

SPORTS PAGE



Story of Stirring Incident In Great Heavyweight Bout

Writer Who Accompanied Jack Dempsey to New Brunswick Woods Heard Fitzsimmons Beg Jefferies to Knock Him Out.

By RAY HANSEN

WHEN Jack Dempsey was heavyweight champion of the world he passed through Saint John enroute to a camp in the New Brunswick woods in the rear of Penobsquis to hunt moose, deer and bear. He was accompanied by his trainer, Jerry Lavardos and a party of friends, which included one of the foremost sport writers of the day, Bob Edgren, who covered all of the big championship bouts held in America for syndicates and leading dailies. The writer of this column joined the party and went to their camp. While there he had, and took advantage of, many opportunities of long chats with Mr. Edgren and Champion Jack Dempsey. During the course of a conversation with the former he was given a lot of inside information about many stirring events which occurred at some of the big contests. One was in connection with the championship bout between Jim Jeffries, the title holder, and Bob Fitzsimmons. He told of sitting at the ringside during the memorable bout and in the eighth and final round both contestants were fighting against the ropes directly above his head. He saw Jeffries land a blow above Fitzsimmons right hip and saw Bob's hands drop to his side. He also heard Fitzsimmons whisper to Jeffries, "For God's sake knock me out. I cannot raise my arms and don't want to be counted out on my feet." As there is a touch of local interest in this bout the writer delved into the archives and unearthed the story, which was in part as follows:

Despite the fact that Jeffries had proven himself the peer of all pugilists in his class there was said to be a drop of bitter in the champion's cup. He was said to have been chagrined at Fitzsimmons claim that the victory gained by Jeffries over the Cornishman at Coney Island was not a clean-cut one as he had been drugged by some unknown party in order to encompass his defeat. Jeffries frequently said he would never rest content until he met Fitzsimmons a second time. Up to this time, however, Fitz had steadfastly refused to be lured back into the ring, having retired shortly after the repeal of the Horton law. Later Fitzsimmons was practically forced to set himself right with the sporting public as a result of harsh criticism for the stand he had taken.

On May 23, 1902, articles were signed for a bout to be held in San Francisco, July 25, 1902. The fighters were to receive 70 per

cent of the gross receipts, the winner to receive 60 per cent. of this amount and the loser 40 per cent. Soft bandages were agreed on and gloves to weigh five ounces.

The contest took place in a temporary arena in San Francisco and was a sensational encounter from the first tap of the bell until Fitzsimmons went down to defeat in the eighth round.

Fitzsimmons took a strong lead at the start. He had Jeffries bleeding from the nose before the round was a minute old, and from that until the end played around the champion's face, badly battering it. He showed himself a far superior boxer than the champion and relied on repeated stabs and jolts rather than trying for a knockout. There was a continuous yelling and cheering as he prodded his big opponent's face to a pulp. This drove Jeffries frantic and he made repeated rushes at Fitz who was forced to duck and side-step to avoid these terrific onslaughts.

Between the fourth and eighth rounds Jeffries landed some punishing body punches, but Fitzsimmons never flinched and had the big crowd in a delirium of joy and excitement over the way he was landing lefts and rights to the face. Both Jeffries eyes were badly swollen and for a time it looked like a certainty that Fitzsimmons would regain the championship.

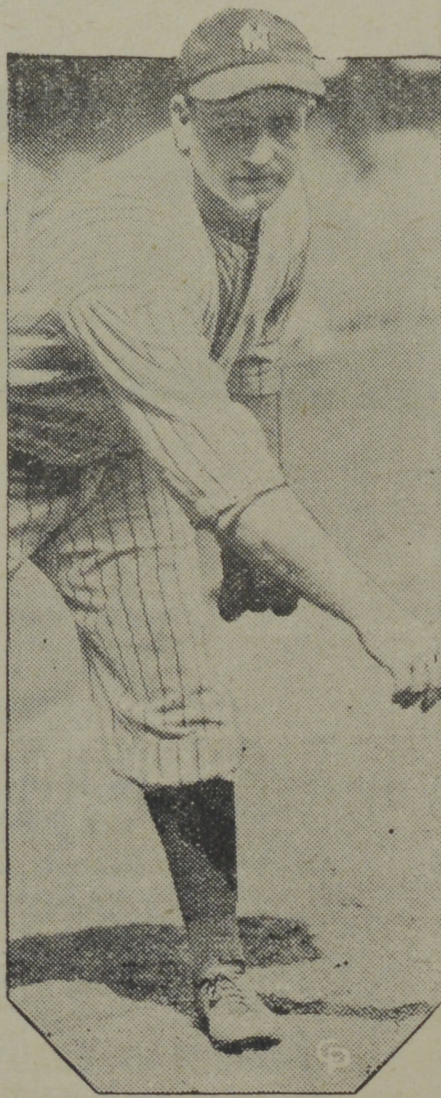
When the end came in the eighth round both were close to the ropes. Jeffries landed a terrific body blow and Fitzsimmons hands dropped. Instantly, while Fitz was in this helpless condition, Jeffries swung his left to the jaw and his opponent sank to the floor on his hands and knees and remained there until counted out.

The crowd that gathered to see the fight was the largest ever seen on such an occasion in San Francisco and everyone agreed that the fight was one of the most sensational ever witnessed. It was generally agreed after the bout that up until the time Jeffries landed that terrific body punch Fitzsimmons had never boxed better in his entire ring career. He hit cleanly and repeatedly and put up a superb defense.

The official report of that fatal eighth round follows: Jeffries went in pursuit of his man and Fitzsimmons seemed bent on backing away. The champion reached the ribs a couple of times with his left but felt the force of the Cornishman's left full in the

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 2)

Up and Down



In and out of the big leagues—that is WALTER BROWN, who has been up with the Yankees several times only to end up in the minor leagues again. This year he again went to the New Yorkers after winning the pitching championship of the International League with Newark last year.

HELEN WILLS MOODY WINS MORE VICTORIES IN BRITAIN

Helen Wills Moody, mowed down Ermytrude Harvey, former captain of the British Wightman Cup team, in the second round of the Kent championship, 6-3, 6-1.

Handicapped by a wet, soggy court and cross-court winds, Mrs. Moody played uncertain tennis at the opening. She lost the first two games, frequently cutting the ball or permitting herself to be drawn up to the net.

She steadied, however, and won on her own service in the sixth and eighth games. She barraged her opponent with an attack that shifted to all quarters of the court.

In the second set, the Californian battered the English woman with long fore-hand and back-hand drives from the baseline, varied by occasional smashes from the net. Helen was not extended at any time in this set, and lost only the fourth game on Miss Harvey's service.

AS I WAS SAYING

"Mr. Chairman," said the speaker, "there are so many ribald interruptions I can scarcely hear myself speaking."

"Cheer up, guv'nor," said a voice. "You ain't missin' much."

SPOTS of Sport

By RAY HANSEN



HEAVYWEIGHT BOUTS ARE HOLDING the interest of boxing fans throughout the world. At the time of writing the championship tilt between Max Baer, the title holder, and Jim Braddock was approaching, and in another couple of weeks Joe Louis, the sensational Detroit colored boy, and Primo Carnera, the "mighty human" are scheduled to meet. This will be the first real test of Louis' career and his performance to date has been so sensational that he is being looked upon by many as the coming champion. He has proven that he can hit hard and in addition is credited with being a good boxer. As Carnera, with his mighty body and exceptional height, has improved a lot the encounter will be a real test for Louis. If he can get by the former champion he will be in line for a bout with Baer, providing that he succeeds in eliminating Braddock and Max Schmeling. It is doubtful if Louis and the champion will be matched before the summer of 1936 as the big promoters must figure ahead and not bring on too many feature attractions in any one year. Another danger, which must be safeguarded against by Louis' manager, is to be sure that his charge has had sufficient experience before putting him to the final test. In another year Baer, if he is still champion, will be no better than he is today and in all probability not quite so good and this would enhance Louis' chance to cop the title. If Baer and Louis ever do meet it is a safe bet it will be one of the most popular heavyweight bouts staged in years.

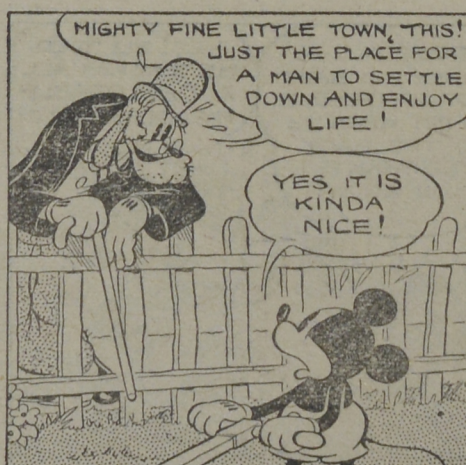
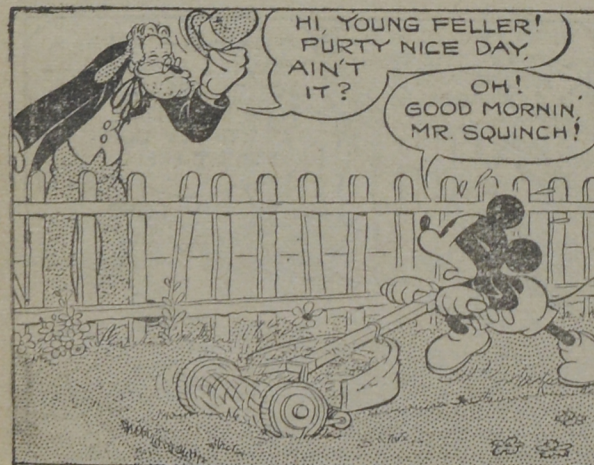
THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IN SPORT IS GREATLY SIMILAR to that in every business venture in life. Those promoting sport usually do so for two reasons, because of a love of the game and for the hopes of financial reward. Commercializing sport in the past was frowned on, but times have changed and today the love of this or that game and the question of a fair return on an investment must run hand-in-hand. The reason why many sport ventures are not a success can be attributed to the person or persons sponsoring the event lacking the necessary qualifications to put them over. A good promoter must keep his hand on the pulse of public desire. He must know the right time to stage an event, make certain to avoid counter attractions, be careful in selecting his card and then put all his energy in working up public interest. A true promoter must also have a drop of gambling blood in his veins. He must be prepared to spend a dollar in order to make a dollar. Failure is bound to attend his efforts if he picks out an attraction that can be procured at a small cost and passing up a real one which will call for a greater guarantee or lay-out. The public today generally know a good thing when they see it and no amount of "ballyhooing" will put over something of doubtful attraction. Men who made a real success in sport promotion, like the late Tex Rickard, always wanted the best and usually got it. Promoters can win the confidence of the public and once this is accomplished their success is assured.

CONNIE MACK'S EXPERIMENT WITH JIMMY FOXX APPARENTLY did not work out as well as the great baseball genius hoped. Foxx, one of the best first basemen in the majors, was changed and sent in behind the bat to strengthen the Athletic battery department. His work was all that could be desired from a catching standpoint, but the continuous crouching and watching the curves, etc., had a detrimental effect on his batting and base-running and the astute master apparently decided the change had not worked out satisfactorily. As a result Jimmy is back on first base and in all probability will remain there. Many players are versatile and can be changed around the diamond, but like in the case of Foxx, the shift may strengthen one department and weaken another. Fans do not always appreciate the true value of a manager but the fact remains that they are either of inestimable value, if they possess the necessary qualifications of leadership, or they can wreck the greatest club that was ever banded together. True leadership calls for a combination of tact, inspiring confidence, good judgment, forcefulness, fighting spirit as well as a natural ability of judging character and getting the best out of every individual. A good manager can "go places" with a mediocre team, while a poor manager can disrupt the most perfectly organized group. Connie Mack has been credited with being one of the greatest baseball managers of all time and his record confirms this.

SUMMER SPORTS OF ALL KINDS ARE NOW IN FULL swing. Golf is becoming a very popular pastime hereabouts and is being played by a large number of young men and women. Tennis continues to hold a fascination for large numbers, while

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 1)

MICKEY MOUSE



DUMB ANIMAL

By WALT DISNEY