



JEW IN SPORTS

BY AL LURIE

GOLF AND PEGLER

Westbrook Pegler, hard-hitting columnist who once wrote sports, turns back to his first love every once in a while. In a recent column he turned out a biting little piece on golf, and called it a game with plenty of class distinctions. One line caught the attention of Lurie. Here it is: "True, the clubs observed a certain callow snobbery, for some barred Jews but welcomed cheats and muckers provided they were Aryan and rude and rich enough. But we all played."

That golf has been cruel to Jews needs little additional evidence. It is good, however, to see a nationally noted writer point it out and bark out that everybody disregarded the race bias that existed in the harmless putt-and-pray game, which originated in Scotland, anyway.

BOXING NOTES

Max Baer and Maxie Rosenbloom, two old-time fighters, broke back into the news columns again with a few interesting items. Max the Glamorous has been signed to play in a movie which stars Marlene Dietrich. That reminds us of the days when Max would fight Carnera both in the reel and real life. He was a card, was Max.

And so was Rosenbloom. Joe Louis, in a recent interview said of Lee Ramage, Coast heavy, "He even licked Rosenbloom." The reporter added: "Like all fighters, Louis regards Rosenbloom as one of the toughest puzzles ever to step in a ring. Among boxers there is no higher achievement than a win over Maxie Rosenbloom."

To support this statement, Nat Fleischer, editor of Ring, boxing Bible, said: "I think Rosenbloom would have whipped Conn." If you recall, Billy licked Louis for 12 rounds before losing in the 13th. Maxie, like Baer, is also in Hollywood, where he has won a reputation as a comedian and an actor.

Strange as it seems, four of the

five members of the original Celtics—the pride of the Irish in basketball some twenty years ago were Jewish . . . They were Nat Holman, Crown Prince of Basketball, Dave Banks, Barney Sedran and Joe Lapchich . . . Holman, by the way, once received \$10,000 as his salary for playing basketball for one month with the Cleveland Rosenblooms—a top-flight quintet active a decade ago . . .

And—did you know that Baseball Umpire Dolly Stark who returned to the national pastime this season only to be forced out of active service because of a recurrence of the same knee injury—used to be head basketball coach at Dartmouth College . . . Because of the friendship between Holman and Stark, a traditional rivalry grew up between the Beavers and the Indians . . . and not once in all their long history of play has Dartmouth been able to take C. C. N. Y. into camp . . .

The one man in radio cited by the Treasury Department as "doing more than his share" in selling stamps and bonds is Barry Wood, M. C. on the Hit Parade . . . And Barry as we've mentioned time and again in this corner was once known as Joe Rappaport when he was swimming on the championship Yale team.

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The Writing Itch And Bialik

BY DAVID SCHWARTZ

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The Hebrew language circles of the country have been marking the vahrzeit of Chaim Nachman Bialik this month. It is probable that if the man on the streets were to be asked to name some great living American poet the percentage of those who could give an intelligent answer would be relatively small. But Bialik in Palestine before his death was a personality known to all. His writings and personality were something very real in the Jewish renaissance and even to the multitudes to whom poetry is a closed book, he nevertheless had become something of a hero.

It is realized that once a good Jewish woman leading her boy by the hand came knocking on the door of Bialik.

"Is Mr. Bialik here?" she asked.

"I am Bialik," said the poet. "Could he be so good, she asked, as to take her Abie in and let him live with the poet. She would pay for him, she explained.

Why, asked Bialik, did she want her Abie to live with him?

Well, she replied, maybe, if her boy did so, he would become a writer, too.

Such aspiring souls used to come to Bialik in droves and the strange part is that the master was generally encouraging. Another distinguished Hebrew poet, Schneer, once caustically castigated Bialik for this tendency. It was wrong, he said, for Bialik to encourage a person whose wrtngs were obviously inferior. To do so is to build up hopes which inevitably must end in sad disillusionment.

In answer to this criticism, Bialik offered the parable of a soldier who had returned from the war, minus two legs which had been shot off. His friends gathered around to welcome him. One told him he must not mind the lost legs, that the government would take care of him now. Another told him that his friends would make up for the sacrifice he had made for them. Everyone found some compensation—everyone save one visitor, who said not a word the entire time. When all had left save him, he finally opened

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his mouth. "Listen," he said to the soldier, "what all these people have been telling you—is all a pack of lies. Don't believe a word of it. Take my word for it, you are a lost man. There is no help for you. You are worse than dead."

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