

# DAY OF THE BRAINY BOXER HAS ARRIVED

### Instruction in Army Camps Has Developed Intelligent, Fearless Crop of Ring Artists

## BENNY LEONARD AGREES

By JAMES S. CAROLAN

THE ring performers of the past and the majority of the present-day artists gained their knowledge of boxing in most instances in the street. They were fighters by instinct—at least those that gained anything like prominence in the game. Those that reached the top easily could be recognized. They were the ones that used their brains as well as hands and feet to combat the blind, rushing drives of their opponents.

But the boxers of the future will be an entirely different set. The lads who will entertain after the present crop has outlived its usefulness will be the brainy boys, those who never take their eyes off the other fellow and who at all times are trying to outguess their adversaries.

### Taught by Experts

The reason for this decided change in the class of boxers is the training received in army camps. There thousands of boys acquired their first knowledge of boxing from experts, veteran ring artists skilled in the art of boxing, who have had knowledge from experts never forgotten and once the pupil masters the fundamentals it is only a matter of time, providing his physical condition is perfect, until he is a lawyer.

A few nights ago Billy Gibson, veteran judge of fighting talent and the man who piloted Benny Leonard to a championship, was viewing one of the preliminaries at the Olympia. Two unskilled but willing boys were fighting. They gave their best, but crashed into each other without any sense of direction. They fought instinctively and without thought. This didn't appeal to the observing Gibson.

### Message From Gibson

"You can say what you want about army life," Gibson spluttered. "I know it has worked wonders with thousands of boys. The one sport which made thousands of fighting men is boxing. The Government has approved of it and now realizes clearly what it meant in developing such an effective fighting force. For more than a year thousands of powerful youths have been schooled diligently in the art of boxing. Watch out for these boys. They have the makings of champions."

Accompanied Leonard on his tour of the camps where he gave many exhibitions. I term them thus so lightly, but let me state right here Benny had some of the toughest battles of his career in those camps so called exhibitions. Benny engaged in thirty-six fights while on the coast and of this number twenty-six were hard. Of the twenty-six I truthfully can say five were the toughest he ever fought.

### That Aviator

"But I never will forget ONE fight Benny had against a service boy. I guess Benny never will forget it either. It was at North Island, just a short distance from San Diego. When we reached the field the place was packed with service boys. Out of a crowd of thousands, one had been named to oppose the champion. He was the hero

## Gibson Hesitates When Oregon Promoters Offer 100 Per Cent of Receipts

Did you ever hear of a promoter offering a fighter 100 per cent of the receipts? Well, this really happened, and the Malmesbury Club of Portland, Ore., one of the finest athletic clubs in the country, made this unique offer to have Benny Leonard box there next spring.

When the proposition was communicated to Billy Gibson he questioned the offer. "Will the receipts total \$2,500?" Gibson wired the generous Oregonians. "It looks too good to be true."

The reply was speedy. "The offer stands. We'll give Leonard 100 per cent as a guarantee of \$2500." Gibson isn't going to pass up the match, but he is still undecided whether to take the guarantee or gamble on the rate.

of the camp. Even the commanding officer was forgotten for the time. Hail to the hero!

"Well, on this occasion, Benny was the first to enter the ring. He was given a liberal hand. A few minutes later a trim, athletic, INTELLIGENT young aviator lithely cleared the ropes and quietly, coolly dropped on the chair in his corner. He was a decided blonde with close-cropped hair and a little blonde mustache. He looked to be between 142 and 145 pounds and possessed as fine a build as one would care to see, but appeared too retiring.

### Decidedly Cool

"When the boys were given final instructions the aviator was the least disturbed person in the spacious arena. He stepped rapidly, feinted, boxed and swung, but never for an instant did he take his eyes off Benny. He permit Benny to jab, but was undisturbed whenever Leonard landed. For two rounds this continued, with neither about even. Then came the third session.

"Benny was determined to end the battle quickly. He opened up and dazed with his brilliant display of footwork. He feinted his opponent into an opening and suddenly crossed his right to the point of the jaw. The aviator, stunned for the moment, stepped back, then suddenly started after Leonard. He attacked as Benny never had been attacked before and for a time Benny was courting disaster. Finally the song sounded and the round was over.

### Fight to Finish

"And this is typical of most of the boys Benny faced in the camps. They are in there to fight to the last. They care nothing for champions and fear no one. They are taught this and it is this spirit which is going to bring forth such a wonderful collection of fighters in the near future."

### Wefers to Coach 1st Regiment

New York, Dec. 18.—Bernie Wefers, formerly coach of the Columbia track team and more recently coach of the Fordham track and field men, has been engaged to coach the track team of the Seventy-first Regiment. Wefers began his work last night.

### Geary to Coach Lehigh Five

Hatfield, Pa., Dec. 18.—Ray W. Geary, of the old Hamilton State Basketball League, was yesterday chosen as coach of the Lehigh University basketball quintet.

# SANTA CLAUS ATTACKED

Santa Claus burst into the office of the Gooftus Detective Agency. He was perspiring and his face was red. Looking as calm as a man overboard, he demanded to see the Chief Sleuth. "Slippery Pete" McGovern rubber-banded out, gave him the welcome mitt and the Xmas hero spilled the following:

"Some hard-boiled egg, who is so tight he squeaks," said Mr. Claus, "has been roasting me to a brown crisp. His name is Hector Glum, and if he owned the ocean he wouldn't give a fish a drink. Not wanting to give away anything, except advice, he is starting an organization called the Society for the Extinction of Santa Claus."

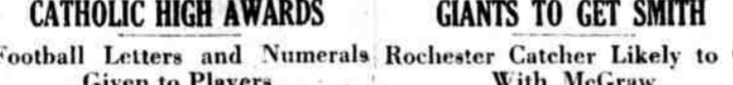
Detective McGovern turned to a cabinet on his desk and extracted a card. "Some of your friends," said Slippery Pete, "have beat you to it, Santa. ole kid. Glum is now wearing a striped uniform, assigned to the stone pile at the State Penitentiary makin' little ones out of big ones."

The detective then read the following to the Christmas philanthropist:

Glum, Hector. Age 38 years. Occupation, Joy Killer. Born, Yes. At the age of four Hector set fire to his home and two years later lynched the family cat and drowned three kittens. He celebrated his tenth birthday by nailing his father's shoes to the floor and pouring muckilage in his hat. Glum attracted attention in his fifteenth year, when he was arrested for stealing the tip-up of a blind man. When he became of age he started contributing to the collection plate. His contributions consisted of lead nickels and overcoat buttons.

At the start of the war he was pro-German on general principles, admired Kultur as applied to Belgium and adored the Kaiser. He refused to buy Liberty Bonds, kick in to the War Chest or help the Red Cross.

Despite his earnest efforts at the time of his arrest the society he was trying to organize consisted of one member—HIMSELF!



AT THE TENDER AGE OF SIX

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

### CATHOLIC HIGH AWARDS

Football Letters and Numerals Given to Players

The gold "C" and numerals were awarded members of Catholic High's eleven yesterday in the auditorium of the school by Athletic Manager Professor John Fisher.

Those to receive the coveted letter were Captain "Ray" Smith, Manager Thompson, "Bernie" Dougherty, Bradley, the "O'Connell Twins," Breamonte, Casclato, Gleason, Carten, McGovern, Stark, Leonard, M. Dougherty and Healey. Numerals 19 were given to Martin Cumie and Guerin; 20 to Taylor and Luchese; 21 to O'Connor and Donohue.

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## MORNINGSIDE IN X-COUNTRY RUN

### New York Club and Fordham in Snellenburg Race New Year's

## MEADOWBROOK ENTERS

The first of the out-of-town teams to enter the seventh annual woodblock New Year's Day marathon run given under the auspices of the N. Snellenburg & Co. Athletic Association are those from the Morningside Athletic Club, of New York, and the cross-country team of Fordham University. Morningside won the national junior and senior championships within the last four weeks, and included on the team are Bohland and Halpin, two of the best distance runners in America. Charles Pore, of Pelham Bay Naval Station, will also compete.

The strong Meadowbrook Club, of this city, will make matters interesting for the Gothamites, since the Wannamaker store boys have not entered defeat in open cross-country running for two seasons. Led last year by Meadowbrook carried off the Junior Middle Atlantic Championship for the second time. Entries close on December 21, with Louis N. Goldsmith, 404 Widener Building, Philadelphia, Pa.



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## MORAN NOT SIGNED

### Pat Given Thirty Days to Consider Giants' Offer

Fitchburg, Mass., Dec. 18.—Pat Moran, former manager of the Phillies, upon returning here from New York yesterday, declared he has received "a most attractive" offer from the New York Nationals, and that he was allowed thirty days to make a decision. The offer, he said, was accompanied by a personal urging from John McGraw. It is understood, declared Moran's long experience as a catcher and his well-known ability for developing young pitchers, would make him very valuable on the New York club. It is understood that McGraw has offered Moran \$5000 a year.

## 150 Games for Southern

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 18.—Directors of the Southern Association of Professional Baseball Clubs at a meeting here yesterday voted to have a schedule of 150 games next season, beginning about May 1. The player limit was fixed at fourteen men and \$2600 was set as the salary limit.

## Elmira Manager Bankrupt

Elmira, N. Y., Dec. 18.—F. Lee Breesee, former president of the Elmira baseball team of the old New York State League, has filed a petition in bankruptcy here. He gives his debts as \$25,000 and assets of but \$1000.

## Fink Triumphs Over Harmon

Morris Fink defeated Charles Harmon last night in the first game of the series of 500 points pocket billiard match for the championship of Pennsylvania. The game was played in the billiard room at Green's Hotel.

## READING BASKETBALL

### Berliner Will Not Join Dual State League

Reading, Pa., Dec. 18.—Reading has declined to go into a Pennsylvania-New Jersey Basketball League, which R. T. B. Winkill, a Philadelphia, is trying to organize. The clubs proposed are Treanton, Reading, Allentown, Chester, Camden and Philadelphia. Al Berliner, the only promoter of league basketball at present in Reading, has declined to go into the league because the local high school five has the best hall here, the Armory, for all the big holiday dates, and two games on the same night here would not pay. Berliner is going ahead, nevertheless, with arrangements for an independent team, and wants to get started by Christmas. Bushel Beggs and George Morris are already on his string.

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