

The Month in Sports: Soup to Nuts

By CARROLL D. ALCOTT



November is always a busy and important month in the Manila sport world. This year, it has been unusually so and many outstanding events have occurred, one of which promises to become memorable in local sporting annals, viz., the appearance of Vincent Richards, of New York, world famous professional tennis star, against the best court

talent in the Philippines.

The other big events of the month, although less brilliant, are important to many thousands of Manila devotees of some form of athletic endeavor or other, who range in station from stevedores to our leading professional and business men. The opening of the 1927-28 Philippine Baseball League season on November 24, the initial fall regatta of the Manila Yacht Club and the 1927 army departmental championship golf tournament have aided in ushering in a sport season that will probably be unsurpassed by the records of any year since the early days of American Occupation.

This may sound like a broad statement, but when one considers that the yacht club, although only a year old, has not only made a successful bow during the short period of its existence but the Manila Bay course record for the Star class has been shattered twice within a week, the conclusion is actually mild. The addition of the

outboard motor hydroplane class to the yacht club curriculum and its successful inauguration has aroused an interest in speed racing that has already borne fruit while the success encountered by the Stars in their first three starts practically assures the future of sailing races in these islands.

Richards' exhibition appearances were highly successful—for Francisco Aragon. "Vinnie" lost two of his three matches with the ranking Filipino star, and although he was off his game to some extent, Aragon surprised everyone who saw him in action by proving better than he had heretofore been considered.

Richards may have under-estimated the skill

of Aragon and there are many who have that opinion. The writer does not believe such was the case. The professional star was tired of the constant subjection to tennis he had been placed under in Japan where he played a score of exhibition matches against the best Nipponese talent. This strain had its effect, with the result that Aragon, who was in excellent shape, scored a victory.

Some may misunderstand the above statements and think that I am detracting from Aragon's victories. I am not. The fact remains that Francisco won and, in so doing, gave the game of tennis a decided boost in the Philippines with the result that other players of international fame are likely to be invited to Manila for the benefit of the local players and the fans, which is to be considered quite a victory for tennis in general in this city and for Francisco Aragon, thanks to Captain Norman Cook and the executives of the Manila Tennis Club who were responsible for bringing the New Yorker to the Philippines.

The departmental golf tournament was an outstanding achievement in a month that was headlined by brilliant achievements. Captain Kendall J. Fielder, of Fort McKinley, defeated Captain William Stickman, of the same post, in the finals, 10 and 8. The match, although lopsided, has a big history behind it. Fielder won the championship from a field of more than 60 starters, the largest entry list shown by any golf event ever staged in the Philippines. Much of the credit for the success of the tourney is due Captain John C. Whitaker, departmental golf officer, who was in charge.

The tournament was marked by sensational play in the early rounds and fairly low scoring in the eliminations. Lieutenant Joseph Cranston, of Fort Santiago, won medalist honors after playing a brilliant 36 holes, 18 more than the prescribed number. Fielder, Stickman and Cranston finished the first 18 with 77's and in the playoff, Stickman dropped out at the 27th, while Fielder and Cranston battled it out to the finish, the latter winning.

But Cranston dropped by the wayside in the second round. Rated as a sure finalist at the start, his playing encountered a slump in the second round. Captain Coulter eliminated him from competition, 3 and 2. Cranston's exceptional work in the Manila Golf Club-Hongkong interport matches a few weeks previous had established him as a tournament player and his defeat at the hands of Coulter came as a surprise. The match was not exceptionally well played. Cranston was off form and apparently out of energy to carry him through. His driving was poor, his work on the fairways was ragged, while his putting was no more than ordinary.

To the army, the departmental tournament has served as an impetus to many officers who

had not taken the royal and ancient game as seriously as they might. When more than 60 officers appear on the dot for a tournament from a roster of not more than 600, something in the way of an achievement has been accomplished by those handling the event. It is safe to venture that a larger number will be out for the 1928 tourney while it is also a good bet that Captain Fielder will be an important figure in the 1928 open scheduled for January.

Baseball got off to a slow start although the first weekend games in December helped it out of the rut. In the November games, Meralco and Cavite were the only teams in the league evincing the necessary external signs of baseball. The Eagles and Scouts were trailed by the bungling jinx and still are for the matter although they have registered some improvement.

In the games of Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4, the Scouts presented an improved lineup before 2,500 rabid fans and defeated the Eagles, 9 to 5. Muffs were responsible for the Eagles' loss. Beale, shortstop, hung up a record by bungling seven and accounting for the majority of the Scouts run in so doing. The solution to the present problem of the All-American entrants is a puzzle, but one thing is certain, a shakcup on the roster is rapidly becoming necessary. Beale was sick when he entered the December 4 game, but the fact remains that he played. He isn't a great shortstop and belongs on second base or in the outer garden. As a base runner, there isn't a man who can outclass him in the league.

Agrusa, who has played four or five years of baseball in Manila, made a few muffs at third but has shown some improvement of late. The outfield has Frazer as its mainstay and he is apparently one of the coming members of the team. "Bobby" Robinson, the manager, has booted a few at times when boots were costly. The pitching staff is as strong if not stronger than that of any team in the league. Mayhall

and Porter have been hurling excellent baseball and at Cavite, Saturday, December 3, Mayhall pulled an iron man stunt by literally hurling both games of a doubleheader, losing the first game, 1 to 0, and the second, 3 to 1. Casanova, the Cavite moundsman, likewise pitched both games for his team.

Cavite and Meralco are both strong this year. In their second meeting of the year, they turned in the outstanding game of the season by playing nine innings to a 1-1 tie. Every man on both teams played his utmost with the result that the fielding was sensational. Hits were scattered and there were only two errors, both of



Richards



F. Aragon



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these being chalked up to one man, Rivera, Meralco's third baseman.

If Cavite and Meralco continue to dish out the same brand of baseball that featured their second game, and the Eagles and Scouts show some more improvement as it is logical to presume that they will, the season may be fairly successful.

With the exception of the arrival of Pete Sarmiento from the roped arenas of the United States, nothing startling has happened in the fistie spotlight.

Shortly after his arrival Sarmiento startled the Stadium management as well as the ring-worms by refusing to meet Kid Johnson, feather-weight champion of the Orient, the man originally selected as his first opponent. Pete was brought back to the Philippines with an offer of P5,000 to meet the king of Far Eastern feathers and not until December 6 did he change his stand and definitely sign papers to fight. The bout has been scheduled for Christmas Eve.

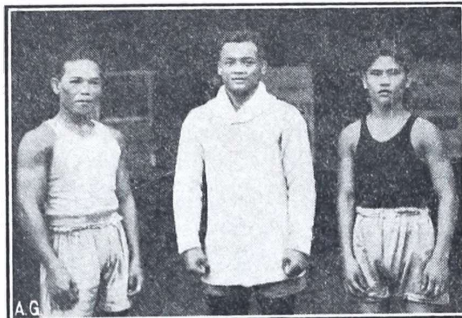
It is the opinion of the writer that a good big man can beat a good little man nine times out of ten. Johnson is one of the stiffest punchers that the islands have produced in the feather division, and he is outgrowing that class. Sarmiento is a legitimate bantam and he demanded, as any bantam would, that Johnson make 124 pounds for him. Naturally Johnson can't reduce to 124 pounds and fight his customary battle; as matters now stand, Pete has agreed to meet the champion at 126.

Pete has, during his hectic career in the United States, fought men at 126 pounds, and in one or two instances even more. That he was handicapped goes without saying, and he will be in a similar position when he boxes Johnson. The fact remains that the bout has been billed and Sarmiento should have a few good fights left in him. If he has, he may weather the storm with Johnson and emerge victorious. That is doubtful, but if he does lose it will be no disgrace.

It is not likely that Sarmiento will return to the United States without making more than one appearance in the local ring. A bout between the former pride of the Churchill stables and Little Moro, flyweight champion and claimant to the bantam title, is being encouraged and is on the verge of being signed. It will probably be staged during January and it should be as good if not better than the proposed Johnson-Sarmiento mix.

The visit of Arthur McQueen, representative of the Stadiums Ltd., of Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, Australia, was responsible for the expression of a desire by some of the tin alley fraternity to visit the Antipodes. Mr. McQueen took four promising boys back with him under contract for three fights each. Little Cowboy, Young Alde, featherweights; Young Pepe, bantamweight, and Fighting Mendez made the trip and, with the exception of Cowboy, they may return to Manila as big cards for the Stadium which has usually been the history following tours of Australia by local fighters.

Fernandez was hardly more than a preliminary boy when he visited the Antipodes. He returned a big card and a well developed fighter. The same was true of de Leon and a number of others. Cowboy probably won't advance enough to keep the tradition alive for he has already fought 150 battles and, although in his early



TRIO OF MANILA RING FAVORITES

A champion who missed the title, a champion who won, and a coming champion. —From left to right: Rough Dumaguillas, who can hit harder with his left hand than any Filipino brawler now in the ring; Kid Johnson, hard hitting featherweight champion, and Little Pancho, flashy brother of the late flyweight champion of the world, Pancho Villa.

twenties, he is an old man in the age of the arena. The fights at the Stadium during November were not exceptional. Young Harry Wills, a youth of African lineage, won a close contest from Irineo Flores on November 5. The fight was slow at the start and improved slowly.

Georges Montañez and Joe Alexander, fly-weights, fought 12 rounds to a draw on November 12. The fight was not a great battle although it was a moral victory for Alexander. Tiny DeBolt, heavyweight champion of the Asiatic Fleet, made his first return appearance in Manila after a summer in China waters by kayoing Al Konze, of the army, in five rounds. Ceferino Garcia, lightweight, brought an abrupt end to any designs that Joe Sacramento might have on the local crown by dealing that eminent member of the Shanghai boxing clique a sleeping potion in the fourth round of their scheduled 12 round feature event on the evening of Nov. 28.

Like the month of November, the present month promises to hold some interesting sport events for Manila fans. The championship track and field games are scheduled to be run off during the Anti-Tuberculosis charity fair. Boxing should show a bit of improvement over November while baseball will hold out strong and possibly improve. Yachting will continue to play an important part in the sport curriculum with weekly races while a number of lesser events in the amateur world are on tap.

PRESIDENT BACKS KIESS BILL

(By Associated Press)

Washington, Dec. 6.—The expenditure by congress through its appropriating power of all or part of the customs revenues now turned over to the Philippine treasury, a move which is advocated by Chairman Kiess, of the house committee on insular affairs, was recommended today by President Coolidge in his message to congress. The change was recommended as a means to greater progress and increased administrative efficiency in the islands.

As regards a greater degree of autonomy for the islands, the President said that self-government there would be hastened if the Filipino people would show desire and ability to execute cordially and efficiently the provisions of the present organic act. He suggested that a congressional committee visit the islands biennially.

He said that the powers of the insular auditor needed revision and clarification.

The text of that part of the President's message touching upon the Philippines follows:

The Message

"Conditions in the Philippine Islands have been steadily improved. Contentment and order prevail. Roads, irrigation works, harbor improvements and public buildings are being constructed. Public education and sanitation have been advanced. The government is in a sound financial condition. These immediate results were especially due to the administration of Governor-General Leonard Wood. The six years of his governorship marked distinct improvement in the islands and rank as one of the outstanding accomplishments this distinguished man has left. His death was a loss to the nation and to the islands. Greater progress could be made and more efficiency could be put into the administration if congress would undertake to expend through its appropriating power all or part of the customs revenues which are now turned over to the Philippine treasury. Powers of the auditor also need revision and clarification. The government of the islands is about 98 per cent in the hands of Filipinos. In the extension of this policy, self-government will be hastened by a demonstration on their part of their desire and their ability to carry out cordially and efficiently the provisions of the organic act enacted by congress for the government of the islands. It would be well for a committee of congress to visit the islands every two years."

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