

NEW INTEREST IN ART OF WRESTLING



JOE GRANT



John & Shannon



HARVEY PARKER

The Origin of the Art of Wrestling Lost in the Haze of Antiquity—Japanese Among the Earliest Exponents of the Fascinating Sport. Two Distinct Types Among the Ancients. Turkey Devoted to Wrestling—The English, French, and German Styles.

By OSCAR P. SCHMIDT.

WRESTLING is an athletic sport in which each of the two contestants endeavors to throw his opponent to the ground, or, more scientifically speaking, make his shoulders touch the mat or ground. It is one of the oldest as well as the most universally used of all athletic exercises. Its real origin is not known, for among the earliest Jewish records reference is made to wrestling, and scripture takes us back still further into the antiquity of this sport.

erally today. At that time, as now, falling on the face did not constitute a fall. If a man was thrown three times from a standing position it constituted a fall. The old Greek rules forbade striking and kicking, but allowed a breaking of fingers, choking, and other delightful little pleasantries, which if practiced today would land a man in the penitentiary.

Turkish Methods.

Even now in Turkey, wrestling is the national sport and the Sultan, himself something of a wrestler, is the greatest patron of the game. There, the contestants wrestle upon polished tile floors without mat or other substitute to break the severity of a fall, and arms, legs and sometime necks are broken. When the claimants for the championship and the special favor of the Sultan wrestle, the contest on the tile is so fierce that the winner, the only man left alive is the winner, for aside from the hard floor to work on, "full Nelson" and "strangle" holds are allowed and with these at one's command, something must give way when the contest is becoming too close and it is generally a broken neck or a strangle to death. It is the rule in the Sultan's court that if one of his wrestlers leaves his hand and comes here or elsewhere and loses a single bout his return to his home is followed inevitably by the loss of his head. Think of it! They are generally big fellows and they will wrestle only under their rules when they come here and they invariably win. They have got to win if they want to go home. One of the best we have seen from the Sultan's land was Yousouf, who went down with the ill-fated Burroughs of the banks of Newfoundland. Around his waist were hundreds of pounds of gold coin, the profits of his work here. Karra Osman was another Turk who was a clever wrestler, not so big as the others, but quicker in his work. Nourouah, the biggest and most brutal of all, weighing 250 pounds, was about the last one of note to come over. The World's Fair, held at Chicago, brought a number of wrestlers here from all foreign lands and many of them found that we knew so much of the game that they dropped it and took up other occupations.

Wrestling became popular in older times in the British Isles, and St. James' day was "wrestling day" in London.

Two Ancient Styles.

There were two distinct types of wrestling among the ancients. One, where the contestants stood and struggled for a fall, and the other in which the competition still went on after reaching the ground until a certain part of the body touched the ground. The combination of the two is the one which prevails gen-



Closing-in Hold

The gradual development of the sport from a brutal exhibition of strength and endurance of the ancients to the present day wrestlers with whom skill and quickness of thought and judgment are as much as strength and brawn, are requisites for cleverness either as a profession or merely for the exercise and benefit derived is interesting.

One of the early English styles bore the combined name of Cumberland and Westmoreland. The rules required the contestants to stand chest to chest, each placing his chin on his opponent's right shoulder, grasping him around the body, each placing his left hand above the right of his antagonist. If either party broke his hold, though not on the ground, the one so letting go was the loser. If either touch the ground with any part of the body except the feet he was deemed the loser.

Another famous style was that of the Cornish and Devonshire men, among whom the greatest rivalry existed. Here kicking was allowed and heavy-soled shoes, sometimes with their steel plates inserted in the leather, were so worn that the injuries were often quite serious.

The French and German.

It was difficult to judge this style of wrestling, and it was brought into disfavor. It required that both hips and one shoulder, or both shoulders and one hip, or sometimes both shoulders and both hips should touch the ground at once. In England today the full Nelson and strangle holds are strictly prohibited.

The Scotch style is very much like the Lancashire style, which allows catching by the legs, wrestling on the ground, but bars striking and scratching. A fall is constituted by both shoulders touching the floor.

As an exercise, wrestling is one of the best among the many sorts of sport. It brings into play every muscle in the body and develops the most of them, particularly those of the back, shoulders, chest, and arms, and indulges in moderately is very healthful.

Beneficial as Exercise.

It is increasing in popularity every day and young men who formerly were afraid of it because it looked so hard and brutal, now are delighted with it as a health-giving exercise.

Interest is frequently revived by the visit of some well-known wrestler traveling with a show, as was the case last month when Tom Jenkins, champion heavyweight, appeared here, and last week, when Harvey Parker, the little "demon" wrestler, welterweight champion, spent a week at Kerman's Theatre and met all-comers, big and little, and rolled them on the mat twice a day for a week. The result of his visit was capacity business all the week, and a decided revival of local interest, for already matches are being made in local gymnasiums for inter-city championships.

Parker's style of work is so clean and clever, and so full of science that he has little difficulty in gaining falls from all-comers, and he is undoubtedly one of the best of American wrestlers.

He is now thirty-nine years of age and has been a professional wrestler since he was fifteen and his very first match was for one dollar. While playing with another boy in a country store one of them broke a crook and in order to settle who was to pay for it, it was agreed that they should wrestle and, a purse of one dollar being made up among the bystanders, it was agreed that the winner of the money should pay for the broken crook. Parker won and he paid for the crook and "settled" with the net winning of his first wrestling match.

During his visit here he twice met Joe Grant, a clever local athlete, and twice the local boy stayed the limit of fifteen minutes, which was one of the conditions of the contests. So clever in every way was Grant, that Parker promptly acknowledged him to be one of the best for his weight he had ever met and he took pleasure in coaching him in some of the lines in which he lacked proficiency.

Grant, the Local Favorite.

Joe Grant is twenty-one years of age, and is one of the most beautifully formed specimens of man in this city. His back and chest and arm muscular development is marvelous, but not abnormally hard and stiff as is the case with so many specially developed persons. He weighs stripped about 145 pounds and stands about five feet eight in his socks. Four years ago he was very slender and reedy and his family feared he would go into decline. He determined to build himself up and grow strong and today he is a living example of what will-power and determination will do when a man is really in earnest. At that time he became a member of the Washington Athletic Club and under the skillful coaching and training (and his own dogged persistence) of Bob Akers, who is a very

Interest in Wrestling Recently Revived in Washington—Parker's Visit an Event That Attracted Wide Attention in Sporting Circles. Joe Grant, the Young Hercules Who Met the Famous Professional and Held His Own. The Several Holds Adopted by the Giants.

clever wrestler and all-round athlete. Grant took up the work and his present splendid form and condition is the living testimony of what wrestling will do for a man. Grant has met and defeated all the best men here and in his vicinity and is thinking seriously of taking up the sport as a regular profession and he would undoubtedly become a winner, which is the belief of his latest and strongest friend, Parker.

Grant, whose cut with that of Parker, is given herewith, devotes much of his time to posing before the life classes at the Corcoran Art Gallery and for the local artists. He is such a splendid model and has gained so great a reputation as a poseur that almost all his time is taken in this line of work. He keeps himself in good condition for both classes of work by taking regular and consistent exercise.

Posed for The Times.

Grant and Parker volunteered to pose for the writer on Manager Kerman's stage, illustrating some of the best-known "holds," and those given heretofore are the principal ones, really the ones which form the foundation for all the intricate and endless combinations which one sees in the course of a contest on the mat.

The first is known as the "closing-in" hold and is the preliminary movement to getting down to the mat for the real contest. It is sometimes called the "reference" hold, and is given by him when the men fail to get together in a reasonable time. Each man has his left arm over his opponent's shoulder and the right under his arm.

Hammerlock and Half-Nelson.

First secure hammerlock by reaching your opponent's arm and grasping the wrist and pushing the arm up his back, and then secure the half-Nelson by reaching over your opponent's back under his opposite arm and then to the back of the neck, and then roll him over. There is sometimes danger of breaking a man's arm in the hammerlock.

The Bridge.

The "bridge" is one of the most important movements in wrestling. It is used to protect oneself from a fall after squirming out of "crook" holds, "body" holds, or any holds which would force a man to his head. It is quite spectacular, and unless done properly leads to sure defeat, for the man naturally falls with his back to the mat.

The Nelson hold is generally taken when on all fours, and in order to prevent such a hold being taken, keep as cool as possible, hug yourself as closely as you can by bringing your arm close to your body to prevent the opponent from inserting his hand and arm between them, and with your other hand press hard his hand and arm with which he endeavors to secure a "Nelson."

"Further" Arm Hold.

To secure the "further" arm hold, you feint as if going for a half-Nelson, and when the opponent throws his arm up to protect himself against the Nelson, you lock his "further" arm with both hands, at the same time pulling him toward you and throwing your body directly against him and roll him over.

In order to stop or bar this hold, you extend your "further" arm on the mat as far as you can reach and draw your near arm as close to your side as you can, and the opponent is helpless to secure the much-desired hold.

Well-Known Wrestlers.

In the list of the best wrestlers this country has produced is found the name of McLeod, now the heavyweight champion, Greco-Roman style, who last week defeated Whitmore, of Cincinnati, former champion. McLeod is quick and his style is clean, like that of Parker. Tom Jenkins is the heavyweight catch-as-catch-can champion of America, who beat Parr, champion of England, last month in Buffalo, in 50 minutes and 25 seconds. Roeder is of the old school; he was for about ten years champion heavyweight of America, he having been given the honors by William Muldoon when the latter retired from the business. Charles Leonhart, his pupil, was very clever, but never had great ambition. John Finney, the "Butcher Boy," is meeting "comers" in and around New York; Leo Paribella, champion of Italy; is seldom heard of, and has lost several times to Parr.

Lewis, the "Strangler."

Evans Lewis was known as the world's best "strangler," he was a force wrestler and expected and showed no mercy; he was put out of the business by Yousouf, and at his own best hold, the "strangle." Tom Jenkins, McLeod, Harvey Parker, Pining, George Bothmer, instructor Pastime Athletic Club, are leading wrestlers now before the public, and the admired of all aspirants for wrestling honors.

THE LAST TRICK---By ELISA ARMSTRONG BENGOUGH

(Copyrighted, 1902, by W. Bengough.)
"It requires wisdom to appear simple," sighed the debutante.
"It does," replied the young married woman. "No girl is clever enough to act the part of a debutante until she is too old to look it."
"But then, she can always marry," smiled the widow. "Maritimony is a sort of a feminine clearing house, which—"
"True," replied the debutante, sadly. "but then, the first time you pass through it, the masculine party to the contract must do the choosing, whereas—"
"Nothing of the kind—he must only

think he does," said the widow, briskly. "And even that is unnecessary the second time. He is sufficiently flattered at being chosen. By the way, have you seen Jack recently?"
"Rather. He called yesterday on his way back from the railway station whither he had been seen escorting Daisy Brownsmith. She has gone to Chicago for a couple of weeks."
"What?" gasped the young married woman. "Well, I never expected Daisy to be clever. But when it comes to leaving Jack unprotected just when—er—just when he has been taught that she is not the only girl he knows, is—"

"Yes, isn't it? I doubt if her own mother thinks her clever, but I have somehow given Daisy the idea that I am in Washington."
"Ah, well, accidents will happen in the best regulated friendships," smiled the widow. "Come, Jack is at least two inches shorter than I, so you know you are safe where I am concerned. Tell us all about it, do!"
"With pleasure. You see, I went over to my sister's the other day and while I was there, I wrote Daisy a note commencing with: 'You will be greatly surprised to know that I am here.'"
"Yes, but what good—"
"Oh, that was perfectly simple. I gave the note to my brother-in-law to mail; he was on his way to catch the train for Washington and I knew he'd never mail it until he reached there. I had—er—forgot to put any address at the head of my letter, so the postmark would naturally induce her to think that I was in the Capital City. She left for Chicago a day or two later."

"Leaving Jack unguarded. Well, it does seem as if nature was actually wasteful to give naturally curly hair to a girl with as many brains as you have!" cried the widow admiringly.
"Goodness, no. If those curls did not give me a delightfully frivolous air, I'd have had to take to mispelling words of one syllable when writing notes, or to encouraging a coat of tan in the summer which would cost half of my winter's allowance to get rid of, in order to—"
"Convince the men that you would make the kind of a wife who could be deceived twice by the same excuse? M'hm."
"Well—er—something of the kind. Yes, Jack came to call yesterday and he is coming tomorrow to explain the science of football. The only drawback to my enjoyment is the fact that I can't write to dear Daisy and tell her what a good time I am having."
"And Jack is unlikely to mention the fact in his letter," said the young married woman drily. "It takes a long time to make a clever girl really understand

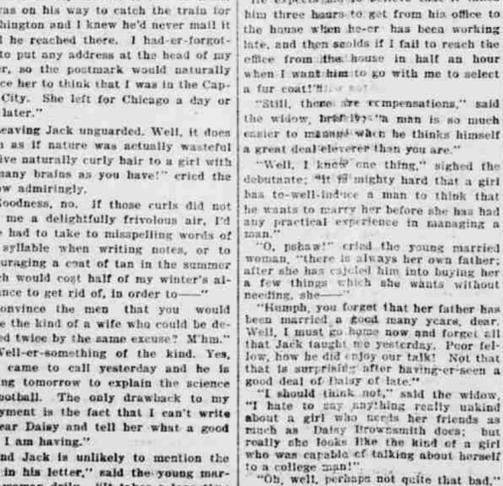
football; a stupid one usually declares that she understands it after one lesson."
"I fear that I shall never fully understand it," said the debutante, smiling. "My only aim is to be a pupil who is intelligent enough to be interesting."
"I wonder why men expect so little intelligence in things theoretical and so much in things practical from their wives," mused the widow. "My husband used to like to have me wonder if they had five brains; the wheat pit, while he expected me to administer the household finances with the wisdom of the Secretary of the Treasury."
"Oh, please!" cried the young married woman. "there is always her own father. He expects me to believe that it takes him three hours to get from his office to the house when he's been working late, and then scolds if I fail to reach the office from the house in half an hour when I want him to go with me to select a fur coat!"
"Gosh, those are compensations," said the widow, hesitatingly. "a man is so much easier to manage when he thinks himself a great deal cleverer than you are."
"Well, I know one thing," sighed the debutante. "It might be hard to get a girl to well-please a man to think that he wants to marry her before she has had any practical experience in managing a man."
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said the young married woman. "What is that, Sarah? Yes, Miss Woudley is here. Two telegrams for you, dear. Your mother sent them over. No bad news, I hope."
"Ah, no," smiled the debutante, "probably both are from Jack. The poor fellow seems to be thinking of nothing but me nowadays! Why, what is that?" "Do hope you had a lovely time in Washington," signed "Daisy." Well, upon my word, I—
"You haven't read the other one yet."

said the widow. "—"
"True. Mercy on us, it is from Jack and—"
"He wants to come up this evening instead of tomorrow," queried the young married woman. "Well, telegraph at once for him to come, for Daisy Brownsmith will not—"
"He does not?" cried the debutante. "It says: 'Actually sorry not to keep appointment for tomorrow. Suddenly called to Chicago on business!'"



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