

Cleverness and a Terrific Punch Failed to Overcome Peter Maher's Hard Luck

PETER MAHER HAS TO FALL OFF GANG PLANK TO BREAK INTO PRINT

Once Famous Irish Champion, Now Forgotten by Fickle Sports Public, Fought Many Stirring and Exciting Battles More Than Two Decades Ago

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL
Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

A FEW days ago the following was printed in a New York newspaper: "New London, Conn.—Peter Maher, prominent in the heavy-weight pugilistic ranks years ago and now employed as a foreman at the State Prison, missed his footing when descending a gangplank and fell twenty feet to the wharf below. He suffered a sprained ankle and his wrist also was injured."

In this manner does the once famous latter-day step into the limelight. He had to fall off a ship to get his name in the papers and remind the old-time boxing fans that he still is on earth. Peter almost was forgotten, which is another evidence of the fickleness of a fickle public. When you're out in front you're a hero, but when you leave the stage you pass out of the picture for good.

Peter Maher was an unfortunate fighter. He was born twenty-two years ago. With his terrific punch and his cleverness, he was forced to battle in the days when Bob Fitzsimmons, Jim Corbett, Jim Jeffries, Joe Choynski, Gus Ruhlin, Tom Sharkey, Kid Carter and other real heavyweights were in their best form. As a result, Peter had no use for his punch or his cleverness. He could polish off the second-raters, but when he was matched with a top-notch he was a unanimous second.

He should have taken out plate-glass insurance for his jaw. That fragile part of his anatomy was constantly coming in contact with alien fists which were hurled at him for no good purpose, and after consciousness was restored he would receive the usual condolences from the victor. Near the end of his career his opponent would express his sorrow before the fight and have it over with.

Just the same, Peter was one of the most popular fighters who drew a crowd of thousands of admirers, and they would back him to the limit every time he fought. The money lost on Maher by his admiring countrymen would have purchased freedom for Ireland a couple of times.

Peter lived in Philadelphia and did most of his fighting there the last eight years he was in the ring. Occasionally he would put up a good fight, but most of the time he was used to boost the reputation of a coming heavy-weight.

HIS last appearance, according to the records, was on April 26, 1909, when Jack Fitzgerald knocked him out in the first round. Ten days before he boxed six rounds with Jeff Clark.

Modern Fighters Would Be Easy for Maher

AS WAS said before, Peter was a hard hitter, and if he were in his prime today he could make a fortune. The modern crop of heavyweights, with the exception of Jack Dempsey, would have been easy for him, according to those who have seen him in action. Maher hit straight and hard, and when he connected the other fellow usually was through for the evening. The only trouble was that Peter used to let the other man land first. Then he landed on his back.

Peter was champion of Ireland and came here in 1891. While working in a brewery in Dublin he met an Irish pugilist who claimed the championship and Maher won the fight, which lasted two hours and forty minutes. The name of his opponent is not given in the records, but perhaps it doesn't matter. From that time Peter became a drawing card and won several bouts in Ireland and England.

In March, 1891, he knocked out "Bubble" Daly in this city, and two days later handed the same treatment to Jim Daly. He was going good then, and after a few more triumphs was matched to box Bob Fitzsimmons in New Orleans. This was a mistake in more ways than one. Fitz won, but Maher had not journeyed from Ireland to meet him. He originally was booked to walloper the great and only John L. Sullivan.

He had been discovered by Billy Madden, who had split with John L., and was touring the world to find a man to take the title away from the champion. The match never came off, and perhaps it was all for the best. Instead, Fitzsimmons, then middleweight champion, was selected, and Bob won in twelve rounds.

Maher was an in-and-out fighter. Sometimes he was like a game cock, and on other occasions he would drop gently to the canvas, rest his head on his arms and listen to the count. He showed this trait in the battle with Fitz on March 2, 1892. Here is the last paragraph of the story of the fight: "Toward the end of the twelfth round Fitz landed his left hand on the mouth. Maher told Fitz privately that he had enough. Bob then made the rest of the round easier, told the referee and at the end of the round the sponge went up from Maher's corner. Fitzsimmons was declared the winner amid much excitement."

THE art of high diving efficiently was unknown in those good old days.

Always on Verge of a Great Victory

MAHER might be considered an unlucky boxer. He seldom had any of the breaks. Several times, in important battles, he had his man all but out, and lost when his opponent connected with a wild swing. Such was the case in his second meeting with Fitzsimmons in Langtry, Tex., in 1895. That battle will go down in history as one of the shortest and most exciting ever held.

Fitz had been going good and so was Maher. Peter claimed the battle in New Orleans did not show him at his best and it was easy to arrange another match. However, there was some difficulty in selecting a spot to hold it because of the activities of the well-known law. Finally Langtry was discovered and the battlers and audience made a quick trip on special train.

The fight was short and sweet. No sooner had the spectators gathered around the ring and settled down to witness what they expected to be a long-drawn-out affair, than Maher's left fist crashed against Fitzsimmons' jaw. Bob dropped in a heap, completely out. The referee started a perfunctory count and was the most surprised man in the place when Fitz struggled to his feet at the count of nine. Peter also was slightly charged.

Bob staggered toward his opponent and Maher prepared to land one more wallop which would finish him for good.

But the blow never landed. Fitz, using all of his strength in a final desperate effort, swung his right and it caught Peter on the chin. Down he went and was counted out.

ALL of this happened in about one-half a round. No wonder the old-timers still talk of the fight as the most exciting that ever was held.

Two Hardest Blows Ever Struck in Ring

PETER could hit, but he wasted many knockout wallops. He surely wasted one, but made history in Philadelphia on the night of December 3, 1902, when he met and was felled by Kid Carter at the National.

The fight had all of the earmarks of the Langtry affair, only it lasted longer. It was over in the second round.

Kid Carter never knew when he was licked. He could take all kinds of punishment and come up for more so long as he was able. That trait saved him from defeat when he met Maher.

This battle, like the others, was before our time—sportively speaking—and the dope has been dragged out of the memory of old-timers. We ran across an interview with a prominent sportsman of that day and he commented as follows:

"I think the two hardest blows I ever saw struck in a ring were delivered within ten seconds of each other in the Maher-Carter bout. Maher threw his famous wallop over against Carter's jaw. The kid nearly turned a somersault and landed on his head. Peter walked away. It didn't seem possible for Carter to get up again."

"But he did, and spreading his feet, waited for Peter to continue. As Maher stepped in Carter swung one from the knees, and caught Peter flush on the chin.

"U" FLEW Maher's heels; also he turned a half somersault in the air and landed on top of his head. He was out for about ten minutes.

Always Will Be the Champion of Ireland

POOR Peter was done after that. The next year he was knocked out by Joe Choynski, George Gardner and Jack Monroe, and lost to Joe Grim on a foul. It was one of Joe's rare victories.

But no matter what happens, Peter Maher is a champion. He has been, and will be, the perpetual heavy-weight champion of Ireland. He fought how many battles he has lost, how many times he has been knocked out.

HIS popularity never will be dimmed, and thousands of his admirers hope he will soon recover from his recent injury.

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"CASEYS" TO BATTLE

Tri-Council Will Tackle Camden in West Philadelphia Tonight

One of the biggest Knights of Columbus basketball games of the season will be played tonight in the K. of C. Hall, Thirty-eighth and Market streets. Johnny Castle's reorganized Tri-Council basketballers are scheduled to meet Camden tonight.

Camden will come to Philadelphia with a fine galaxy of stars. "Soup" Robinson and "Rich" Deigan of the Camden League Club, Tom McEneaney of the Philadelphia League and Tom Deaton of the Eastern League play-

HOW TO START THE DAY WRONG



INDEPENDENTS TO DECIDE CITY TITLE

Series for Baseball Championship of Philadelphia Will Be Played Next Fall

TO NAME OFFICERS TONIGHT

It has always been a topic of wide discussion as to the best independent baseball team in the City of Philadelphia and this question will be solved this year if the plans of the officials of the Philadelphia Baseball Association are carried out.

The little moguls gather tonight at the Hotel Walton and after one of the many subjects brought up for discussion, the By-Laws Committee, headed by W. G. Greer, will also present its report for adoption and permanent officers will be chosen.

Howard Donovan, who has been responsible to a large degree in putting the new association over, and who has been elected temporary president, says he will not be a candidate for president, as it requires too much time, but the opinion prevails among the clubs that he is the proper man to be at the head and pressure is being brought to bear on Mr. Donovan in order to have him change his decision.

"I do not know whether many of the boys have visualized the situation the same as I have," said the president, in discussing the matter. "But I picture a Saturday afternoon in October, Broad street in vicinity of Lehigh, and the same avenue at Twentieth, is a mass of seething humanity."

"What are they doing? Well, they are awaiting their first game of the independent baseball series for the championship of the city. I am of the opinion that if an elimination tourney were arranged and first and second rounds, the semi-finals and finals played, that on the day the deciding contest no major league park would be too big for the throng that would attend."

There is plenty of room and time for such a series as suggested. The teams from the various localities always played for sectional honors and after this is decided it is planned to have the winner of North Philadelphia play the titleholder of South Philadelphia for the championship. Just how it will be worked out is a matter for the association to decide.

Since last meeting many inquiries have been received from clubs and they are requested to be in attendance. Any manager of a team not yet a member is not barred from attending, but will not be admitted until his club joins.

KAYOULA HALTS CATHEDRAL

Downtowners Play Shanahan Tonight in Deciding Contest

The Kayoula Catholic Club basketballers traveled to Merioneth Township last night and handed the Cathedral five in a walking out in one of the best games of the season by the score of 24 to 14. The playing of Calhoun for Kayoula and Douglas for Cathedral was the feature.

At St. Anthony's Hall, Twenty-third and Carpenter streets, tonight, Kayoula plays Shanahan in the deciding contest of a three-game series. Each has won two of the first two games, but in the contest, as the rival clubs have been strengthened considerably since their last meeting.

Boots and Saddle

Padua seems to be in the best of form and may win the mile and a sixteenth race at New Orleans today. Pastoral Swain and Gray Gables appear to be the contenders.

Horses which seem best in other races are: First race, Mary Maxim, Ferguson, Forest Major; second, Burgoon, Mitchellville, Cobalt Lass; third, Galena, Bernice K., Kirlie; fifth, Master Jack, Mary Miller, and Lillian; sixth, Pitt, Exhorted, Wickford; seventh, Duke, Dolly Varden, Hermis Kemble.

At Havana: First race, Kelson, Sol Gilbey, Pfeiffer; second, Molinero, Ramon, Bierman; third, Waterford, McGarner, Midlan; fourth, Elton S., Tolona, Tocco, Art C. Stone, Mardelino, Cork; sixth, J. C. Sines, Mardelino, Boy, Koran.

M. J. Murphy, acting for M. Victoria of the Riders' Stable, offered James Arthur \$20,000 for Apprentice Lang's contract. The offer was refused. Arthur has set the price at \$25,000.

D. Prible, the latest riding sensation at Havana, was born in Parkersburg, W. Va., eighteen years ago. He entered upon his riding career at Tia Funn last winter. After leaving Tia Funn he rode at Canadian tracks and also at Erie, Pa. He is under contract to E. E. Major, the Missouri owner, who discovered him and who expects to take the lad to Bowie to ride there after the close of the Havana meeting.

Popular indoor sports—Writing lines for leaving usually shows good form in a swimming race.

Record for Basketball Scoring—Glenn Falls, N. Y., Feb. 17.—The Grandville High School basketball team has established what is believed here to be a world's record for scoring in two consecutive games, getting 226 points.

Y's Krax

LOOKS like curtains for Shade when he meets Jack Britton.

Even a midget barber is a strapping fellow, says Hughey McLoar.

Our Daily Guessing Contest—How many cushions are you supposed to hit in three-cushion billiards?

COACH BLOOD PUT THE PASS IN PASSEAU.

Players are farmed by planting them in other clubs.

Hope held out for more money. "They wait," said the Yank owners as they paid the increase.

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LEONARD A RING VET. AT AGE OF 25 YEARS

Lightweight Champion Has Fought Three or Four Battles to Dempsey's One—When Only Sixteen—Benny Engaged in Twenty-two Bouts

By GRANTLAND RICE

Spring Signs
Although I'm not a weather man, well versed in weather stuff. With any knack for prophesy on breezes fair or rough; Although along the shifting tides I never seem to know Just what the climate's planning in regard to sun or snow, There's still a certain hand that never seems to crack, Where any one may call the turn along an open track;

Where you can whisper to yourself that when the hold-out and the robin and the training camps appear. Yes, I may stumble now and then on Harvard versus Yale, And who am I to know that Stagg can twist the Tiger's tail? And when the fighters in their jousts begin to court the gate, The dogs I spring may often show the fickleness of fate, But one old two-ply couch remains that never goes astray, As certain of the facts of night are pitched above the day, Where you can bet your final shirt that spring is drawing near, When rolls lead the hold-outs in and training camps appear.

The Allotted Number
IT HAS been argued by many savants of the ring that the average boxer has just as many fights in his system, and that once the supply is exhausted his days at the top are numbered, whether he be young or not.

They cite the case of Fitzsimmons, who, by starting late, was able to prolong his stay in the ring to advanced years before the allotted number of contests gave out.

There is something to this. Fitzsimmons, as yet, a great fighter at thirty-six or thirty-eight, Leonard and Carpenter, starting early, around fifteen or sixteen, will be of little use in the ring when they have come to thirty-five.

The Case of Leonard
LEONARD today, as the years go, should be in the pink or purple prime of fighting life.

But Leonard is a veteran for all that, and it will not be long before he is drifting down hill. He was not the same old Leonard in his last battle with "Rocky" Kansas, in which he was able to give battle only in flashes—at the next apparently content to merely last the fifteen rounds.

The consistent speed and zip of his last staff was missing. LEONARD was born April 7, 1900. He will not be twenty-six years old for some weeks.

Young and Old
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Scraps About Scrappers
Norman Hindin has Bobby McCann in the role for tonight's meeting with Willie Fitzgerald at the Olympia Club. Billy Haughey is the man, Prelimo, Johnny Haughey, Dick and George Davis vs. Johnny Malone.

A dozen bouts are included on the preliminary program at the Olympia Club, which will be winners of the different tournaments. Several veterans have been shown prominently from.

The North Side A. C. at Atlantic City, in a new club and officers of this organization were elected with the same dignity. Officers: President, W. T. Truett, secretary, Edward J. Truett, treasurer, Joe Truett, promoter and Joe Truett, Philadelphia representative.

Mickey McDonough, who is to meet Harry Hunter at the Auditorium tomorrow night, has a few words to say for his "partner" as he calls him. "He's a terrific fighter," says Steve of Mickey. "He's got the goods, and he's got the guts. He's got the spirit, and he's got the nerve. He's got the heart, and he's got the soul. He's got the mind, and he's got the body. He's got the strength, and he's got the speed. He's got the power, and he's got the grace. He's got the beauty, and he's got the charm. He's got the class, and he's got the style. He's got the finesse, and he's got the flair. He's got the class, and he's got the style. He's got the finesse, and he's got the flair."

Don't Like Stage
Dempsey isn't particularly keen about stepping behind the footlights, but he has been asked to appear in a play at the University of Pennsylvania. He has declined the offer, saying he is not interested in the theater.

Salvadore Will Seek Match With Tendler
California Confident He Will Whip Tipitz at National

Word has been received from Philadelphia that Salvador, who is expected to step into the ring against Joe Tipitz at the National Club tomorrow night in the best of shape, also that he was confident he would decisively defeat the Philadelphia knock-out.

In part, Salvador states, "I am looking forward to a match with Leav Tendler. If I win from Tipitz, and I know, but I think I can go along and win from him on points. Just as I expect to do from Tipitz."

Salvadore, who is making his home in New York, will arrive in town some time this evening.

Frankie Johnson, a bunam, will make his first appearance here when he meets Bobby Allen in the first bout. Matches between Eddie Hartman and Jimmy Mendon, Stockyards Johnny Rose and Danny Rodgers and Jack Perry and Jimmy Mendon will follow.

St. Peter's C. C. Plays East Side
Fresh from their victory over Madonia C. C. last Friday the St. Peter's club will play the East Side club of Camden in two weeks ago, when they meet the Camdenites in their hall at Third and Brown streets. Dancing will follow the game.

Hellman and Leonard Want Release
Detroit, Feb. 17.—Harry Hellman, fighter, and "Bobby" Leonard, pitcher, have been released from the Detroit club and are expected to meet their request for \$150,000.

NATIONAL

11th & Catharine Sts. SATURDAY EVE., FEB. 18

BOBBY ALLEN vs. FRANKIE JULIAN
HARTMAN vs. SHERLOCK
JOHNNY ROSE vs. DANNY RODGERS
JACK PERRY vs. JIMMY MENDO
TIPLITZ vs. SALVADORE

Reserved Seats, \$1.00, \$1.50, Admission Free. Ticket Sale, 33 N. 11th St., Ph. Wal. 3241

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Matt Deitcher vs. O'Connell
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Miske vs. Roper

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THREE SESSIONS DAILY
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1224 Chestnut Street

He says: Our firm has lost the lease on our 8th Street Store and are at present conducting a removal sale, and this is your opportunity, Mr. Man, to buy a good suit of clothes, with extra trousers with each suit, for \$28.50; included in this sale are beautiful herringbones, smart tweeds, fine grays and good-looking mixtures of excellent quality all-wool, sunproof blue serge, unfinished and finished worsteds, cassimeres and also navy blue serge, all included in this sale.

And, what's more, you can also have a Blue Serge Special with two pair trousers, guaranteed all-wool and sunproof and made to measure for \$28.50, and, furthermore, you can be well dressed for any occasion without hiring or borrowing a full-dress suit or a tuxedo for \$33.00.

All our Spring goods are included, and if you are in need of a golf suit you can have one tailored to your measure for \$28.50, with one pair dress trousers and one pair knickers.

This is a real sale and, what's more, every suit is hand tailored.

Sale taking place in both our stores, 104 S. 8th and 808 Chestnut, and we will be open Monday and Sat. Evngs. until 9 o'clock.