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BOXING YEAR BROUGHT FEW RING SENSATIONS

Only World's Title to Change Hands Did So Without a Battle.

New York, Dec. 29.—Despite a record-breaking amount of activity, marked by no little color, the 1924 boxing campaign passes into history with few dominant developments or sensational results.

Lacking any high spot comparable with the memorable Dempsey-Firpo battle of 1923, the season was noteworthy chiefly for a final and unsuccessful invasion of America by Georges Carpentier, the down-fall of Luis Angel Firpo from the ranks of heavyweight title contenders, and the passing of two veteran champions.

Another important development was approval of a new law permitting 12-round bouts in California in 1925 and forecasting a big ring revival on the coast.

Only one world's title change took place in the ring and that occurred when Abe Attel Goldstein dethroned Joe Lynch as bantamweight titleholder in a colorless 15-round bout at Madison Square Garden that set a colorless champion upon the 118-pound throne.

The other break in the ranks of champions came when Johnny Dundee, durable little Italian warrior, forfeited without a struggle the featherweight title he had won the year before from Eugene Cright, gallant French fighter. Dundee relinquished the title, which he had not once defended, because of his inability further to make the 136-pound limit, and the New York State Athletic Commission has launched an elimination tournament, the survivor of which will be recognized by that body as the new feather champion. It seems likely that the result of this procedure also will be universally accepted, thus shattering pugilistic precedent and upsetting the old theory that a champion can lose his crown only in the ring.

Dundee was shorn completely of titles when he lost to Kid Sullivan, the junior lightweight, or 130-pound championship, a division, however, which is not generally recognized.

Starting out with prospects of an unusual amount of title activity, the year fell far short of expectations in this respect for a variety of reasons. The failure of Jack Dempsey, heavyweight king, to defend his crown no doubt had its effect on the rest of the ranks, while suspensions by ring authorities, eleven-hour mishaps, and a disinclination on the part of several champions to risk their crowns were other factors to bring about a dearth of championship activity.

Benny Leonard, lightweight champion, defended his crown once by defeating Pal Moran at Cleveland but in this bout injured his hands to such an extent that he was forced to call off a scheduled battle with Mickey Walker, the welterweight champion. Walker, handicapped by incurring the displeasure of New York riding solons for refusing to accept a challenge from Dave Shade, nevertheless was one of the most active champions and has an unusual opportunity in prospect early in the new year when he first fights Mike McTigue, the world's light heavyweight champion.

McTigue, early this year, had a close call against his schoolboy rival, Young Stribling, who nearly scored a knockout over the champion in a no-decision bout at Newark, N.J.

Harry Greb's middleweight title was in little jeopardy during the year while Pancho Villa, flyweight titleholder, left for his native Philippines after falling to go through with a match with his closest rival, Frankie Genaro. Villa claimed an injury prevented his fighting, but the boxing commission was dissatisfied with this explanation and suspended him. Greb's victories included one over Johnny Wilson, former champion, while Villa disposed of Frankie Ash, British flyweight.

With the memory of his spectacular fight against Dempsey still fresh in the minds of ring followers, Firpo returned from Argentina for another campaign, but it proved a dismal failure. The big South American, obviously not in the best of condition and affected by legal entanglements in which he had become involved, was outclassed by

Harry Willis, giant negro, in a bout at Boyle's Thirty Acres, and then suffered a crowning setback when he was defeated by Charley Welner, who had been an easy victim for the "Wild Bull" in 1923.

These defeats were looked upon as eliminating Firpo from the front rank of Dempsey's challengers, but the Argentinian may attempt another comeback.

Willis stood out again at the end of the season as the chief heavyweight contender but his victory over Firpo failed to increase the negro's prestige and the prospect that he will gain a long-sought match with Dempsey still is the ring's principal uncertainty.

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The year failed to uncover much promising new material in any division. The few exceptions were chiefly in the featherweight ranks, where Dundee's retirement stimulated activity, while Sid Terris, flashy New Yorker, developed into a formidable lightweight contender.

Paul Berlenbach, Jimmy Slatery and Stribling added color and interest to light heavy ranks.

Foreign talent continued to invade American rings but met with scant success. Discarding Firpo and Romero, South America's chief threat was Luis Vicentini, hard-hitting Chilean lightweight, who performed impressively at times but in recent months met defeat against Jack Bernstein and Terris. Panama sent a formidable feather contender in Jose Lombardo.

Besides Carpentier, France had another entry in Charley Ledoux, veteran bantamweight, but neither was successful. Carpentier lost spectacular fights to Gene Tunney, American light heavyweight champion and Tom Gibbons, Ledoux was beaten decisively by Goldstein.

Ermindo Spalla, the European heavyweight, came to the United States after being knocked out in the Argentine by Firpo but was defeated by Tunney. Gibbons crossed to England for an international bout in which he knocked out Jack Bloomfield.

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There are some St. Louis scribes who contend that if the official scorer had been as generous with Rogers Hornsby as he was with George Sisler, the Cardinal star would have hit close to .500. Sentiment for Sisler swayed many a base hit in his favor.

O'Neill Gets Break. Steve O'Neill is well pleased at going from a near tallender to an almost pennant winner. Steve was recently sold by the Boston Red Sox to the New York Yankees. He has already started to get in shape to prove he isn't through as a catcher.

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FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

The City League has a couple of problems on its hands right now which will take some solving. The first of these is to decide whether or not Player "Don" Nickle is eligible to compete for Irishmen. Nickle is a student at Boston, home for the holidays. His home is in Kingston, but he was not here for some time prior to Dec. 15th. What's the answer?

The other one is to keep the Circle-Six club in the league. These youngsters add a speed and dash to City League hockey which can hardly be lost without a fight. They want cleaner hockey or none at all. It's up to the executive to do something to keep them in.

Come on, you hockey players, get out to the Kingston intermediate team practices this week. You are needed there. First game is Friday night and not a position has been definitely assigned.

Two years ago the City Baseball League suspended a player. Last season the City Hockey League suspended a player. The effect produced was remarkable and very satisfying. The suspension touch must be brought into use mighty quickly this season if things do not improve.

"Smut" Veale has been in town spending the holidays with his parents. He has some mighty interesting news on sport in general, but there is one thing he is sure of—no more chewing gum for him on a playing field.

Protest Entered

The Circle-Six City League club has entered a protest regarding player "Don" Nickle on the game with the Irishmen, played on Friday night last. The "Sixer" claim that Nickle is attending the Boston Tech., was not in the city prior to Dec. 15th, and does not qualify as a City League player.

Nickle filled the hole caused by "Tommy" Angrove's absence, and gave the Circle-Six crew a lot of trouble. If their assertions are true, the decision of the League will be interesting.

Another Result. It is on good authority, that the Circle-Six club will drop out of the City League as a result of last Friday's game.

"We consider ourselves as good a team as is entered," said a member of their club, "but when we send out boys of junior age and with marked ability, to give the fans good hockey, and have them sent back to us maimed and injured badly, we think it time to pull out of a league which will allow such a thing."

The decision of the club will probably be made known when they enter their protest at the special meeting to be called for that purpose.

Meanwhile the battles will continue. This evening at the Arena, there will be two classy games.

The two league leaders, Irishmen and Live Wires, will be the contenders in one game,—and it will be a hummer—and Regtopolis Club and R.C.A. will meet in the second. That first game should be worth

a dollar to any hockey fan but all the league asks for both is twenty-five cents.

COBB LEFT OUT

When Detroit Players Pick the Best Manager.

This is the unkindest cut of all. Detroit players, asked to pick an All-American baseball team, entirely overlooked Tyrus Raymond Cobb in the role of manager.

Tris Speaker was the first choice of the Tyger players as the best manager in the American League. He scored on personality, baseball ability and knowledge of the game.

Stanley Harris, leader of the world champion Washington club, ran a good second to Speaker.

Connie Mack received one vote, which was one more than the Detroit athletes slipped the fiery manager of the Tygers.

The vote of the players is a direct slap at the managerial strategy of the great Cobb and isn't going to make a hit with him.

"Helmets" Play Ball.

New York, Dec. 29.—The failure of the major league tourists to go big in Europe brings out the fact that Japan is one of the few countries that has enthused over America's national game.

Jim Johnstone, former National League umpire, who has just returned from a trip abroad, says a mistake was made by the tourists in not visiting Germany.

Johnstone says that of all the European countries he toured, Germany was the only one in which the kids were actually playing the game.

In the other countries where baseball was played former Americans and Canadians were the performers.

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Everywhere!

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INTERMEDIATES NEED MUCH MORE PRACTICE

Players Not Attending Sufficiently to Business—Danger of Shortage for Opener.

Brockville comes here for an intermediate O.H.A. fixture on Friday evening and so far there is not a person in town who can outline the team that will represent Kingston. That was why the executive of the Kingston "Combines" got together on Saturday for a meeting which brought forth a whole lot of discussion and promised energetic subsequent action. President T. A. Kidd was in the chair.

When the present situation was discussed, it was found that the players were not turning out as had been expected. There are several reasons. Christmas holidays have taken away Queen's and R.M.C. men, as will the coming Queen's hockey tour. The City League has kept some of the players so busy they have not felt like practice. The coach has been so occupied with other tasks that he has only appeared a few times, and had it not been for Prof. Gellay, of R.M.C., the few who did turn out would have had no coaching but their own.

To offset all this, the names of two or three players of each city league team will be handed to the respective managers who will, in turn, be asked to accompany their men to the intermediate O.H.A. practices and encourage them in every way to take part.

The league has done its part in lifting the ban on O.H.A. men, and nothing more can be expected from it as a league, but individually, the players and managers can render a great deal of aid.

It was announced at the meeting that all players of the Kingston team would be insured against illness or accident.

Practices for the team will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6 until 7, and on Thursday morning at an hour to be announced later.

Panet and Pugh, of R.C.A.; Millan, Lanos, Tobin, Spoor, of Irishmen; Purdy and Holman, of Gran-

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The same model as used by the world champions in France, and they are another member of the

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ites; Lawlor, Gibson, Smith, Watts, son's games a setting out which would have done them good had all the players been present.

Friday night is the first big game. Everybody out and down to hard work.

Only Shortstop Doubtful. Connie Mack is said to be satisfied with every position on his team but shortstop. Galloway, who promised so much a couple of years back, has slowed down to a whimper.

Bobby Veach cost the Boston Red Sox close to \$20,000 just one year ago. Now he is being offered at the waiver price.

ER CAR GASOLINES REFINED HERE PRAISED BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Hiltz to-day issued the following statement

"In justice to Canadian oil refiners, it should be stated that a later and more complete analysis, made under the supervision of the medical health department shows that gasolines actually refined in Canada are better than the samples we collected, both in the United States and here, of American manufactured gasolines."

From TORONTO DAILY STAR FRIDAY, NOV. 28th 1924.

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