

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

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BOXING POLICIES

The return of the heavyweight class to intercollegiate boxing competitions in the East this year marks the demise of a formerly marked objection to this class. That it is deserving of a position on the ring card cannot be denied from the spectator's viewpoint. There is nothing more interesting to many fight followers than this concluding bout in the program. The main argument advanced by coaches and athletic directors in a survey last year which showed that they advocated the heavyweight bout, disapproved of the unfairness in legislating the larger men out of the sport simply because not every college had the necessary material. For the most part they spoke disparagingly of the dangers that are supposed to possess this division.

The procedure in rendering decisions in the Intercollegiate this year involves the use of both judges and referee. Because of the expense involved it has not been practical for dual meets under the prevailing economic condition. The decision of the judges under this system is considered at first and the referee's ballot becomes the deciding factor only if the two judges are deadlocked. A more efficient method can scarcely be thought of.

Although more economical, the use of one official as both referee and judge which is the common procedure at the present time has received much criticism. Some coaches argue that the referee is in a better position to judge, while many others claim advantages for two men watching from different angles and having nothing else to distract them. The problem of bringing back the system of judges rests primarily on the training of enough men capable of this position. Even then economy may swing the balance to favor the use of a referee as judge.

A POPULAR SPORT

In these days of lean athletic budgets, careful consideration must be given to each sport from the standpoint of its popularity, its value to the participant, and its desirability on the college athletic program. Boxing has not escaped the economy axe in some institutions, and it is being weighed in the balance in others. What are the merits that warrant its continuance as an intercollegiate sport?

First of all, the popularity of boxing cannot be denied. Few sports are more colorful than the ring game. When the arc lights are turned down, and the announcement of the first bout is made to a hushed crowd, there is excitement in the air. And as the timer's bell clangs and the thud of leather sounds, only the most calloused onlooker can fail to become enthused. It is man against man, skill against skill, something primitive in its attraction and at the same time an art.

Yet the enjoyment of the spectator is not the sole thing to be considered when a sport is being weighed in the balance. Boxing not only delights the onlooker, but it develops desirable qualities in the participant. To the unthinking critic the boxer is a brute, but nothing is more untrue as far as the average intercollegiate fighter is concerned. Under collegiate rules, boxing is a test of skill rather than a test of brute strength. The slighter, more experienced ringman is often able to outpoint the "man mountain." In addition, the average college boxer is a gentleman in every sense of the word. His training has developed stamina, self-reliance, and sportsmanship. Forced to be on his own in the ring, he retains that quality after the bout.

Boxing has had a phenomenal growth in colleges and universities since the War. Beginning with a few dual meets here in the East, it has spread from coast to coast in that short time. Such popularity finds its roots in two sources: the interest of the spectator and the interest of the participant. Though budgets may be curtailed even more, boxing's popularity cannot be disregarded by athletic officials.

—C. A. M.

THE RING AROUND

There's the smell of glove grease in the air and once again Hillmen, Cadets, MITmen, et al., are mixing things-up under the arc lights in Rec Hall. From our covert in the girders we're musing about all the philandering going on hereabouts.

In philanders field the boxers throw
Terrific punches blow by blow.

That's all the farther we got in that jab. However, we were reminded of a lot of the good old days in fistiana. For instance there was the sixty-round bout in old Madison Sq. Garden in which one of the ring posts got the decision by a Yarden then some. And even stranger things than this have happened. How about the two-hundred pound palooka who smashed tradition by swallowing the sponge instead of throwing it up, to say nothing of the old adage, "A towel in time saves many from the count of nine." But such ancient quips pall when we recall the story about the co-ed who fears that Napoleon may be knocked out on the other fellow's elba.

The Boxers Rebellion

or
The Hay-maker Riot

"Heavy, heavy where's a heavy,"
Leo always cries,
But from this entire, student bevy
No one ever tries.

Why not issue a writ of mandamus
For the return of Champion Steve Hamas

The notion struck us in the solar plexus that we could promote quite a dandy boxing tourney ourselves what with no end of ingenuity and material at our finger's ends. Who wouldn't go miles and miles to see Doc "Killer" Kelly, the plant prof, mix blows with Willard "Powerful Punch" Lewis who trains a la Tunney in the Library. A few press notices of a battle between Oswald Boucke and Oscar Smith would bring in the biggest receipts hereabouts since Lederer and a campus cop tangled on New Beaver field. We could go on.

Not old horses but pugilists
Are material for mucilagists.

Last week we received an appointment to a Ways and Means committee which was supposed to ferret out the nine hundred and ninety-nine possible methods of crashing Rec hall gates. The newest recipe uncovered was carrying in Major Thompson's baton, or, even better yet, concealing oneself in the confines of his gorgeous handle-bar mustache.

St. Patrick's day swooped right down upon us this year and we're mighty proud that Joe Moran did the campus smoothies one better with that little gob of green that he wore on his trunks. Of course Western Maryland put one all over the boys even if it was a pretty dark green.

Uppercuts: Johnny McAndrews has been observing Lent lately what with his fasting to make the 135-pound weight . . . If you figure out just how many towels were used in Rec hall this week-end you'll find that there are enough to outfit all the folks of India in Gandhi uniforms . . . Which may or may not go to prove that the Yogi bird catches the worm . . . Fisty Anna, that pestiferous co-ed, wants to know whether a boxer who wears brass knuckles could be accused of spiking the punch . . .
—PUNCH-DRUNK

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Post-Session
August 14-August 25

**11 Colleges Listed in History
Of Eastern Ring Association**

**M. I. T., Navy, Penn, State Compose First
League--Colgate, Syracuse, Yale,
Virginia Have Competed**

Eleven colleges and universities have been members of the Eastern Intercollegiate Boxing Association during its eleven-year history. Two of the present member schools, M. I. T. and Penn State, were charter members of the league when it was founded in 1921.

Navy and Penn were the other two institutions who helped to found the association. However, Navy withdrew its membership two years ago because of sentiment against competition beyond dual meets, and Penn dropped out following the intercollegiate tourney last year. Both schools were invited to send boxers to this year's meet, but both declined.

Penn, Penn State Met
College boxing previous to 1920 was confined mainly to intramural competition. One meet had been held between Penn and Penn State in 1919, and the next year Navy entered into the competition.

An impetus was given to boxing in colleges by the World War. Many college men received their first instruction in the art in the numerous training camps, and upon returning to their respective campuses they were eager to continue the sport.

Dr. R. Tait McKenzie, of the University of Pennsylvania, was elected first president of the newly-formed association in 1921. In the same year the group was officially recognized by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and boxing became a regular college sport.

Other Colleges Compete
Other colleges, not members of the association, entered into active competition with league members in the next two years. These included Army, Carnegie Tech, Springfield, Virginia, Yale, and the Canadian universities of McGill, Queens, and Toronto.

By 1923 college boxing was well established, and in 1924 the first intercollegiate tournament was held here. Navy, Penn, Penn State, and Syracuse, which replaced M. I. T., entered teams.

Penn State won the trophy presented by a Philadelphia sportsman, securing four individual championships.

M. I. T. officially withdrew from the league in 1925, and Colgate and Syracuse entered. Five member schools and Yale competed in the tourney in Philadelphia, which was won by Navy. In 1926, Colgate withdrew, M. I. T. re-entered, and the University of Virginia competed in the tourney at Syracuse.

Two More Schools Enter
Georgetown and New York University actively entered the league for the 1928 season, with the result that more dual meets were held than ever before. In the championship tournament held at the Penn Palestra, Navy succeeded in winning for the third time thereby gaining permanent possession of the Baltimore Sun trophy.

With Western Maryland entered in the association for the first time, still more dual meets were held during the 1929 season. Penn State was host for the tournament, and the Lions won three individual championships to annex the title for the third time.

Penn State again won the fistic crown in 1930 at the finds in the Penn Palestra, but lost it to Navy when the tournament returned to State College the next year. Syracuse won the trophy for the first time when the New York school acted as host for the tourney last year, Penn State placing second and Army third.

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'36 RIFLE TEAM WINS MEET

First-year riflemen defeated the Rock Springs civilian club by a score of 1678-to-1633 in a shoulder-to-shoulder match here last week. Raymond G. Sloan jr., and Elwood E. Handwerk were the high scorers for the freshmen.

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