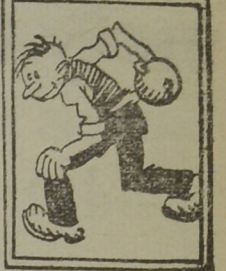




# SPORTS PAGE



## Gives Colorful Description Of Connolly-Harrigan Bout

Local Barrister Becomes Reminiscent—Beth McLeod Showed Marked Talent Until Illness Ended His Career—Was Veteran of Two Wars.

By RAY HANSEN

THE SERIES "The Broadcaster" has been running on former Saint John boxers of renown has created marked interest not only among those who can recall some of the torrid bouts staged here, but by the younger generation who are learning local ring history. It has also been responsible for many of the "old timers" delving into "their treasure house of memory" and recalling happenings and incidents which left such a marked impression on them at the time.

Kenneth J. McRae, well known barrister and former sport writer and athlete, while in a reminiscent mood a few days ago exercised that mysterious faculty of memory to call up from the past persons, places and events and gave so vivid a word picture of them that they seemed to live over again.

As he sat at his desk and bridged the years that now separate him from his youth he told in colorful language his impressions of the first big fight he witnessed. At that time he was an enthusiastic follower of athletics and was training for events to be held in the then near future. Word was passed around that a great bout was carded between Eddie Connolly and Dan Harrigan and was to be held at Jack Power's training camp on the Loch Lomond Road. Only those holding membership cards would be permitted to witness the bout. Ken and two of his companions were lucky enough to get three tickets and forthwith set out for a local hostelry to procure a rig to drive to the scene. After paying their dollar they were given a horse, which appeared to be about half starved, and set out on their big adventure.

On their arrival they went first to the house where refreshments were served and various games played. Later all adjourned to a barn where the fight was to be staged. The three enthusiastic youngsters looked the situation over and decided that a beam extending along the old hay loft and directly above the ring would be an ideal vantage point, so they shinned up one of the posts and got on to the beam. There were about 80 in attendance. There were no such things as chairs and the men clustered around the ring, which had been erected in one corner. Lanterns were used for illumination and were so arranged as to give sufficient light for the participants as well as the spectators. Jack Powers was the

referee and "Dixie" Travis and George Carvell, well known sports, were appointed timers.

When the boxers appeared both were wearing only a breech clout, had their heads shaved and wore shoes and short stockings. Connolly was quite tall and slim, but beautifully developed about the chest. He had a good reach and could hit with terrific force and speed with both hands. His opponent was shorter and, while a clever boxer, was not as fast as Connolly. Prior to the start those in attendance were betting almost everything they owned. Ken heard one man bet \$12 and later put up his overcoat that Connolly would win out. There was great excitement when the boxers appeared and took their corners. After receiving the usual instructions and warnings from the referee the fight started. Connolly rushed his opponent and shot out rights and lefts like pistons and Harrigan was kept busy warding off some, absorbing others and always trying to send back as good as he received. Round after round followed and Connolly was slowly wearing his opponent down. During the 12th round the bell sounded, but one of the timers announced that someone had erred for there was still a minute to go. Referee Power ordered the boxers to their corners and asked the audience if they did not think they had received their money's worth. They unanimously agreed that they had and he forthwith declared the bout a draw.

Ken described the scene as the fans wended their way out of the barn. About 60 rigs were hitched up around the yard, the horses being tied to trees, fences, etc. The fans realizing that they had neither lost or won any money decided to put up a few bets for a race home. Ken and his two companions had wisely left their horse and rig outside the gate and, realizing what a scramble was coming and the danger of collisions in the mad dash for home, jumped quickly from their perch and ran to their rig. The half starved looking horse perked up when they jumped into the buggy and headed for home. Behind them they could hear the cries of the others as they made preparations for the race. The boys were prepared to use the whip in an effort to outdistance the miniature mob, but to their delight found it was not necessary. The old half starved look-

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## SPORT FLASHES by HARRY "RED" FOSTER



"TURF TALK"

Perhaps it's the weather that conjures up the picture of colored silks and thoroughbred horses. It won't be long now! Ted Clark, good-looking horse by Chattertown from Uncle Lassie, should be Canada's biggest money winner for 1935. Ted Clark is being prepared for stake engagements in Texas after an excellent showing during the south's winter racing. He will go to the post at Woodbine, Toronto, for the Toronto Cup, carrying the colors of Dr. C. N. Mooney. It appears that the jockey will be Nick Wall, who has ridden him before in Kentucky.

The talk around the Canadian stables this year deplores the fact that there is a scarcity of trained riders. It seems that the little fellows gained no experience through the winter in Canada and there are only a few new boys coming up.

One of the highlights in Canadian turf activity this year is the entry by Gordon Perry of Toronto of Trocadero in Grand National. We can only recall one Canadian who has ever ridden in the Grand National, that was Lex Wilson, who gave a good account of himself on Sea Soldier and finished the course. Mr. Wilson later purchased Azucar for F. M. Alger of Detroit and his judgment proved correct when Azucar romped off with \$100,000, the year's biggest money, at Santa Anita.

The prospects for a closely contested battle for the historic King's Plate looms greater than ever this year. But we opine that, as they wheel into the home stretch, Listara will show silver-shod heels to those other great favorites, Gay Sympathy, Epicurius and Lipton.

## SPOTS of Sport

By RAY HANSEN



NOW THAT THE ALLAN CUP HAS DEFINITELY been disposed of and will remain in the Maritime Provinces for the third year in succession, this time the property of the Halifax Wolverines, thoughts of magnates and fans are naturally turned to the prospects for next season. Hopes are entertained that the "Big Four" will again function. Saint John and Charlottetown, P. E. I., are ready to enter the league, but some doubt is entertained, at this time, regarding Moncton's entry. The Olympics may be responsible for interfering with Halifax, for the Wolverines will have to travel to Germany to represent Canada in that great classic. However, some arrangement may be made to have them play until the time for their departure and, if they return in time, to participate in a playdown series. A meeting of those interested is expected to be held before the end of this month and fans will eagerly await an official announcement. The time is opportune to hold such a meeting for although the season is now over the great games in Halifax are still a subject of discussion among fans.

CHARLIE McCORMICK, the only entry from New Brunswick in the thirty-eighth renewal of the famous Boston A. A. marathon, made a mighty good showing despite the fact that he finished in the fifty-eighth position. The Saint John runner was making his first appearance in this great classic and according to official reports was well up with the leaders for the first fifteen miles. From that on he started to slip back. Those who have been over this course will realize what a heart-breaking grind is encountered from Newton Lower Falls to Boston College. It is a long uphill trek and is responsible for many being forced out. However, the hills alone are not the greatest handicap which Saint John or Maritime runners have to overcome. It is the heat that is their deadliest foe. Forced to train here in the early spring they encounter cold weather and find they are able to cover the marathon distance and still have a little stamina to come and go on, but when they strike Boston the contrast is so great that it saps their vitality. The heat from the pavement alone usually causes the feet to blister and along with this there is more humidity in the air, which causes great distress, especially to those accustomed to a colder climate. It is nothing more or less than a gamble for runners leaving here, there only hope being that the weather man will sooner or later pass out a dark cold day and give them a break. With this year's experience McCormick may be able to make a much better showing on his next appearance.

THE PLAN OF THE KIWANIS CLUB TO TAKE OVER THE Shamrock Park and make it a centre of athletic activity for the youths of Saint John is causing quite a lot of talk throughout the city. There are many who strongly support the movement and again there are a few who are opposed to it. There are many angles to a movement of this kind which should not be overlooked. Is it not better to at least make a real effort to interest the youth in our city to take an interest in clean athletics than have so many hanging around the streets picking up and smoking butts of cigarettes and pitching cents or fighting and squabbling among themselves? From time to time the writer has deplored the fact that interest in various forms of athletics has been one the wane and this may be one way to re-awaken the youth of our city to the fact that it is up to them to at least strive to follow in the footsteps of that former band of athletes who were responsible for emblazoning the name of Saint John as one of the greatest sporting centres, comparatively speaking, in the world. Who knows what talent may be hidden under a patched shirt or pair of trousers. Many of those young chaps, who perhaps are not in a position to become members of prominent organizations fostering sport, may be future world champions if given an opportunity to show their ability. Aside from this the boys who are running about the streets will make up the future citizenship of this or some other city and if given an opportunity to indulge in outdoor athletics, under proper supervision, might get a right start in life. There is nothing which will develop character more readily than participation in sport. A boy is taught to restrain himself and accept victory or defeat in a proper spirit. True, there are, and always will be, exceptions, but these exceptions prove the rule. A striking example of the talent of some of our youths was quite apparent during the winter months when hundreds of boys could be seen in almost every street in the residential sections of the city playing hockey, using salt sacks for pads,

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## MICKEY MOUSE

## A "SWILL" HEADLINE

By WALT DISNEY



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