

SPORT NEWS

Top Notchers in Sport World Have to Overcome Obstacles Says Rice Magazine Critic

(By Grantland Rice)
(In Colliers)

Benny Leonard's chin was the target for more than one straight-shooting fist before he became lightweight champion. And many other aspirants in sport have learned through experience that the way of the aggressor is hard.

Gameness is the first ingredient in any championship makeup. But there are game people who can't take it. They are not built that way. They may have weak jaws, brittle hands, fragile ribs or tender stomachs. The champion usually has to prove that he can overcome certain obstacles and show his fortitude against discouragement before he reaches the top. This also goes for the star.

For example one might take Hack Wilson, the slugging outfielder of the Chicago Cubs. Two or three tough breaks had kept Hack out of the big show until he finally got his chance with the Giants. Here he showed promise, but McGraw finally decided he wouldn't quite do. So Hack went back to the minors again. He still refused to lose heart and soon slugged his way back into fast company. Last year he was one of the mainstays of the Cub machine, one of its big run makers, one of its hardest fighters.

When the world series came along he found himself peering into a blazing sun during one of the vital games of the series. His club had a big lead, had the game on ice. And then an easy fly came soaring his way with the bases practicing loaded up. Hack could see nothing but a flaming ball of fire against a deep blue sky. The easy out went for a home run, the game and the series.

Knowing Wilson's vivid temperament and the riding he would get through the net campaign there were more than a few who figured this break would take a lot of heart away from Hack's 1930 campaign. In place of which he has been one of the star ball players of the year, not only a hard, hustling fighter but a home-run hitter who kept close to Babe Ruth up into the July fireworks.

Smith's Great Fight

One doesn't always have to be a

winner to prove his heart. Take care of MacDonald Smith, the veteran golf professional. Back in 1910, when he was twenty years old, Mac Smith tried for first place in the U. S. Open. He lost to his older brother, Alex in the play-off, but everyone predicted that young Mac would bag more than his share of major crowns. One thing and another seemed to happen. He could never get his game adjusted for a major title. He won big-money championships, a flock of them, and there was one season when he played sixteen consecutive tournament rounds at an average of 70, beating such stars as Hagen, Sarazen and Farrell on the march.

Went Again

Twenty years after he tied for the U. S. Open he returned to the charge again. At the age of forty he went across to fight it out with Bobby Jones at Hoylake. Almost everyone figured he was too old to hold up through 72 holes. In the first round he tied Jones and the course record at 70. In the next round just two bad breaks brought him in two 6's and lifted his score to 77.

When the final round came he needed 69 to tie Bobby. With a hard wind blowing at the end of a hard test this was asking a bit too much, but for all that Smith stuck to his guns, turned in a 71 and picked up four strokes on Jones to finish only two strokes out.

Gene Tunney, retired heavyweight champion of the world, agrees that my athlete has to stand adversity before he is ready for success.

Fight Hard

"The way of the winner is easy," he said. "I think it is the other road that tests the champion, that is the main foundation of championship success.

"There was my first fight with Harry Greb for the lightweight crown. I was sure I was ready that night and on my way. But what a beating I took!

"That fight proved two things to me. First, that I was still a long, long way from the championship class. The other was that I could take my full share of punishment and still keep going.

"It would have been easy enough to get discouraged. If I hadn't set

my soul on winning the heavyweight championship some day and giving everything I had in my system to win, I might have retired after that fight. For here I was several years after winning the A. E. F. title, taking one of the worst beatings in the history of the ring.

Learned Lot

"As it was, however, I learned a lot from that fight. I found many weak spots of whose existence I had been unaware. Three days later I faced the commission asking for a return match with Greb.

"I had to go through a hard school to be ready for Dempsey. An easy school would never have prepared me for the punch he landed on my throat at Philadelphia. When you step into a championship contest you can't guess—you must know."

His Chance

No fighter will ever have the chance to prove his uphill ability that Jack Sharkey faces. Four years ago, just after he had whipped George Godfrey and Harry Wills, he looked to be a sure bet for the title within a year or so. When he almost knocked out Jack Dempsey in the first round of their meeting he stood out that moment as the best fighting machine in the game.

Four years after he had beaten Godfrey and Wills he found himself within a few minutes of the title facing Max Schmeling. Sharkey was winning in a romp, and then the low punch came, and he was almost as far away from the crown as he was back in 1926. "It's tougher road than I ever thought it would be," Sharkey said later, "and I've helped to make it so through a lot of sap stuff I've pulled, but I haven't started to quit yet."

Fancy Boxer

"I thought after I had started I was a pretty fancy boxer," Benny Leonard, the retired lightweight champion, told me recently. "They called me Powder Puff Benny. I used to dance back and forth and jab and then dance away as I thought that was boxing. I kept winning fights until they matched me with Joe Shugrue, a fellow who could really box and who knew how to hit. I found out in that fight that I hadn't even started. What a beating he gave me before he knocked me out!

"I learned a lot and then Billy Gibson matched me for four rounds with Willie Ritchie, one of the best lightweights in the game. We went to San Francisco for this fight. I had always been a home boy and easily became homesick and lonesome. A funny thing happened here. They took me out to a pavilion near the city to train. In this same pavilion Gans and other great lightweight champions, many of them long dead, had trained and slept.

Whipped By A Ghost

"That night it took me a long time to get to sleep. Then I dreamed that all those lightweight champions came to life and walked into my room. One by one they took me out and gave me a bad beating. Then they all jumped on me. When I thought they were just about to kill me I woke up. In the first round of my fight with Willie Ritchie he hit me in the eye and it puffed out like a blue orange. I remembered that eye when I fought Ritchie later and it spurred me on to a knockout.

"But here's the point," Leonard continued. "All that time I had noticed a lot of young fellows who looked like future champions. They were fast, they could box and they could hit. But I noticed they began to drop out and were never heard of again.

Some Game

"There were several reasons for

FIGHTERS ALL

BATTLING SIKI

(Fighting Senegalese)

George Carpentier returned to his beloved France after his humiliating knockout at the hands of Jack Dempsey. Carpentier, before an idolizing crowd of Parisians met Battling Siki in a bout that was billed for the championship and was knocked cold by the eccentric Senegalese battler in the sixth round. His bout took place on Sept. 24, 1922.

Siki later came to United States after he had lost the title, and campaigned here meeting Kid Norfolk, Battling Owens, Joe Lohman, etc. Siki was killed in New York City, and never got a chance to regain his world's title.

Recapitulation. Matches engaged in, 75; knockouts, 27; won, 25; lost, 12; draw, 2; contest stopped, 3; no decisions 5; knockout by 1.

Water is that loose shiny stuff you see, here and there, between the 11,000 holiday bathers in the beach photograph.

With the wheelbase cut to 76 inches on a new make, the time seems near when the pedestrian can be mowed down with a sawed-off automobile.

A wettern athlete is out of action temporarily having run up a total of 17 boils in two weeks. Beginning from scratch, we assume.

this: Some of them were not game. Some were game and couldn't stand the steady punishment. They took heavy beatings but lacked the stamina and resistance to keep going. I noticed others who kept on winning. They too dropped out because they couldn't stand success. They figured that they didn't have to train. Then when they did not get beaten because of lack of training they became discouraged and quit. The winner has more temptations to face than the loser because he is more popular and has more friends."

GOOD PROGRAM TO BE ON THE AIR TUESDAY

The following is the list of radio programs for Tuesday evening of stations easily picked up in Fredericton: Old Gold Hour—Paul Whiteman's Libby Hour—WJZ. R. R. O. Hour—WEAF. Eveready Hour—WEAF net work. WOR, NEWARK

7.00—Uncle Don Concert.
7.15—Heroes and Patriots.
8.30—The Skylarkers
10.00—Runkel's Quartette.
10.30—Munn Bush Admco.
12.00—News; Dance Music.

WEAF, NEW YORK
7.30—Orchestra Music.
6.55—Baseball Scores.
7.00—Voters Service.
7.30—Seconyland Sketches.
8.00—Trioka Bells.
8.30—Frontier Days
9.00—Eveready Hour.
9.30—Happy Wonder Bakers.
10.00—Enna Jettick Songbird.
10.00—Cuddles and Monty
10.30—R. K. O. Hour.
11.00—Golden Gems.
12.30—Spiranny's Orchestra.

WJZ, NEW YORK
7.00—Amos 'n' Andy.
7.15—Base ball scores
7.45—Polly Preston.
8.00—Pural Band.
8.30—Mountaineers
8.45—Hoplin
9.00—Tek Music
9.30—Mariner Cahill.
10.30—Crush dry Cronics.

WABC, NEW YORK
7.30—Long Island Duch Festival.
8.00—Blackstone Program.
8.30—Romany Pattern.
9.00—Henry and George.
10.00—Graybars, Mr. and Mrs.
10.30—Opera Comedy Memories.
11.00—News, Bulletins.
WGY, SCHNECTADY
6.00—Reports; Dinner music.
7.00—Programs from WEAF.
CKAC, MONTREAL
7.45—Crystal Cavillers.
7.00—Old Stock Ale.
8.00—Jules Masse, elocutionist.
9.00—Bulova Time Announcement.
8.00—L'Heure Provinciale.
10.00—Westinghouse Salute.
11.00—Weather Forecast.

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