

FLYING TO UP

Military Indoor Ball and Basketball Circuits To Be Formed Next Week

Armories Should Be Back To Pre-War Activities This Season—Basketball Meeting Wednesday.

A meeting has been called for next Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock at the armories to form a military basketball league. The meeting will be held at the armories and it is expected a list-term circuit can be launched. Basketball will occupy this meeting, but it is likely that the indoor basketball enthusiasts will get to work the same week and have a league in action shortly afterwards.

NEW YORK CRITICS PUT O. K. ON DEMPSEY AS ONE OF THE BEST HEAVIES OF HISTORY

Johnson and Jeffries Would Have Given Him a Great Battle—He Stacks Up Better Than John L., With Whom He Has Been Contrasted to Disadvantage.

As a result of Dempsey's indifferent performance against Brennan last Tuesday night a disposition to characterize the champion as an overrated boxer has manifested itself. Strangely enough, these utterances come for the most part from those who had overwhelming confidence in the ability of big Joe Willard to subjugate Dempsey at Toledo. There is also a tendency to compare Dempsey with the great predecessors in the championship, Sullivan, Corbett, Fitzsimmons and the present title holder.

It is a reasonable proposition that a champion's status is established by his performance against the best boxers of the period, which he holds in his hands. On that basis, Dempsey must be conceded to possess remarkable ability, for he has shown overwhelming superiority over the best heavyweights of his time. Then comes the charge that Dempsey's opponents have been pugilists of small calibre. There is no reason to doubt that this statement is true, for the claim, following the Dempsey-Brennan bout, that Brennan had been underrated.

It is impossible to arrive at an accurate conclusion as to the comparative merits of the heavyweights of a quarter of a century ago and the men of the same class today.

Therefore, it is but just to rate a champion according to what he has accomplished against the best boxers of his time. Dempsey has knocked out Willard and Fulton in big time. Willard, who had never been knocked down previously, was badly hurt and the powerful man that entered the ring. He was stronger than even the adamant Jeffries.

Dempsey has twice knocked out Brennan, who since last Tuesday night has come to be rated as the best heavyweight. Dempsey has knocked out Mike, a very resourceful fighter, and has topped a giant, who was considered more or less invincible. It cannot therefore be denied that Dempsey stands at the head of all American heavyweights.

In attempting to show that Dempsey does not class with the holders of the heavyweight championship, the name of John L. Sullivan is brought forward. This is a fatal mistake, for judged on the basis of conquering all the best men of his time, Sullivan is far ahead of the list of great champions. Sullivan won his title from Paddy Ryan, a quitter, who never won a fight. Sullivan, who won the title from Ryan, a quitter, a man 48 years of age at the time of the contest, was a real fighter, and he subdued Goss. Ryan's other bouts were with Sullivan and Joe McAuliffe, and Ryan's last fight was with the deceptively Goss. During the time that Sullivan was in his prime he absolutely declined to meet the likes of Jack Gaddard, Frank Slavin or Bob Fitzsimmons.

Sullivan met only two first-class heavies in the ring—Charlie Mitchell and Jim Corbett. Both whipped Sullivan, but Mitchell, for a consideration, consented to a draw. The best man that Sullivan defeated was Jake Kilrain, a second rate, and took Sullivan 75 rounds to finish the Baltimorean.

Kilrain's status is established by the fact that the best he could do with Jim Smith, the third-rate champion of England, was a draw, and that Jack Johnson, the same Smith jumped the ropes in two rounds. In the list of men knocked out by Sullivan there does not appear a single one who possessed the slightest class.

As a champion, Sullivan at his best did not compare with Dempsey of today. Dempsey as he is today would have defeated Sullivan at his best. Jim Corbett's status as the ablest defensive boxer in the history of the game was established when he knocked out Jackson sixty-one rounds to a draw. Jackson insisted that a lame referee prevented him taking the aggressive, but Corbett's defence at that time was impeccable.

The Californian did not damage Jackson, but the negro, who was a powerful hitter and good boxer, was able to reach Corbett with effective blows. Corbett was Sullivan down with jabs at a time when the former champion was on the down-grade, but Corbett would have disposed of Sullivan at his best.

Corbett's Downfall. Corbett succumbed to the heavy shots of Fitz and Jeff, and the Californian at his best would have been battered down by the Dempsey of today.

Fitzsimmons was a most dangerous man because of his punching powers and strategy, but he never met the ring that he did not hit hard. Maher.

MUTT AND JEFF—At Press Time Jeff Was Still Following the Taxi.

