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# In the World of Sport

## GREAT FIGHTERS FAILED

### TO MAKE GOOD ON THEIR FIRST APPEARANCE.

Even "Jim" Jeffries Was Regarded as False Alarm When He Made His Debut Before New York Critics. James J. Corbett, writing in the Philadelphia North American, pens the following:

Through some peculiar twist of fate many of the greatest fighters that pugilism has known have failed to make an impressive showing upon their first appearance in New York city.

Mike Gibbons went to New York some years ago touted as a "wonder."

Mike had an awfully hard time getting a fight in the Gotham district, and when he did the critics pronounced him a "flash in the pan."

Jess Willard showed up as one of the worst looking heavyweights that pugilism ever knew when he fought Carl Morris in New York.

Jack Dempsey fought around in the New York district two years or so ago, and made such a disappointing showing that all the "experts" who saw him in action pronounced him a joke of the most laughable kind.

Even Jim Jeffries was classed as a "false alarm" when he made his New York ring debut.

Jeff had been my sparring partner for my fights with Bob Fitzsimmons. After losing the championship, I dismissed my trainer and sparring partners and they shifted for themselves.

Billy Delaney who had been my trainer, saw in Jeffries the makings of a champion. So he made a deal with Jeffries whereby he would handle his interests.

Jeffries and Delaney went back to San Francisco, and in less than a year and a half Jeff had made a great reputation along the Pacific coast.

But Jeff had ambitions to display his prowess before a New York audience. For some months Delaney angled for a match. The best he could get was a handicap affair. Jeffries had to agree to knock out Steve O'Donnell and Bob Armstrong in less than ten rounds each in the same ring on the same night.

O'Donnell was little more than a third rater, and Armstrong was only a so-so fighter. Stories that had come from the coast concerning Jeffries had caused the New York fans to believe that he was a "man killer," and almost every one in the big crowd that turned out to see Jeffries anticipated that he would stop both fighters without much trouble.

But Jeffries failed in his effort, and immediately the Gothamites pronounced him greatly overrated. But in a little more than a year they changed their views because Jeffries, in an almost meteoric fashion, rose to the absolute crest of the pugilistic world.

The big Californian took on Armstrong as the first foe in the handicap match on Aug. 5th, 1898—and that is as far as he got. Armstrong proved so tough for Jeffries that all decision after the scheduled ten that Sports

## Sporting Notes

Ed. Konetchy, first baseman, formerly of the Boston Red Sox, has gone into the United States national service.

Fred Merkle, first baseman of the Chicago Cubs, says he is out of baseball for all time. He intends to stick to farming at his home in Florida.

Eddie Cicotte, White Sox pitcher, is helping make Earles at the Ford plant in Detroit. He has been doing a little ball in a semi-professional circuit.

Local lawn bowling season will be wound up this week, weather permitting. Many of the fixtures have been delayed for many weeks through rain and cold.

"I will be like old times to see Ottawa and McGill coming together on the gridiron on Saturday next. These teams have not clashed since 1913.

Ottawa football, tennis and bowling clubs which have been up against a great handicap this year, ought to move forward with the weather man.

W. F. Robertson, quarter back of the Harvard football team of 1915 and 1916, and assistant last year to Percy D. Houghton, is now in France. He is a lieutenant in the American artillery.

E. J. Ryan has been made chairman of the Horsemen's Committee, which is helping in the American Liberty Loan. G. W. Loft headed the list of subscribers by purchasing \$75,000 worth of bonds.

Racing will be resumed in Cuba the latter part of next month. Conditions there have settled, and the horsemen look for one of the best seasons Oriental Park has ever had.

Andrew Miller's famous getting, Roamer, won the Pierrepont Handicap, valued at \$2,500, at Aqueduct on Saturday. He paid 11 to 20. Manly Toi ran second and War Cloud third. Hollister annexed the Liberty Bond Handicap.

Lieut. W. D. (Bill) Pearson, of the Toronto Canals, is reported killed in action. He was in France three years ago, and had been on active service ever since.

Montreal hockey fans are placing no credence in the alleged new league. Percy Quinn's bluff to get Eddie Livingstone back into hockey is too flimsy to fool any one. The Toronto Arena Company gave it the kibosh when it refused to give ice to the outlaws.

Cannie Smyth, former captain of the Toronto University hockey team, who served in the Royal Flying Corps, writes from his prison camp to say that he and other Canadians have been playing football there. He is in good health, and hopeful of his release in the near future.

Sol Metzger, famous coach of the University of Pennsylvania and the Washington and Jefferson University teams, is coaching the Camp Dix athletic association candidates for nothing this fall. He was voted an honorarium of \$1, which was turned back to the association.

Racing Features.

The ten per cent. Government tax on paid admissions to the New York race courses alone will yield more than \$250,000 this year. The spring and fall meetings at Aqueduct netted \$40,000 for Uncle Sam.

As the patronage at Aqueduct was an excellent basis for a general estimate of the war tax on other race courses, it is believed that the meetings at Belmont Park, Jamaica Empire City and Saratoga will have turned over as much, if not more, money to the Treasury Department. It is well to remember that the race-going public paid this tax in addition to the regular admission rates.

Jeffries had it on Armstrong something like thirty-three pounds in weight, and looked like a giant in comparison with his negro rival. Judging by appearances, the bout seemed destined to be little more than a "workout" for Jeffries.

But the very eagerness of the big Californian to show the eastern audience that he was all that his friends had claimed hurt his chances considerably.

Jeffries threw caution science, and good judgment to the four winds in an effort to beat down the negro.

As a result his wary rival was saved from being beaten into oblivion. No man in a prize ring has a chance to accomplish much if he is a victim of over-anxiety and if he fails to time his punches and fails to fight with coolness. And that was Jeffries' case.

The Californian showed up slow and very awkward in that contest, and Armstrong outboxed him through nearly all of the early rounds. The negro hit Jeffries with considerable frequency, but the white man's ability to take punishment stood him in good stead.

Armstrong swung through a punch that raised a lump over Jeffries' eye. By that time Armstrong had become inspired with the belief that he was as good as Jeffries, and refused to back away from the onslaughts.

Several times Jeffries sent home terrible smashes to the body and head of the negro, but he couldn't knock him out. In several rounds Jeffries had the negro staggering, but couldn't put over the finishing punch.

Whenever Armstrong was in trouble he fell into clinches, which Jeffries was unable to shake off until Armstrong had accomplished his purpose of recuperation.

Through the last two rounds Jeffries, in desperation, tried to finish Armstrong, but it was useless. The big Californian was almost as tired as his rival, and his punches lacked the earlier steam. Several times he had Armstrong a bit groggy, but always Armstrong fought him back in a way that balked a knockout.

Jeffries was given the decision, but his showing was so disappointing that promoters who had figured on matching him with Fitzsimmons at that time ruled against it, and Jeffries went back to California to "begin anew."

**On the Fighting Line.**

Capt. Beckwith, who caught for the Chicago Cubs, under Manager Seale in '94 and '95, is now playing third base with a team organized among officers and men stationed at Blois, France. In the first game played by this organization, it was defeated by a score of 9 to 6, the victors being a team organized by a Knights of Columbus secretary in an adjoining camp.

Jim could do was to earn the rounds of battling.

At the end of that contest Jeffries exhibited a damaged thumb on his left hand, which was used as the explanation for calling off his match with O'Donnell.

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Just as soon as the war is over France will present another candidate for world honors in boxing in the person of Eugene Criqui, bantamweight. It will be remembered that Georges Carpentier started his ring career as a bantam, and Criqui's prowess already exceeds that of the famous French idol. Criqui has knocked out every boxer who has been sent against him in the international shows over there. Not so long ago the American contingent sent Eugene Clifford, a doughboy, against Criqui, and the Frenchman landed the haymaker in the second round. The next American entry was Jimmy O'Day, a good featherweight from Pittsburg, who is in the field artillery. One round sufficed for the Smoky City lad, and his seconds threw in the sponge. Criqui is said to have a wonderful left.

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## MONUMENTS!

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**MCGILL PLAYER BREAKS RIB.**

Ross Laing Suffers Injury and is Out of Game.

The McGill football squad was reduced in numbers at the practice Tuesday afternoon by one or two of the regulars, who are suffering from slight injuries being absent, but they will probably be able to get back into the game before Saturday's match with Ottawa. Coach Hughes this afternoon put the men through another strenuous workout, the greater part of the time being devoted to signal drill punting and running. Ross Laing was only a witness at today's practice, he being out with a broken rib, smashed in the practice of Monday afternoon.

Montgomery had charge of the senior team, which lined up practically the same as on Monday, and worked out against a squad of second men, who were changed frequently to give the seniors a harder practice. The players are well into condition and have shown marked improvement in the last few workouts in their handling of the ball, and will be in good shape for the opening game.

It was announced that reservations for the first local game, which will be against Royal Military College of Kingston, may be made at the end of the week. Word has been received from R. M. C. that they will fulfil their engagement in Montreal on Saturday, Oct. 19th, which will mark the opening of the McGill stadium in competitive sports.

The coming man is seldom noticed until after his arrival.

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By **GEORGE McMANUS**