Christmas dinner," spouted Ritchie while gathered

## COLLEGE MEN IN READINESS FOR TRACK MEET

By WILLIAM UNMACK  
With both colleges just about ready to close down for the Christmas vacations, the students are busy going over the lists of available material for the track season, which will open activities as soon as the men reassemble after the holiday session.

The reported resignation of Dad Moulton from Stanford has caused a flutter and all sorts of predictions are being made as to his successor. It has been rumored that Harry Maloney will take the place of the veteran trainer and coach, and his work with the track men last season and his conditioning of the football team is put forward as arguments by many that Maloney will be the man selected to fill Dad's shoes. Nothing, however, has been announced from headquarters.

Over at California, however, the re-employment of Moulton has caused just about as much excitement as at Stanford. The blue and gold men had deep respect for the Stanford trainer, but the blue and gold men had always been rivals between the teams of the two institutions, the blue and gold men have expressed regret at the resignation of the veteran.

CHRISTIE ON THE JOB  
Walter Christie, who will be right on the job over at Berkeley and has enough to worry about with the loss of four such brilliant performers as Shattuck, Benson, Allen and Todd, this quarter will be missing from last year's track team and leaves a hole that will be particularly hard to fill.

Each of the quartet would have been sure point winners in the 1914 meet, and at the present time there is no one on the blue and gold squad that can stand in their places with the same ability.

One man, however, who's return to the track is assured is Domesing MacLise, the hurdler. MacLise was out of the game last April, but in 1912 was one of the best hurdlers on the coast. Shortly after the 1912 meet Domesing was taken down with typhoid and has not had a spike on his foot since.

Now, however, he has regained his strength and Christie predicts that he will be as good as ever by April. He will be a worthy rival for Whitted, Norton, Murray and the other Stanford timber toppers and is the second best prospect to take Eddie Beeson's place for the hurdles.

GOOD MEN IN SIGHT  
The loss of Jimmy Todd in the 440 is a sad blow to the blue and gold hopes. Another quarter man has to be developed and there is good material in Straub, Cory and Meyer. On their running up to the present, however, Todd is a clear champion over this trio, and as a matter of fact it is hard to find a better quarter man than Todd anywhere on the coast.

Cuendetts is a half miler that has been showing improvement at Berkeley every time he has run. He defeated Bonnett of Stanford in the Portola half and McClure of Oregon was taken down with typhoid in that race. The time is not far distant when it would be no surprise to see Cuendetts break the two minute mark in competition.

California will have a set of veteran sprinters in Stanton, Wood, Wadsworth and Hazeltine, and there is good material in sight for a few more short distance flyers.

## FEDERAL LEAGUE GIBBONS READY TO GO WITH JOHNSON

That Ban Johnson, dictator of the American league, is badly worried over the inroads made on the players of this organization by the Federal league, was made evident today when a local official of the league received a communication from President Johnson recalling a promise which he (Johnson) made to the Federal league officials last year, if they finished the season in good shape. Incidentally the head of the American league declared he was ready to carry out that promise if the outlaw league would cease raising the clubs in his organization for players.

In the early part of last year Major Henderson, then president of the Pittsburgh Federal league club, visited Johnson and asked the latter's good offices in behalf of the Federal league, saying the new organization desired representation in organized baseball circles. Johnson assured Major Henderson if the baby league went through the season of 1913 in good shape he would do everything possible as a member of the national commission and president of the American league to further this request.

A recent communication, delivered to personal friends of President Johnson, plainly intimates that for a price, and that price would be to tamper with American league players, Johnson is ready to make good his promise of a year ago.

LEWIS AND MOREAU DRAW PARIS, Dec. 25.—Willie Lewis, the American middle weight pugilist, and Marcel Moreau, the French middle weight, fought 20 rounds to a draw last night.

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