

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1925

GREAT BOUT BETWEEN THE SAGINAW KID AND BARBADOES DEMON

WORLD'S FAMOUS BATTLE IS RECALLED BY RING MENTOR

Crimson Conflict Between Kid Lavigne And Joe Walcott Is Recounted For Times-Star Readers

AS A RESULT of a request on the part of several local boxing enthusiasts the Times-Star is today publishing a full account of the great bout between Kid Lavigne and Joe Walcott, which took place over a quarter of a century ago. Details of the great fight, which was staged in the old Empire A. C. at Maspeth, Long Island, were given by Tom O'Rourke, who managed Walcott, and was conceded to be one of the greatest, wisest ring mentors in America. He had seen many of the greatest ring combats staged since the days of John L. Sullivan and Paddy Ryan, and his description of the fight is a pugilistic masterpiece. It was as follows:

A HANDICAP MATCH

"We must remember, first of all, that the Lavigne-Walcott contest was a handicap match. That Walcott to win must stop Lavigne inside of 15 rounds. The weights were 135 pounds, and it was popularly believed Walcott would have to weaken himself greatly by making that weight. That was a fallacy, but I was glad to have other managers and lovers think Joe would hurt himself scaling in as a lightweight.

"The truth of the matter, however, was that Joe was better below 135 pounds than he was above it. This was owing to his peculiar build. He had enormous biceps and a tremendous girth of chest with abnormal pectoral muscles. Whenever he took on weight it was about the chest, and it made straight punching difficult to him, the sheer rubbing against the chest around the waist. That was why he used round-arm rights in contests in which he was above 135 pounds. When down around the lightweight limit, Joe had greater freedom of movement and there was no friction between arm and chest.

"When we weighed in at Maspeth, Lavigne scaled 130½ pounds. Joe did not budge the beam. I had wagered Walcott would weigh less than Lavigne and won the bet the previous evening when the two mounted a set of testicles across the way from the Maspeth Hotel at Broome street and the Bowery. Lavigne weighed 130½ pounds, and Walcott scaled 129-3-4 pounds.

SOUL-STIRRING STRUGGLE

"But what a soul-stirring struggle it was! The two men were evenly matched. The weight the ring ever has seen or, in my estimation, ever will see. Each was at his pugilistic peak, hardened and experienced, but with the fire and snap of youth still invigorating heart and muscles. Walcott could hit harder than any middleweight. Few heavyweights in fact ever packed as much dynamic as Walcott could in a glove. Lavigne was made of rawhide and iron, a bulldog in attack and a broncho in staying power. He seemed tougher than ever drew on a glove than the Michigan lumberjack. The present day scrapbooker would be pigmies in the hands of a Lavigne or a Walcott.

"The battle ever was fraught with more desperate fighting. It was a fierce, savage fight and tale battle from the first to the last ring of the going. There was never a moment in which each was not desperately trying to bring down the other and they fought with the speed of gamecocks and the savagery of pit bulldogs.

"With myself in Walcott's corner were George Dixon and Joe Gordon. Sam Fitzpatrick had Tommy Ryan and Ned Alexander with him handling Lavigne. Walcott challenged Ryan from the ring that day and Ryan accepted. The fight never came off, however, Tommy knew which side his bread was buttered on.

"Stunning the idea Walcott had weakened himself in making the prohibitive weight, Lavigne started forcing things from the start. It was the Saginaw Kid's style of mugging, anyway. An opponent in front of Lavigne was like a red rag in front of a bull. Lavigne had all of McGovern's fiery aggressiveness backed up with iron endurance and stamina. It was only a Lavigne that could have stood up under Walcott's terrific battering that day at Maspeth, and only a Walcott that could laughingly face the demagogue attack of the Michigan lumberjack.

"TOSS-UP AT START. "Well, Lavigne came tearing in on Walcott, with the negro meeting his rushes with an ivory smile, a cool nerve and punches that were bone cracking. The first few rounds were a toss-up, both landing hard and often. Walcott's outlike quickness in leaping in after a break made some of the inexperienced ringiders think Joe was hitting on the break, but Referee Tim Hurst naturally paid no attention to their bellows. In the third, Lavigne stepped with a left to the body that would have knocked the average lightweight through the ropes, but got a right to the heart in return that would have made some of the present-day scrapers curl up and die. Though grievously hurt, Lavigne cut loose like a wounded animal, and had Joe bucking up under the savagery of his attack at the bell.

"The fourth saw Lavigne receive terrible punishment, but still he tore in on the powerful negro. Joe upped him with both hands to the jaw till it looked as if he would snap Lavigne's head off his shoulders, but the Kid only shook his tattered head and tore in for more, driving Walcott to the ropes with a shower of lefts and rights and catching Lavigne with a terrific right-hander to the jaw, drove the Kid back on his heels. One of Joe's rights closed Lavigne's left eye com-

Expect White-Winged Sport To Be Very Popular This Year

Along The Sport Trail

By RAY HANSEN

THE Y. W. C. A. is certainly a live organization. Their members have made a mark for themselves in provincial as well as local basketball circles and are now out to win fame in aquatics. Over 200 members have enrolled in the swimming and life saving classes and judging from the interest manifested they will be the most successful ever held under the association's auspices. All girls as well as boys should learn the art of swimming and have a knowledge of life saving. In some of the European countries some years ago every school child was forced to take swimming lessons, irrespective of their own wishes in the matter. It was considered a part of their curriculum and was heartily endorsed by parents. People often hear of a good swimmer drowning, but they do not hear of the thousands who fall in deep water and by being able to swim have no difficulty getting back on terra firma. Other local institutions should give swimming classes a prominent place in their summer's programme.

THE COMMERCIAL Baseball League is due to open their season next Monday. The players have no fear of cold breezes for they are well fortified with pitchers. In fact some of the teams claim that every man on their roster is booked to take his turn on the mound. Some good competition should develop in this league.

LOCAL BASEBALL fans, who have been following the record of Owen Carroll, pitching marvel of Holy Cross, will be interested to know that he will graduate from the ranks of the Purple next month and is expected to land a berth with some major league club. In four seasons at Holy Cross Carroll pitched 43 games and only lost two. He has shown all the requisites of a successful big leaguer, according to baseball critics. It will be recalled that efforts were made to get the Holy Cross star to join St. Peter's team of this city in 1923, but he apparently had a more attractive offer in the States. At that time his name was frequently mentioned in local baseball circles and as a result many took an interest in his work.

ONE OF THE topics among local baseball fans these days is the sensational showing of Connie Mack's team in the American League. The writer predicted early in the spring that they would be strong contenders for the championship, but it is hardly a safe bet that they will win out.

SCOOP ROSS, writing in the Amherst News, advocates the organization of a Maritime Amateur Baseball Association. He contends that it should prove as popular as the Maritime Amateur Hockey Association and should aid greatly in the development of the game. An organization as suggested by Scoop might be a boon to the game in smaller centres, but some difficulty would be experienced in any town or city where several teams are playing. There is no doubt that only one team could represent a city and the big question would be which to select to compete for Provincial honors. If one team was chosen the others would undoubtedly be up in arms. It might work out in Nova Scotia, but it is doubtful if it would be possible to arrange it along the same lines as the hockey leagues in this province. A play-off among the winners of the various leagues for provincial honors and the championship of the two or three provinces to clash in a grand final for the Maritime title would seem to be the best way to decide the issue.

Former Champion To Meet Mascart

NEW YORK, May 15.— Eddie Cannonball Martin, former bantamweight champion, and Edward Mascart, French featherweight champion, have been signed for a 15-round fight at the opening show of the Dexter Stadium, Coney Island, on June 11.

EXHIBITION G A M E

St. John The Baptist Team Will Meet Canucks Tonight on Nashua Park.

Members of St. John The Baptist baseball team of the City Amateur League have been practicing nightly on the Barrack Square and are said to be rapidly rounding into shape for the season. Conlon, who was formerly with St. Rose's, has been twirling effectively and is expected to be a strong addition to the pitching staff. Bunker Murphy is expected to join the team tonight in an exhibition game on the Nashua Park with the Canucks. Next Monday evening another exhibition game will be staged with the Saint Johns.

PROHIBIT INTERVIEWS

SYDNEY, May 15.—The Australian lawn tennis has forbidden the members of the Australian Davis team to give press interviews while the matches for the cup are in progress.

Stores to Let. See the want ad. page.

WILL NOT SELL

Race Horse Owner Denies Report That He Will Dispose of His Stables.

HARRISBURG, Va., May 15.—Willis Sharpe Kilmer, race horse owner, has completed a deal for the purchase of the George H. Harris farm near here for a reported price of \$100,000. Mr. Kilmer four years ago leased the estate known as Court Manor, and established a modern horse breeding plant. He recently died, and his son, who is now a student at the University of Virginia, has refused to sell the farm.

Denmark Team Wins Match From Rumania

ROEHAMPTON, Eng., May 15.—In the first round of the European zone Davis cup tennis play yesterday, Ulrich, of Denmark, defeated Mishu of Rumania, 7-5, 6-1, 6-2. Denmark thus won the rubber and enters the second round.

Charles W. Paddock Holds 5 World's Records 6 American Records 2 American Championships

In "The Glory of the Game," in the May 8th number of SPORT STORY Magazine, "Charles" tells of American supremacy on track and field and how America has won it.

SPORT STORY MAGAZINE

STREET & SMITH CORP., Publishers

NOW ON SALE - PRICE 15 CENTS

COM. BASE BALL LEAGUE PLANS TO OPEN MAY 18

Eight Teams Join And Schedule Is Drawn Up

The Saint John Commercial League has been organized and plans completed for the grand opening of the ball games on May 18. There are eight teams entered in the league, representing the N. B. Telephone Company, N. B. Power Company, C. N. R., C. P. R., Geo. E. Barbour's, Cornwall and York Mills, W. H. Thorne & Co., Ltd., and M. M. R., Ltd. Four games weekly will be played on the Barrack Square, and are to start at 7 o'clock.

Officials of League. At a recent meeting of the teams' officers were elected as follows: A. W. Covey, president; Jack Howard, first vice-president; W. Scott, second vice-president, and M. A. Stuart, secretary-treasurer.

The League Schedule.

May 18—Thorne's vs. C. N. R.
May 19—Cornwall and York vs. C. P. R.
May 20—M. R. A. vs. N. B. Power.
May 21—N. B. Telephone vs. Barbour's.
May 22—C. P. R. vs. N. B. Power.
May 23—N. B. Telephone vs. M. R. A.
May 24—Barbour's vs. Thorne's.
May 25—Cornwall and York vs. C. N. R.
June 1—Cornwall and York vs. Thorne's.
June 2—N. B. Power vs. Barbour's.
June 3—C. P. R. vs. N. B. Telephone.
June 4—M. R. A. vs. C. N. R.
June 5—Barbour's vs. C. N. R.
June 6—N. B. Power vs. Thorne's.
June 7—C. P. R. vs. M. R. A.
June 17—Cornwall and York vs. M. R. A.
June 18—N. B. Power vs. C. N. R.
June 19—C. P. R. vs. Barbour's.
June 20—Cornwall and York vs. M. R. A.
June 21—N. B. Telephone vs. Thorne's.
June 22—N. B. Telephone vs. C. N. R.
June 23—C. P. R. vs. Thorne's.
June 24—Cornwall and York vs. N. B. Power.
June 25—M. R. A. vs. Barbour's.
June 26—N. B. Telephone vs. N. B. Power.
June 30—Cornwall and York vs. Barbour's.
July 1—C. P. R. vs. C. N. R.
July 2—M. R. A. vs. Thorne's.

SUMMER CHAMPIONS VICTORS IN DEBATE

C. G. I. T. Girls Win From Tuxis Boys of Ludlow Street Church.

The Tuxis boys of the Ludlow street Baptist church and the C. G. I. T. members engaged in a well-contested debate last night, the resolution being, "Resolved, that winter offers more benefits generally than summer offers." The boys upheld the affirmative, their team being Roland Y. Hamilton, captain; Harry Hoyt, M. Hersey and Delbert Black. The girls debated were Miss Inez MacLean, captain; Miss Edna Robbins, Miss Ellen McCutcheon, and Miss Margaret Cameron. The judge, R. H. Parsons, awarded the decision to the negative, chiefly on argument. The meeting opened with devotions, and Roland Y. Hamilton, pastor of the Tuxis group, presided. There was a musical programme after the debate, and Elbridge Eastman played the guitar. Refreshments were served by the girls under the comership of their leader, Mrs. R. C. MacKenney. The Tuxis boys provided ice cream.

Eddie Rommel, pitching his sixth consecutive victory, gave the Athletics their seventh straight triumph, with Detroit on the short end, 4 to 2.

The Yankees swallowed their fourth straight defeat, 1 to 0, at Chicago. St. Louis bowed to the Senators, 3 to 0. George Sisler stretching his hitting streak to 29 consecutive games. Ken Williams increased his home run record to seven.

Wins Own Game.

Pitcher Ben Karr won his own game as Boston was set back for the third time in the series with Cleveland, the Indians winning, 4 to 3. Karr drove in two runs, including the winning score in the ninth.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

St. Louis 4, Brooklyn 4.
Chicago 4, Philadelphia 2.
Pirates 7, Braves 1.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

Chicago 1, New York 0.
Athletics 4, Tigers 2.
Cleveland 4, Boston 3.
Senators 5, Browns 3.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

Jersey City 001000000—1 3 2
Toronto 0043010—18 25 0
Reading 000010000—1 6 1
Bucalo 00222014—11 18 0
Newark 011000001—3 7 3
Rochester 01101010—4 12 3
Baltimore 000000001—1 4 0
Syracuse 010100001—5 9 1

ALERTS TO PRACTISE.

The Alerts, professional baseball team, will hold a practise this evening on the East End diamond.

ON FRENCH TURF

Tricktrac Captures Feature Event at Longchamp Valued at 30,000 Francs.

PARIS, May 15.—Senior Martinus De Hohe, the Argentine sportsman, and of successive owner, continued his series of successes on the French turf yesterday, when his three year old Tricktrac, won the feature race at Longchamps, the Prix Du Minicap, for 30,000 francs.

Derby Favorite



LOUISVILLE, May 15.—On the winter books Quatrain was the ruling favorite for the historic Kentucky Derby fixture. But of late, owing to lameness which laid him up temporarily, has dropped a bit down the list. He's still rated one of the most dangerous contenders, though. Quatrain sprang into prominence last January by winning the rich New Orleans Handicap event. He's the son of Omar Khayyam-Bonnie Mary. Wymb m m m m b.

MANAGER M'GRAW CALLS ON EVERYBODY BUT THE BAT BOY

NEW YORK, May 15.—By calling out everybody but the bat boy yesterday John McGraw managed to squeeze a tight victory over Cincinnati yesterday. The Giants overcame a three-run lead in the ninth to tie the score, and then won, 5 to 4, in the twelfth. The Yankees' superb pitching held the Giants up to eight hits, while New York was compelled to use 18 players, including three pitchers, to win. The Reds clung to their tie for second place with Brooklyn, as the Cardinals evened their series with the Dodgers by a triumph, 8 to 4.

The Cubs took the measure of the Phillies, 4 to 2, in the Quaker City. Alexander holding the losers to seven hits.

Giants Squeeze Out Victory In Twelfth Inning From Reds—Mackmen Continue to Show Class In American League

The drive of the Braves was temporarily checked by the Pirates, 7 to 1, in a game which concluded in a near riot, as Earl Smith, Pittsburgh catcher, exchanged hot words with a fan, while fielding a foul fly. Smith struck the spectator a glancing blow, the police intervened, and Smith was banished from the game with the crowd swarming upon the field.

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R. K. Y. C. FLEET GETTING READY FOR THE SEASON

Many Boats Are Ready To Take To The Water

Slowly but surely recovering from its practical disestablishment during the Great War, the Royal Kennebec Yacht Club gives bright promise of setting forth in a few days' time a fleet of boats, with many and augmented recognized crews, already between twenty and thirty of the larger craft are awaiting their turn to use the marine railway that launches them for the season.

To Take The Water.

Boats ready to take to the water in the order of their nearness to the shore are: Rana, owned by Gen. W. Mullin. Louisa—George Roberts, George Hilyard, Isaac Murray and Harry Heans.

Mist—Harold Hopper. Syc—T. V. Lantulum. Raven—(Flagship)—Commodore James Barnes. Yawl Oopray—Wm. S. Allison. Cananda—Fred S. Heans. Vagabond—Ex-Commodore Walter Lugen.

Wanderer—Howard E. Holder. About twenty more will follow when the way is cleared for them.

First Yacht Arrives.

The first yacht to sail into Millidgeville moorage from Indianapolis was Vice-Commodore Alex Rowan's "Nile," taken from her winter quarters in Rowan's slip, Marble Cove, last Sunday. She received a lusty cheer from the crowd assembled at the clubhouse.

It is expected the white-winged sport will be very popular this year. Be many of whom have back to the harbor days of Commodore Robert Thomson, the club is receiving scores of enthusiastic newcomers. There is every indication sailing will regain its position as the king of summer sport in Saint John, dating from this year.

Coming Back Strong.

The blow dealt the Royal Kennebec Yacht Club when hostilities began in 1914, while a staggering one was evidently not sufficiently severe to put it out of commission entirely. During the great struggle practically all activity was suspended in the general scheme of conservation of money and effort for war purposes. Moreover many members went overseas. Even the royal warrant from which the club gets its title was temporarily cancelled because of its official tone and significance.

Commodore James W. Barnes has had abundant faith in the restoration of the club to its old status of popularity and is surrounded by veteran yachtsmen whose sheer love of the sport and technical knowledge of it is perfecting a plan of organization that should present once more the grand old fleet a thing of joy and beauty during the happy days of June, July, August and September.

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