

4 Colleges Comprise First Boxing League

Naval Academy, Penn, Penn State, M. I. T. Initial Teams

RING BODY RECOGNIZED BY N. C. A. A. IN 1921

Lions Won First Intercollegiate Tourney—Was Held at State College

During the winter of 1921-1922, boxing received its first great impetus as a college sport when the Intercollegiate Boxing Association was recognized by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The charter members of the first boxing league were the University of Pennsylvania, the United States Naval Academy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Pennsylvania State College. Although boxing had been extremely popular as an intramural sport in many colleges, few intercollegiate meets had been held until the season of 1920 when Pennsylvania, Navy, and Penn State carried schedules of several engagements. Before this season, one of the first college contests took place in 1919 between Penn and Penn State. The meet was won by the Quakers, four bouts to two.

The Great War proved an important factor in establishing boxing as a college sport. College men received experience in training camps, where contests were frequently held under expert supervision. "Spike" Webb, present Navy boxing coach, was active in this work and served as head coach of the American Expeditionary Forces.

McKenzie First President
Dr. R. Tai' McKenzie, of the University of Pennsylvania, Lieutenant-Commander William A. Richardson, of the Naval Academy, and Dr. Allan Winter Rowe, of M. I. T., were instrumental in drawing up the first set of rules to govern intercollegiate boxing. The by-laws were based on the rules used by the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities. Dr. McKenzie was elected the first president of the Association.

In addition to the four charter members of the league, Yale, Springfield, Virginia, Carnegie Tech, and Army, while not in the Association, had boxing teams in active competi-

tion. Teams from Canada, including Toronto, McGill, and Queens, visited this country and contested Yale, Navy, and Penn State.

The 1923 season saw intercollegiate boxing well established, and one of the main problems confronting the new league was solved. This concerned obtaining proper officials to judge and referee the meets. Through the kindness of William Rocaup, chairman of the Pennsylvania State Boxing Commission, the Association procured the services of proficient officials.

All four of the original members of the Association presented strong teams during the 1924 season. Through the help of Latrobe Cogswell and George Brower, chairmen of the Maryland and New York States' Boxing Commissions, new names were added

WILL SEEK Featherweight Crown In Finals Tonight



DAVEY STOOP

to the central board of officials. Largely through the interest and enthusiasm of Neil Fleming, graduate manager of athletics at Penn State, the first intercollegiate boxing tournament was held at State College on March 22, 1924. A Philadelphia sportsman presented the Association with a trophy cup to be awarded to the winning team. Navy, Penn, and Penn State were entered and M. I. T. was replaced by Syracuse. Penn State succeeded in winning this first tourney.

successful ever experienced by the league up until that date. More meets were held than ever before, Georgetown and New York University being active participants. The finals were held at the Palestra of the University of Pennsylvania and the tournament was again won by the Naval Academy. In capturing three of the first five tourneys, the Navy won the Baltimore Sun trophy. The Sun has placed another award up for competition, and the deed of gift under which this trophy is given is so worded that it is probable that it will continue in competition for a long time.

The 1929 season was a continuation of the success of 1928. About one-third more meets were held this year than in previous years. The finals were held at Penn State and won by the Lions for the third time. This year marked the advent of Western Maryland into the sport and for three years the Southern school has

developed one of the strongest groups in competition. Last year the tournament was again won by Penn State at Philadelphia. An experiment was tried during this season at Annapolis where by the referee was kept outside of the ring, having control of the contest by voice. This plan was designed with the idea of keeping intercollegiate boxing as far away from the professional ring methods as possible. This system, it has been proved, is successful only at schools where the crowd can be kept under control.

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