

Watch on the Shrine

By Ted Rubin

One of the major fortes of intercollegiate boxing, the University of Wisconsin, has initiated a complete investigation of this sport.

Spurred into this action by a motion passed at a regular faculty meeting, the athletic department and athletic board have agreed to a full-scale probe and will conduct this according to the plan outlined by the faculty resolution.

The resolution sought elaboration of boxing's effects on "the probability of mental and physical injury, spectator behavior, the function of boxing in maintaining or advancing the cultural standards of institutions of higher learning or any other matters that may be of value to the faculty in the performance of its duties with respect to the control of athletics."

Speculating on the reasons for the investigation of this sport which the economics professor who proposed the motion called a "moronic activity," there are numerous possible factors which might be advanced as the causes for this action.

In almost every college which sponsors this sport, there are anti-boxing elements. To this group, boxing is valueless.

1947 NATIONALS

In the NCAA's, held at Wisconsin a year ago, six Badger beltlers gained their way into the tourney finals. Only two of these were able to emerge with national crowns, and the boos which greeted the announcements of the opposition champions reputedly left a black mark on Wisconsin's sportsmanship record.

Within the last year or so, professional boxing has sustained several deaths, and although pro boxing is a far cry from the collegiate brand, this may have been another log for those building the fire. The Wisconsin athletic department commented that Badger boxers were advised against professional ring careers and that only one had ever joined this vocation, and he fought for only several weeks.

In this year's NCAA's at Madison, the high number of nine eye-cuts occurred; this, along with the fanciful swan dive which Virginia's Ralph Shoaf executed when he was blasted into kingdom come by Badger lighthoavy Cal Vernon, may have been additional logs. Incidentally, Shoaf's comment on his defeat was, "I took all of his Sunday punches up to that point, but when they start that Monday one, well . . ."

Dr. Carl P. Schott, dean of the Penn State Physical Education School, a member of the national rules committee, stated two further reasons for this inquiry. Schott interpreted the Wisconsin faculty sentiments as stemming from (1) an emphasis in some circles on knockouts and the intention of some boxers to render their opponents unconscious. (2) The fear that boxing leads to frequent brain injuries, which fear has, however, not yet been substantiated.

OPPOSITION

Also, within the last year or two, frequent articles and organizations have opposed this sport. The American Medical Association has railed against high school and college boxing, but its decision was based heavily on professional boxing.

Nittany Lion ring coach Leo Houck has always been a foremost advocate of college boxing and Leo's emphasis has long been on skill. The ideals which Leo upholds and teaches his team certainly merit praise and imitation.

Houck has stressed clean competition, and one of his first lessons has always been for his boys to take a backward step immediately after a clinch. Virginia, Syracuse and Wisconsin repeatedly fail to comply with this rule and time after time their boxers take advantage of this and add illegal blows. Here, referees are very often negligent.

Referees are to penalize a boxer on such an offense, removing a point for the first illegal blow, and disqualifying him the second time. This is not observed closely.

OPTIONAL HEADGEAR

Adopted by the national association for optional use in future years was a light headharness. This can be used in actual competition and will protect the forehead and temples. Eye-cuts, which Leo attributes not to sharp blows but to collisions between boxers when the sharp bone above the eye digs into the opponent eye area, will be greatly reduced.

Also, during this next year, there will be complete investigations of college boxing from a medical point of view, to be conducted concurrently by Wisconsin and Minnesota Universities. These findings will be correlated.

Head of this plan is Dr. Anthony Curreri, former Wisconsin boxer and present member of the rules committee. Curreri has pledged complete objectivity both to the investigation and to the release of the findings. Subjects for analysis will be ex-college ringmen.

It is commendable that full cooperation has been given by the boxing association and the Wisconsin athletic board to these inquiries. Through the years, intercollegiate boxing has emphasized skill and technical proficiency.

CHALLENGE

This investigation does pose a challenge to intercollegiate boxing and it is hoped that more stringent enforcement of rules will be maintained by referees, coaches and competitors alike. Columnist Hugh Fullerton Jr. comments that in college boxing one is in much less danger of being seriously hurt than in football.

Intercollegiate boxing places a ringster on his own and forces him to exercise rapid judgment, to move swiftly and surely. A competitive spirit is instilled in the boxer. There are many values to this sport and this investigation offers the opportunity for the boxing association to raise itself to an even higher level.

Soccer Olympics

Gene Graebner, Ralph Hosterman, and Dean Witmer, the three Lion soccermen who participated in the preliminary Olympic tryouts at Pittsburgh two weeks ago, have not been accepted for further tryouts. The Blue and White footers were the only college entered in the Pittsburgh playoff.

IM Volleyball

Action in the IM volleyball tournament will close with Thursday's schedule and play-offs of league champions will begin on April 19.

Tonight's schedule:

7 o'clock: Sigma Phi Alpha—Delta Upsilon-A (1), Triangle—Alpha Zeta (2), Phi Phi—Sigma Nu-A (3). 8 o'clock: Lambda Chi Alpha-A—Alpha Epsilon Pi (1), Phi Gamma Delta-A—Beta Sigma Rho-A (2), Sigma Chi-A—Theta Chi-A (3). 9 o'clock: Sigma Phi Epsilon—Alpha Chi Rho (1), Phi Kappa Tau-A—Pi Kappa Alpha (2), and Phi Sigma Kappa-A—Sigma Pi-A (3).

Trackmen Finish First Time Trials; Prep for Relays

Penn State's track team will practice this week to smooth off the rough edges shown by Saturday's time trials and to line up the squad for the Penn Relays April 23-24.

Highlighting Saturday's combines trials and track coaches' clinic was the win by George Thomas, a newcomer to the Nittany squad, in the 100-yard dash, and the 12-foot 9-inch height cleared by pole vaulter Chuck Wiling.

Thomas, captain of last year's Bloomsburg State Teachers College team, took the sprint event in 10 seconds. Just behind Thomas came Wilber Lancaster, Jim Robinson, and Rea Carrol.

KARVER WINS

Running in a field of six Penn State millers, Jerry Karver flashed his last second spurt to outrun Horace Ashenfelter for a 4:21.3 mile time. Ash finished one second later and Mitch Williams and Bill Shuman crossed the line in 4:24.5.

Jim Gehrdes gave a hurdling demonstration to the 200 coaches and fans attending the clinic and then easily took the 120 yard hurdles at :14.8. Following Gehrdes were Bob Harrison, John Senior and Gene Love.

In the quarter mile, Ike Evans crossed the line in 52.4 followed by John Grey while in the 880 yard stint, Paul Koch broke the tape in 2 minutes 1 and 1-10th seconds. Nick Nicastro, Ted Hissey and Bob Bour finished after Koch.

Diamondmen Prepare for Pitt After Belting Marylanders, 18-1

With the initial win of the season tucked away, the Nittany Lion baseballers are looking confidently ahead to the two-game series with the Panthers of Pittsburgh, scheduled for Friday and Saturday at New Beaver Field.

Especially heartening to the Lions was the display of hitting power, one of the big question marks in pre-season predictions, as they routed Western Maryland Saturday 18-1.

Every starting player on the Nittany Lions hit safely at least once as 17 hits were rapped out, three of them for extra bases, against three enemy nitchers.

GEHRETT IMPRESSES

Equally good from the point of view of the Bedenkmen was the mid-season form exhibited by starting pitcher Bob Gehrett. Gehrett held the visitors hitless until the third inning, and gave up only five singles in the seven innings he worked. For all practical purposes Saturday's contest might have been called at the end of the second inning. Eleven Nittanyites went to the barrier in that big stanza, and starting pitcher Ernie Leap was chased to the showers as six runs poured across the plate.

After Gehrett had grounded out to second to start off the inning, Tkac and Wertz both walked and everyone was safe when Leap held the ball after picking up Hogan's easy roller.

With the bases loaded and one out Holler singled to drive in the first two tallies, advanced to second as Babb fumbled the ball in left, and scored behind Hogan when Solomon singled sharply to left. Hackman grounded out, second to first, for the second put-

out as Solomon advanced to third. Solomon scored a short time later on Stark's base hit to right. A double by Potskian and a walk to Gehrett, up for his second trip, loaded the bases for the second time in the inning.

At this point Ken Volkhardt, a right hander, replaced lefty Ernie Leap, and Al Tkac greeted him by beating out a hit to deep short, scoring Stark with the sixth run of the inning. However, Potskian, also trying for home, was trapped between third and the plate and tagged out by Volkhardt to end the rally.

Don Stark and Gene Solomon shared hitting honors for the home team, each collecting three hits. Stark had a homer, two singles, and two walks in six times at bat and drove in three runs.

The box score:

PENN STATE	ab	r	h	pp	ba	o
Solomon, 2b	4	2	3	1	1	0
Smeltz, 2b	1	1	1	0	2	0
Hackman, ss	5	2	1	2	4	2
Stark, lf	4	1	3	1	0	1
Potskian, cf	4	2	1	3	0	0
Gehrett, p	4	1	1	0	0	0
Masticola, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hill, p	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ditmar, rf	0	1	0	0	0	0
Tkac, rf	3	1	1	0	0	0
Wertz, 1b	3	2	2	1	1	0
Hogan, 3b	4	2	3	2	0	0
Holler, c	4	2	3	2	0	0
McCarthy, c	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	36	18	17	27	15	5

WESTERN MARYLAND	ab	r	h	pp	ba	o
Adamovich, 2b	4	0	3	2	5	0
Thompson, 1b	4	0	1	3	0	0
Babb, lf	5	0	1	3	0	0
Margarita, rf	5	0	1	1	0	0
Formwalt, cf	4	1	1	0	0	1
Tereshinski, 3b	4	0	1	3	2	0
Dyke, ss	3	0	1	1	1	1
Gorman, c	2	0	0	1	2	1
Douglas, c	2	0	0	2	0	0
Volkhardt, p	3	0	0	1	1	0
Gage, p	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	36	1	9	24	14	4

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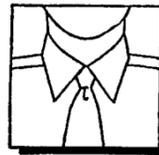
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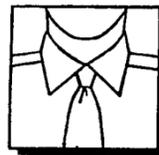
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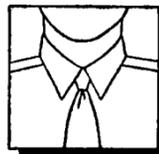


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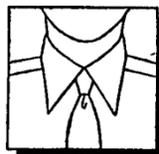


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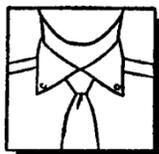
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