



# SPORTS PAGE



## Softball May Be THE MODERN TREND IN SPORT IS Controlled By A UNFAIR TO HOME-TOWN YOUTHS Dominion Body Communities Should Do More To Develop Their Own Athletic Material and Support Home Teams.

Plans Now on Foot To Organize Game From Coast To Coast.

By W. M. GLADISH,  
Central Press Canadian Sports Writer  
Toronto.—While others think in terms of hockey, skiing, badminton and basketball, the generals of softball are laying their plans for the invasion of fields afar before another season's campaign rolls around.

Softball is one of the very few major sports in Canada which do not boast a Dominion-wide governing association—but that is being attended to, right now.

A definite movement is under way for the establishment of a softball governing body from coast to coast, details of which are largely in the hands of Verne McIlwraith, of Guelph, secretary of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association.

Another move is in the direction of overseas where the promise has been made for the establishment of what is regarded as a Canadian sport. As the result of recent enquiries through the office of H.M. Trade Commissioner to Canada, softball men of the Dominion are doing some long-distance sponsoring of the diamond pastime in England. It is a fact that rulebooks of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association have been forwarded to England as a help for the organization of the game.

The Canadian Amateur Softball Association is in the immediate offing. There has been correspondence on the subject from as far west as Alberta and it is expected that Dominion body will come into being before spring. Then will come play-offs, such as in hockey, lacrosse, football and basketball. If softball takes hold in England and develops in the U.S., perhaps the sport will be included in the program of the Olympic games some day.

The Ontario Amateur Softball Association has enjoyed more than ten years of substantial pro-

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 3)

Athletic contests originally had for their objective the physical training of youth so as to properly equip them for carrying on their various vocations, whether they be concerned with peace or war. The ancient people found that athletics made for better men and women, so everyone was encouraged to take part in contests of various kinds.

The modern trend has departed greatly from this original idea and the development through the ages has led to the staging of athletic contests for show purposes, where the few compete to entertain the masses. In many cases the tendency has been to make outstanding athletes things of commercial interest, and their ability in athletic prowess is being measured by the amount of gate receipts they can draw.

Amateur contests are worthy affairs but when their object is to make money for the promoters and the winning of titles there appears to be little merit in them.

Every community wants a team that can win. From this the spirit of commercialism has entered into athletics. It may be that the players receive no remuneration but there is the idea behind it all for winning titles and drawing crowds, which pay. From this has grown the tendency of getting players of high calibre to represent communities, whether the athlete be of that community or not. But he must be of the grade that tends to win games or contests and so we have the importations.

If team games in the Maritime Provinces are considered it will be found that even here there are few athletic teams, which are anything more than a bunch of rovers, who have been attracted in some manner to compete for certain communities, in which they have no interest excepting from the athletic standpoint. Such conditions tend toward the commercial and not the sporting.

What is needed now is reform which will give local youths of any community a chance to compete in athletic games and be

eligible to represent their home communities when there is necessity.

The present hockey situation all over the country is not in the best interests of the communities supporting teams. Players are collected from all points of the compass and banded into teams. They may be designated Saint John, Moncton, Halifax or Charlottetown, but members of all these teams are boys who have not been given a chance to play on their home teams.

Most of them are boys with more than the usual amount of hockey ability and they have migrated to the cities for the sake of playing the kind of games which was not provided for them at home. Thus we have imported hockey players, but the same conditions apply to all sorts of games from football to badminton.

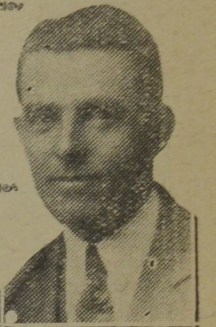
What is needed to set hockey and other games right is for communities to develop their home boys into players and give them a chance to represent their home communities in contests against other communities. Under those conditions more boys would get the benefit of athletic training and competition and they would be more interested in their home communities than they would in some foreign place. Besides that they could be trained at home for taking a place in the business or professional life of their own homes and they would take pride in the fact.

### ATHLETE MARRIES

Halifax, N.S.—Miss Jean MacDougall, well known athlete, was quietly married in the rectory of Trinity Church here to Roy R. Moore, member of the Halifax police force. They will reside at 22 Bloomfield Street. Several years ago Mrs. Moore represented the Maritime Provinces at the Canadian championships in Montreal, taking part in the sprint events, and she was a member of the 1933 H.L.A.C. Maritime softball championship team.

## SPOTS of Sport

By RAY HANSEN



PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY FOR THE CITY of Saint John is being given serious consideration and it would not be surprising if this actually materializes for the season of 1934-35. This city has always been considered one of the best sporting centres on the North American continent, comparatively speaking, and this reputation extends far beyond our own confines. It will be recalled that some years ago overtures were made to have a team from Saint John included in the then New England League and Hughie Duffy, then pilot of the champion Portlands, informed the writer that the officials were so favorably impressed that they were willing to grant a franchise to a local club despite the long distance between here and other cities in the circuit. Hockey enjoys the same popularity during the winter months that baseball does in the summer and it would not be surprising if professional games drew capacity houses. The fact that at the present time so much interest is manifested in the Saturday evening broadcasts of the National Hockey League fixtures in Upper Canada augurs well for the real thing if present plans bear fruit. It would seem an opportune time to pass a word of appreciation along to Joe Page who is again on the job trying to assist Saint John to realize its ambition. Joe has always manifested a keen interest in sport happenings here and has ever been ready to assist in any way in his power either by advice, from his years of experience, or by actual effort. This is all done without remuneration aside from some little business might accrue to the company he represents. If Joe were a native of this city he could not take a keener interest in our doings, and if professional hockey is introduced here as a result of his assistance some public recognition should be made. A Joe Page Night would be a fitting tribute to a man who has proven himself, over a wide span of years, a real friend. He is not the type who is looking for thanks and that is all the more reason why he should be fittingly remembered.

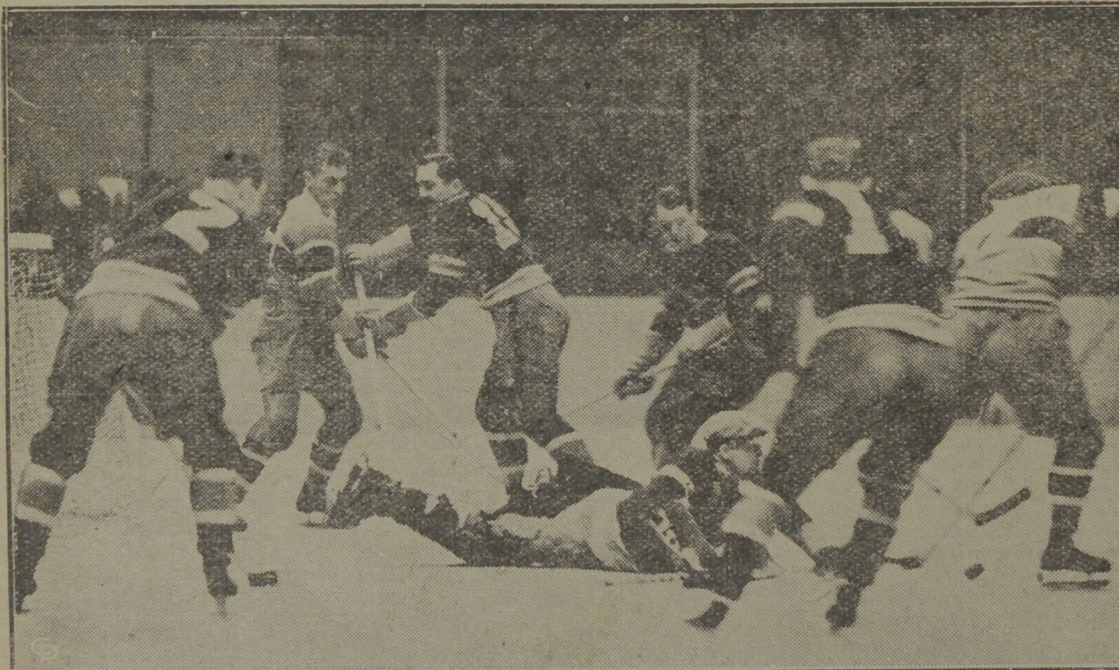
JESS WILLARD, FORMER WORLD'S CHAMPION HEAVY-weight boxer, came out of retirement last week to stage a battle in which he thought he won, but the referee, a judge of the municipal court, and twelve "wise and just men" on a jury acting in their official capacity turned in an unanimous decision against him and at the time of writing he faces a fine of \$500 or six months in jail. His return to former pugilistic ways therefore had a rather disastrous sequel. It appears that Jess was driving along a highway outside Los Angeles and was in collision with a truck driven by a man named John Legrego who was accompanied by his father. Witnesses for the prosecution testified that Willard was under the influence of liquor and slugged the two men before they had a chance to defend themselves. On the other hand Jess denied the liquor charge and his version of the affair was that one fellow ran up behind him and grabbed his legs and the other kicked him in the face. That fellow must have been some kicker for ring followers know that the former champion was anything but a midget. Willard in his testimony said he had not slugged the men and had merely tried to get in position to knock them over, but he couldn't. He claimed he never saw anything like the way he was treated in all his years in the ring. The jury-men apparently did not give Willard's statements much credit for they found him guilty of battery and the judge remanded him for sentence.

LEILA BROOKS POTTER IS APPARENTLY GOING TO MAKE a strong bid to retain her crown as queen of Canadian skaters and is planning on participating this winter in all of the important meets in Canada and the United States. At the present time she is training faithfully under the direction of Eddie Gloster, a former speed skating champion. Her coach is very enthusiastic about a marked improvement in her sprints and is confident there is not a girl on the continent who will be in her class. He expects that she will be in the pink of condition by the first of the year when she is to participate in the Newburgh meet, which is considered to be the first important one of the season. Mrs. Potter is known locally by speed skating enthusiasts who will unite in wishing the Toronto star continued success. She would undoubtedly prove a great attraction for the Canadian Indoor Championships to be staged here.

PRIMO CARNERA, THE WORLD'S HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING champion, is going to seek honors as a speed ace according to Nuvolari, the famed Italian racing driver. He says that Primo is to be his relief driver in a big race planned for next April. Carnera is certainly versatile. He is a former circus clown, a strong man, and quite recently a vaudeville and screen actor, and now he apparently aspires to be another Barney Oldfield.

JACK DEMPSEY, WHO IS BARNSTORMING THROUGH THE State of Washington as a wrestling referee, has confirmed the report that he will promote the Tommy Loughran-Max Schmeling bout scheduled for January 31 either in Atlantic City or New York. He further stated that it was his intention to take Max Baer and his manager Ancil Hoffman east with him and will make an effort to line up the former to meet the winner of the Loughran-Schmeling go. If he succeeds in this he may stage the bout in San Francisco. He did not make any statement concerning the report that he and the Garden management would jointly stage the proposed Baer-Carnera bout next June. Dempsey is a close friend of Baer and it is believed that until Jack passes the word no papers will be signed for the heavyweight championship tilt. In other words, Jack wants to get in on a card that should pay big returns. It will be recalled that last year he staged the Baer-Schmeling bout and despite assistance from the press and many influential friends he did not make a cent on it.

## AITKENHEAD SENSATIONAL IN THIRD SHUT-OUT



Goalie Andy Aitkenhead of the New York Rangers, professional hockey team, making one of the forty-six remarkable "saves" which resulted in a scoreless tie against the Montreal Canadiens at Madison Square Garden, New York. Leo Bourgault of the Canadiens is

at the extreme right, just about to shoot for the cage. As he measures for the shot, Aitkenhead dives face first at the puck and knocks it to one side with a sweep of his right arm. It was Andy's third straight shut-out this season.