

MEXICO STILL POPULAR FIGHTING SPOT—WILLARD AND DEMPSEY MAY BATTLE AT TLAJUANA

RICKARD CLINCHED WILLARD-DEMPSEY BOUT 2 WEEKS AGO

Noted Promoter Then Secured Kearns's Consent in New York to Match and Last Week, With his \$100,000 Offer, Induced Willard to Sign

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL

Now that Jess Willard has signed the papers to meet some aspiring challenger for the heavyweight crown and a paltry \$100,000, the only detail to be completed is to find that aspiring challenger.

Although the papers were signed in Chicago last Friday, the match really was made in New York two weeks ago.

"I will make it interesting for you, Jack," said Tex, "if you will consent to meet the big boy this time summer. Will you sign now?"

"Don't worry about me, Tex," replied Kearns. "I'll fight Willard any time and any place and any distance. My part is settled now. All you have to do is get Willard's name to a contract, get his forfeit up and then come and see me.

Rickard has promoted many big battles in his career, but this will top them all. For expenses it will overshadow the Jeffries-Johnson affair and the Willard-Moran thing.

STILL, with the price of admission from \$10 to \$50, the match should draw about \$300,000, for it looks better than the Jeffries-Johnson fight, which brought a \$270,000 gate.

Few Places to Hold Long-Distance Fights

THIS Rickard person handles hundreds of thousands like an ordinary guy tussles with a dollar. No amount seems too large for him, and the chances are he would have raised the ante had Willard insisted.

However, there may be some difficulty in selecting a proper spot for the battle. Rickard wants thirty or forty rounds, and there isn't a place in this country where bouts of this length are permitted.

That leaves only one logical spot—Tla Juana race track, operated by Jim Coffroth. The track is in Mexico, just over the California border, and the boxers can battle a couple of days if they so desire.

IT WILL take some time for Rickard to select a site and it will require all kinds of hustling to complete arrangements to hold the fight on July 1.

Jack Hempel Believes Willard Unbeatable

SOON after the news that Willard signed a contract had been flashed across the wires, big Jack Hempel, of the marines, strolled into the office.

"That match is soft picking for Willard," said Hempel. "Jess will beat Dempsey without any trouble, for he is the greatest fighting man the world ever has seen."

"I have seen Dempsey in action and he is just made for Willard. Jack is wide open when he starts for an opponent and Jess's left jab will knock him loose from his feet."

"Dempsey is a good man—I'll grant you that—but he never will be able to do anything with Willard. The big champion can go back 50 per cent and knock his block off."

"At the same time I confess I am nervous about Dempsey's work. He MUST be a great fighter with a TERRIBLE wallop, or he couldn't score so many knockouts in one round."

"REMEMBER Willard's fight with Moran? Frank could hit hard, but what good did it do him? He held Moran off and won as he pleased. It will be the same with Dempsey."

Dempsey Too Classy for Willard, Says Kearns

JACK KEARNS, wearing a regular actor's overcoat with a fur collar and everything, consented to an interview at the National Saturday night.

"They say Jack is a mark for a guy with a good left hand. How about Fulton? Fred has the best left jab ever seen on a heavyweight, and what did he do? Lasted all of eighteen seconds."

"The next time Jack fights, just watch him closely at the start. He is all covered up and goes after his man with both gloves protecting his head. After he feels out his opponent he opens up and soon the battle is over."

"I am not boosting my fighter to hear myself talk but he is a record to back my statements. No one in the world hits harder than Dempsey, and he can knock out any man he can hit."

"I have something else to say," he continued. "I have heard rumors of a match with Mike Gibbons, but don't let it ever will take place. Now to show what kind of a fighter Dempsey is, I will consent to meet Mike and Tom Gibbons on the same night, three rounds each, and place \$1000 in your hands as a guarantee that Jack will knock both of them out."

"THAT'S the kind of a fighter I love, and there isn't another man in the world who would try it. Don't worry about Willard. He can dive like the rest of them."

SPORTING EVENTS AS VIEWED BY CUNNINGHAM

OUR OWN PUZZLE DEPT. EDITED BY JOE GUM. WHAT WORD IS THIS? NCLYAIIC. FOR THE BEST ANSWER RECEIVED TO THE ABOVE PROBLEM 100 PRIZES WILL POSITIVELY BE GIVEN.

EXPLAIN:— I AM AN SON OF TOLL. I AM AN I MAY NEVER PLAY BALL AGAIN. BIRTHDAY GREETINGS. UMGUZZA. WELL, SHOW ME SOME WELCOME! TROT OUT THE GLAD HAND SHAKE IT UP.

MIDVALE FIVE AND SAINTS LOOK BEST

With Record of No Defeats They Have Chance for Title N. Y. TOPS SHIP LEAGUE

STANDING OF THE CLUBS AMERICAN LEAGUE. Middle 10.000, St. John's 8.000, Hanover 7.000, Marlton 6.000.

It looks very likely that Hanover and Middlevale will battle for second half honors in American Basketball League.

THE Saints battle Yours tonight, and if the first half champions are defeated it means they are out of the second half for keeps.

NEW YORK SHIP LEADS. The ship leads in the Delaware River Shipyard Basketball League with four victories and no defeats.

HOJ Island has a good club when they play, but today's amateur aggression was easily defeated when Willie McArthur and Fred Jones failed to show up.

Wrestling Meet at Penn Tonight. With the best wrestling meet in Westmont Hill tonight, two winners start out with a comparatively few wrestling boys.

Hancock's Worthy Feat. Hancock will hardly appear in the pages of the championship of the American League, but Mike Houston and his crew certainly came in for a little consideration when they defeated the early Harbinger Independents on Saturday evening, 35-29.

RESULTS OF SATURDAY'S Soccer Matches. AMERICAN C.F.P. Third Round. Newark 1, R.F.C. 0.

WHEN A FELLER NEEDS A FRIEND. Edie McAndrews, the youngest Young Joe Scott defeated Joe Tibbe in the best battle for the prize.

Jack Hagen and Spider Kemp will be together in the Western League club tournament. Hagen and Kemp have a terrific record.

Tommy Langdon, who has been the best of the Western League club tournament, will be the first to enter the international class.

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PENN LOSES SMITH; BARTELS MAY LEAVE

Former Mercersburg Runner Unable to Re-enter; Pentathlon Champion Is Likely to Quit

THREE BIG DUAL MEETS. PENN has lost one of its athletes of Class IA, and is very likely to lose another this week.

Barrels is taking one of the most difficult courses in the University, chemical engineering, and although he feels the mark of scholastic eligibility last year, he has fallen down in his studies this year and is so far behind that he believes it would be better to quit.

Both Smith and Bartels could be used to advantage this season, an Penn is the one who has the most to lose.

The national indoor games will be held at the Thirteenth Regiment Army Post, Philadelphia, on February 22-23.

PHILLIES OPEN SEASON AT HOME AGAINST THE GIANTS ON APRIL 23. The 1919 National League season in this city will be played at Broad and Huntingdon streets.

COLLEGES DROP ONE-YEAR RULE. I. C. A. A. A. Recommends Those in Service Be Allowed to Compete.

MUST RETURN BY APRIL 1. New York, Jan. 27.—All members of the Students' Army Training Corps who continued in college with interruption and all students who entered the service or engaged in war work will be eligible for competition in intercollegiate athletic contests this year.

SCHAEFER TRIMS COCHRAN. Wizard's Son Takes Match by 3600 to 3076. New York, Jan. 27.—Jacob Schaefer triumphed over his rival, William Cochran, in their 12-battle boxing match.

MULFORD TO RACE. Veteran Driver to Compete in 500-Mile Grand. Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 27.—Ralph Mulford does not expect to return to the national scene until the first of the season.

SUITS AND OVERCOATS \$11.80. REDUCED FROM \$20, \$25 AND \$30. PETER MORAN & CO. S. E. Cor. 9th & Arch Sts.

Major A. J. Drexel Biddle. Boxing Tournament for Army and Navy Stars FEBRUARY 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. Open Monday and Saturday evenings.

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