



SPORTS PAGE



Maritime Senior Skating Champion Is Robert Wilson

Smythe of Moncton Tied With Fullerton of Sackville For Second Place.

Robert Wilson, of Saint John, is Maritime speed-skating champion having won the title at the meet conducted in the Forum on Tuesday evening. Wilson won the 440 yards, the three-quarter mile and the two-mile contests, and a third in the 880 yards, giving him 100 points. Harry Smythe, of Moncton, and Gordon Fullerton, of Sackville, tied for second place. Margaret Whipple, of Saint John, won the honors for senior ladies. In the events for girls under 14 years, Patricia Fawcett, of Moncton, tied with Ann Quinn, of Saint John, for first place. John Quigg was the best in the boys under 18 years, with William Givan, in second position. Benny Wilson won the 16-year-old honors, with Leonard Golding second. In the 14-year-old class L. McGeouch was first. In the 12-year-old class, Teddy McLean was first and in the 10-year-olds Joseph Gormley was the winner. Jean McCluskey was the best of the 18-year-old girls; Evelyn Reinhart in the 16-year-old class.

Constable Carson was the fastest policeman on skates on the ice, and John Nixon was the best fireman skating.

Defense Star



EBBIE GOODFELLOW, formerly one of the best forwards in the N. H. L., now recognized as one of the greatest defence stars in the big league. Ebbie is with the Detroit Red Wings and is one of their most valuable players.

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The Ring Gladiators of Old Were Tough Propositions

Many Considered Them as Super-Humans in Comparison to Present Day Fighters—Had Great Recuperative Powers.

By RAY HANSEN

THOUSANDS of boxing enthusiasts of today have often heard or read about famous bouts of a half-century ago when men fought for 50, 60 or 70 rounds for insignificant purses of prizes. They are prone to consider the fighters of that day as super-human in comparison with modern ring gladiators, who refuse to engage in a bout of longer duration than 15 rounds. In the old days when there were no automobiles or rapidly moving street cars, people as a whole were more prone to walk long distances and as a result they got more exercise in the open air, developed greater strength of limb and deeper and broader lungs. This undoubtedly had something to do with greater stamina and recuperative powers so apparent in the ring gladiators of old. Today many of the leading exponents of boxing own their own automobiles and indulge in little walking. As a result when they are forced to go into training it takes weeks to try and rebuild a system abused by months of inactivity and indulgences, which undermine their natural sturdiness and health.

From a standpoint of ability it is doubtful if the ring idols of that realm were as clever or could hit any harder than modern champions. Many of them were undoubtedly tougher and would take an awful beating before they would give in. Whether or not Joe Louis would have been able to dispose of James J. Corbett or John L. Sullivan are questions which will never be answered. The former was exceptionally clever and the latter had terrific punching power. Bob Fitzsimmons was clever and a hard puncher, but he frequently allowed an opponent to punch him at will while he waited for an opening. One wonders what would have happened to him if a man like "Smoky" Joe were given this liberty. However, he was very canny and undoubtedly would have adopted different tactics.

Before the adoption of the Queensberry rules brute strength and heavy punching seemed to be highly essential qualifications for a champion. The ring was made on the turf, fighters were permitted to have three spikes on each shoe not exceeding three-eighths of an inch from the sole of the boot. A round consisted not of so many minutes, but as soon as one or both of the fighters were down. Butting with the head, kicking or deliberately falling on an antagonist with the knees, gouging or tearing the flesh with the finger nails were all considered foul, but aside from these restrictions any kind of rough and tumble fighting apparently was permitted. Bare knuckles were used. When a round terminated 30 seconds were allowed before the referee called time for the next round. A further breathing spell of eight seconds were given the contestants to toe the scratch. Failure on the part of one or the other to observe this strict ruling meant the loss of the bout.

The adoption of the Queensberry rules made a drastic change in ring battles. Contestants were forced to wear gloves, rounds were of three minutes duration, no matter how many knockdowns

there were, providing the fighter was able to regain his feet in ten seconds. Failure to do so meant that he was considered knocked out. Many ring followers still adhere to the belief that a man must be unconscious to be termed knocked out. This is wrong. If he fails to arise, or as the original expression went, to toe the scratch he is considered knocked out. Over a wide span of years there has been a difference of opinion in interpreting the Queensberry rules. When they were originally adopted the second clause distinctly said "no wrestling or hugging allowed." Experts disagree, some maintaining that this was meant to do away with all holding and clinching and to indulge in three minutes of open boxing. Others contend that wrestling and hugging are quite distinct from holding or holding and hitting. At the present time the boxers are instructed by the referee to break clean when called on to do so. Clinching is not penalized as it is a natural thing for a boxer to clutch his adversary if tired or endeavoring to protect himself from a sudden onslaught. However, he is forced to break when instructed to do so or risks disqualification.

Boxing, as it is conducted at the present time, is undoubtedly far more interesting than it was under the London prize ring rules.

"Red" Beattie



"RED" BEATTIE, forward of the Boston Bruins, is a tenacious back checker, and a very clever skater. "Red" is not very big, with the result he is hard to check. He is very fast around the nets and goalkeepers do not like him very much.

SPOTS of Sport

By RAY HANSEN



BASEBALL FANS ARE HEARING SO MUCH about the doings of major leaguers that they are naturally curious to know just what the prospects will be for Saint John next season. Hopes are still entertained for the organization of a provincial league although there has been actually little or nothing done to bring this about. The proposition was mooted last fall but the matter has evidently been allowed to simmer along without anything definite being accomplished. It is understood that there will be a city league and that visiting teams will be brought here for Saturday afternoons and holidays. Whether or not outside talent will appear on the rosters of any of the local clubs is problematic. The patronage at the league games last season was so small that it is doubtful if any local manager has money or courage enough to gamble on larger attendance and gate receipts during the coming season. Fans of today contend that they are not interested because of the fact that the class of ball played fails to attract. The real trouble seems to lie in the fact that there is too much sameness to the clubs. Their competitions do not work up enough public rivalry and the fans adopt an attitude of indifference, which has a direct effect on the players themselves. If baseball is to develop hereabouts the fans will have to help along by their attendance. Packed stands will force players to extend themselves, but a scattered few has little or no moral effect on the contestants. Saint John can boast of some mighty good players, but good competent coaching is necessary to bring the game to a higher plane. If local managers will concentrate on this, and if the league would unite in banding together an all-star line-up for visiting teams there is no reason why interest cannot be revived and the attendance at the games greatly increased.

JOE CRONIN, MANAGER OF THE BOSTON RED SOX, IS delighted to have Jimmy Foxx on his line-up for 1936. In a record. He considers Foxx is the greatest player in the game; close to or break "Babe" Ruth's American League home-run record. He considers Foxx is the greatest player in the game, regarding his home-run prediction, Manager Cronin pointed out that Jimmy is joining a new club under ideal conditions and felt the change from the Philadelphia Athletics to the Red Sox would have a good moral effect and implement his chances to reach or better the sixty mark. Manager Cronin is also enthusiastic over the acquisition of Roger Cramer and Heine Manush, outfielders. Eric McNair, infielder, and Johnny Marcum, pitcher. He has high hopes of being in the pennant race right from the start and considers his chief opposition will be from Cleveland, Detroit and Yankees. Wesley Ferrell, Red Sox pitching star, recently won the golf championship of the professional baseball leagues held at Sarasota, California. His score for 72 holes was 312. Ruth finished with 330 and Dizzy Dean with 344. Ball players apparently consider golf a splendid conditioner. It sharpens the eye, and strengthens both the legs and arms, to say nothing of cutting down the waist line. Colonel Jacob Ruppert, owner of the New York Yankees, is planning on enlarging the stadium so as to accommodate 84,000 for baseball, from 20,000 to 95,000 for football and nearly 120,000 for boxing. They propose to have the largest 59-cents covered section in the major leagues. The approximate cost of the proposed change is set at \$850,000.

JIMMY McLARNIN, THE VANCOUVER CELT, HAS BEEN induced to come out of retirement and pit his well known aggressiveness and skill against Tony Canzoneri, lightweight champion. The former welterweight king put away his gloves nearly a year ago after his bout with Barney Ross and announced that he was all through with fighting. Promoter Jimmy Johnson of Madison Square Garden, however, must have been able to produce some tempting bait, in the form of "green backs," for the gloves, shoes and trunks are to come out of the mothballs and be put to work during a long training period. The bout is to be a 15-round affair with no title at stake. The State Athletic Commission has approved the proposed bout and also gave permission for Canzoneri to meet an opponent to be selected from the leading lightweight contenders. Both are to be staged in May. In the latter Canzoneri will be forced to defend his title. It was only on this condition that his bout with McLarnin was approved. It should be a great fight between the former welter king and the lightweight champion. Both are clever exponents and chock full of aggressiveness. They will be at catch weights, McLarnin undoubtedly having the better of the argument from this standpoint. Boxing fans, the world over, will be interested in the outcome.

MANY HOCKEY FANS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE Beavers coming through and winning their way in to the Maritime playdowns. From present indications they should clinch the Southern New Brunswick title and from that on will face fairly stiff competition. The more games they play and the stronger the competition the better the fans will like it. From now until the close of the season interest should be steadily on the "up," and if the locals are able to keep in there until they reach the finals the chances are that the capacity of The Forum will be taxed. There have been many good games in The Forum this season and the fans have been treated to many thrills. Hockey generally is creating more interest. Despite the loss of the "Big Four" the game has progressed and many younger local players have shown real promise. With another year's experience New Brunswick should be in a position to show the way to many of the teams in other Provinces. It is quite probable that next year some arrangement will be made for inter-provincial games, which will bring the fans back to the realization that they have some real hockey.