

POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1920

STECHER IS NOT WORLD CHAMPION

There Is Nothing International About His Wrestling Successes — Some Noted Grapplers.

There are persons who steadfastly refuse to believe that any wrestling match can be in the language of Charles "Hard-luck" Haughton, "on the up and up." The mere mention of a mat championship brings sly twinkles to the eye and sniggering or blurted skepticism to the person's lips, writes John E. Wray in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

This is the heritage of a tainted game. It probably will be handed down into the third and fourth generation. It explains why even the Joe Stecher-Earl Caddock championship contest (accounts of which indicate it was an honestly-fought event), is being subjected to innuendoes concerning its integrity.

If a mat contest for \$40,000 and the world's championship, one which drew \$80,000 in receipts, failed to tempt wrestlers to play fairly, the sport and the world itself would indeed have arrived at a most unfortunate pass. As a champion seemed to be an outcome entirely justified by the greater strength and skill and weight of the victor, Stecher is legitimate U. S. champion at present and is likely to remain so.

Zyzako or Lewis Next.

The only opposition immediately in view for Stecher is an encounter with either Strangler Lewis, who seems to have slipped backwards, or Zyzako. There is also Martin Pliska, who is in the bad graces of the promoters.

Stecher is popularly labeled world's champion, but many have questioned the right of America to arrogate world honors to itself. There is nothing international about Stecher's success, for only a handful of Europe's wrestlers figured in the elimination matches.

There was when the invasion of European wrestlers sent the Americans scuttling to the bushes where they awaited the departure of the beef-trust visitors. This was especially noteworthy in the case of the various "Terrible Turks" who visited the country at intervals.

The first of these was Yousoff, the original "Terrible Turk." He fopped American opponents so fast they didn't know what hold he used. Yousoff went to the bottom of the sea like a plummet, one day, when the vessel carrying him back to Europe, La Bretagne, sank as the result of a collision. It was said that Yousoff was rendered helpless in the water by a weighty money belt, he had insisted on taking as much of his wealth home in gold. "The greatest wrestler that ever visited America," was the prevailing expert opinion of Yousoff.

The giant Norouhah was the next "Terrible Turk," a grotesque, fat giant with a paragon of a head and the power of a steam crane. He looked like a moose or a tub of animated fat, but he was invincible, as Champion Tom Jenkins found out in a very few minutes.

Norouhah wrestled George Wittmer, of Cincinnati, in the exposition coliseum in St. Louis. His method was unique. He used what might be called the "lunge hold," locked his arms and legs partly and then smothered his opponent with his fat stomach as with a pillow. Wittmer had to "resign" or suffocate. Norouhah left these shores unbroken and richer by many thousands.

Strange Case of Mahmoud.

The last "Terrible Turk," a Bulgarian, named Yussif Mahmoud, did not accomplish much. For several seasons he hung around Chicago trying to get matches enough to feed himself. Each month he drew in his belt another notch, while his manager raved and ranted that the wrestling trust—Coffey and Carley—would not give him a match unless he "laid down."

Mahmoud held out over two years. Then his manager, failing to dent the opposition, quit in disgust. It is said that to this day he has maintained, despite Coffey's victory later, there was no wrestler who could stand before the Terrible Bulgarian when he was defended.

Mahmoud at last was taken in out of the cold by the trust, threw a few second raters, then took on Gotch, who tossed him after an hour or so. There was some comment at the time that Mahmoud did not wrestle as he should. At any rate, he seemed thoroughly tanned. After the Bulgarian's defeat, Frank Gotch immediately signed him as a training partner and proceeded to hide his title behind the big fellow.

"Whoever wants a match with me," Gotch declared from back of the human barricade, "must first defeat Mahmoud!" But it was significant that although the country was filled with Zyzakos and other good wrestlers, nobody took up the Mahmoud challenge, although one and all were willing to oppose the champion.



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ATHLETIC STANDING IS INVOLVED

Some Definite Stand Should Be Taken to Uphold Status of Players—Evidence Given That Dalhousie Players Are Professional Hockeyists.

(Halifax Chronicle.)

Throwing mud in the athletic line seems to have become a popular pastime, and the throwing has smothered the uniforms of three of the players on the Dalhousie hockey lineup and practically rendered the proposed trip to Cambridge, Mass., impossible—at least as a university feature.

We have no case to offer for the men of the squad referred to but it would have been better for all concerned if the matter had been taken up at an earlier date and properly threshed out.

The evidence in the case of the Dalhousie men has come from Cape Breton and has been given prominence by Mr. Dolan of the Sydney Post. He has been for some time in close touch with conditions there and states plainly and without any malice that the members of the local university are professionals.

His statements bear weight and have to be considered though they will upset matters of an athletic nature for the Yellow and Black so far as hockey is concerned.

Nor is this the only professionalism charge that is being heard and while all are not as frank and above board as the ones made by the Cape Breton writer, they are damaging. Taking them all in consideration there must have been a lot of loose change floating about during the time the war was on which did not go to provide comforts for those in the trenches.

Our attitude is and has been that a good pro and a good amateur are on an equal footing but that so long as they are segregated by name it is wiser to keep them segregated in their athletic endeavors.

If there is a common desire to have everything athletic in the professional line, let us start it as such, or the other way.

Mr. Goldie came to Princeton in 1889 from Montreal, of which city he was a native. He remained here until 1889, when he became the first coach of the New York Athletic Club. In 1889 he returned to Princeton, and was actively associated with the university's athletic affairs until 1911, when he retired. During his first period with Princeton he turned out several championship gym teams, and was the originator of a number of swings and twists, among them the now abandoned "ladder."

Such is Fame.

New York, Feb. 26.—Judge Otto A. Rosenthal will never get a pass to a baseball game from Benny Kauff. The judge just willfully deprived himself of this distinction from the Giants' centre fielder yesterday. He confessed in open court, before a room full of spectators in general session, that he never had heard of Benny Kauff, thereby laying himself open to be adjudged in contempt of the Polo Grounds.

What with having been indicted on a charge of larceny in connection with the theft of an automobile, Benny has been having a lot of trouble, and this acknowledgment of ignorance on the part of a learned judge came as a crushing blow. It was while Emily E. Fuchs, counsel for the ball player, was arguing a motion for an inspection of the grand jury minutes that Benny's name came in, in spite of all of Benny's disinterested efforts to make his name a household word.

"It doesn't mean that I don't follow sport, and baseball in particular," said his honor. "But I don't happen to recall hearing this young man's name before."

Benny looked as pained as if he had fainted out. Nothing worse could be imagined except Benny's forgetting his own name.

The judge reserved his opinion on the matter.

"PALS"

"Pals" is charged with happier meaning than "friends." It is really the masculine of "sweethearts."

A man and his son—a boy and his dog—they're "pals."

And many, many folks make "pals" with Adams Black Jack Gum—

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You make friends with Adams Black Jack Gum. Sold everywhere in the blue package, 5c.

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**DEATH OF GEO.
GOLDIE, COACH
AT PRINCETON**

Famous Canadian Athlete Who Once Held Several World's Records.

Princeton, N. J., Feb. 25.—A Canadian who made athletic history, died here Monday in the person of George Goldie, Princeton University's first physical director. He was born in Montreal seventy-eight years ago, and was widely known in Canadian athletic circles, having held the five and three year all-around championship titles of the Canadian Club of Canada, as well as of the United States from 1880 to 1885. Though identified with Princeton and a resident of this city for many years, he made frequent trips to Canada, and took part in many big athletic events in the east.

Mr. Goldie at one time was the holder of world's records in the standing high jump and the standing high jump. He is said to have inaugurated the use of the pole in jumping for height, and was known as the "father of the pole vault."

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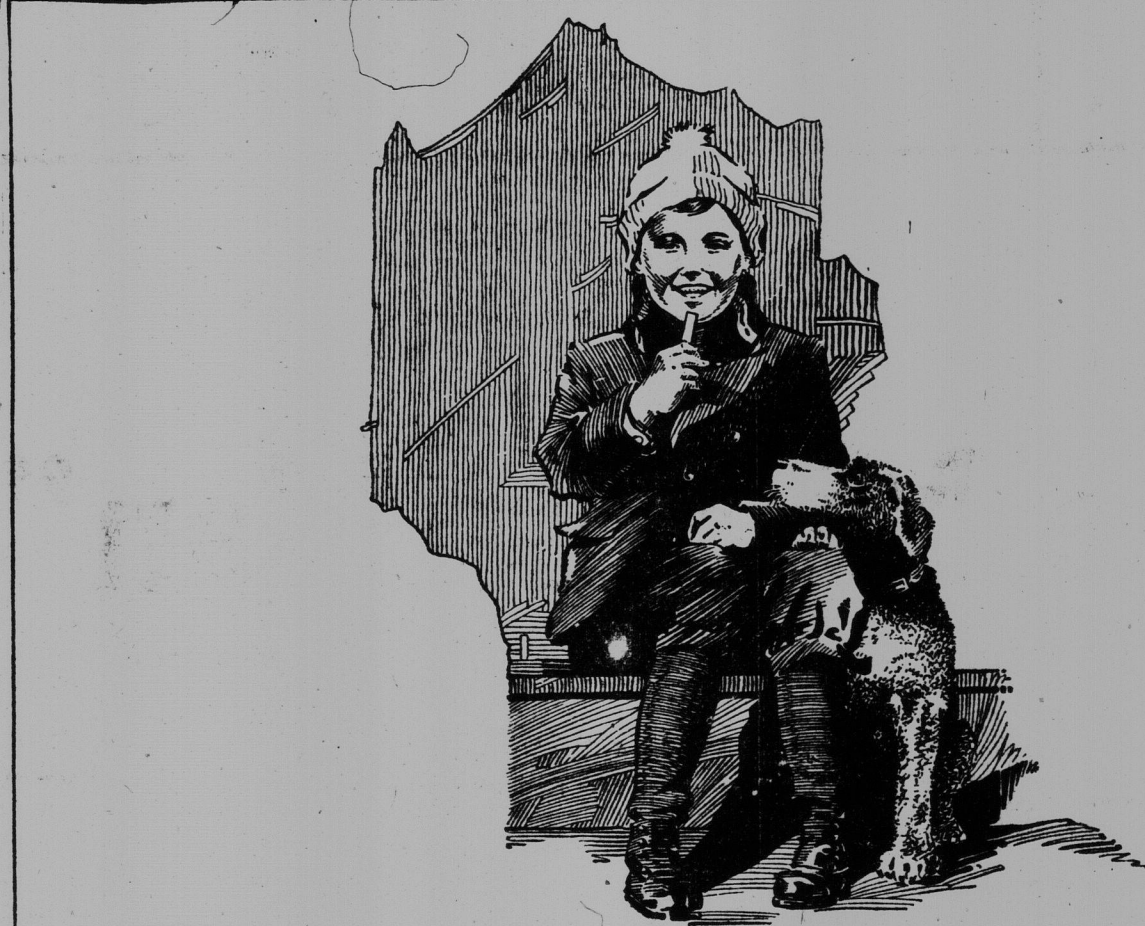
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PRES. PETTIPAS WILL STAND FIRM

If League Hockey Is to Be Amateur He Will Not Allow Players Under Suspension to Participate.

(Halifax Echo.)

Regarding his declaring the game between Imperial and All-Dartmouth an exhibition contest last night, President A. C. Pettipas, of the Halifax and Dartmouth Hockey League, said to an Evening Echo reporter:

"I must be distinctly understood that the hockey league here is an amateur one, and that the games are being played under sanction of the M. P. B. A. A. U. In my present position I can do nothing except refuse to permit players of a questionable or disputed standing to play as regular members of a scheduled contest. There seems to be a little misapprehension as to the situation; as many of the supporters of the teams believe I am too drastic in my actions."

"To these I can simply say that my idea is to protect the standing of the boys in the game here this coming season. Personally, I do not wish to enter into discussions over the matter. My one idea is to endeavor to serve the interests of all. I believe in good amateur sport and as the league is amateur and I am president of the league I cannot see that it is possible for me to take any other stand in the matter than to keep the games clear of all possibility of dispute."

"I have," said Mr. Pettipas, "an idea that the task of getting things on the feet is great, especially after a long period of inaction on the part of the association; but I am not involved daily."

Upper Canada has frowned upon the wholesale "whitewashing" of all players and making a fresh start as advocated here at first; but it is not fair to have certain men stand the brunt of the entire matter if this cannot be done.

The proposal made recently by P. C. Neville to suspend all players for a given time appears to be reasonable and rather easy of accomplishment; but it has not as yet received the sanction of maritime headquarters.

The position of A. W. Corvey as president of the M. P. B. A. A. U., cannot be considered an enviable one; but if athletes from the lower provinces are to compete in regular games with those from outside points they must be able to prove their standing.

Indiscriminate suspensions or reinstatements will not solve the problem at this or any future date; and while evidence of a varying nature is given on both sides there will be continual confusion.

As far as we can see, Mr. Corvey's giving his best efforts to create an orderly conditions of affairs but it is wasted effort until his organization is working as a unit and possesses a unit in every centre of the province.

Most of the amateur organizations have held their annual meetings and a thorough thrashing out of the matter should be had at once. One thing appears to be plain in an otherwise cloudy sky, and that is that the present state of affairs cannot go on.

Let these amateurs get together and create a body strong enough to deal with the situation. If they are in sympathy with the M. P. B. A. A. U. (as they are every indication of their being) they should aid in an uncertain manner. They should retire and allow the field to the professionals.

Considering the matter from the point of view of the possibility of the tremendous revival of amateur sport here in 1924 we believe that the best way to serve the majority of those who are at present helping to make the league a success.

Following are the list of entries in full, with competitor's number:

No. 1—220 Yards Open.

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Dad speaks one word for me and two for himself when he tells Mother to order more



He likes them, same as I do — Bobby

Canadian Postum Cereal Co. Ltd., Windsor, Ont.