

The Month in Sports: Soup to Nuts

By CARROLL D. ALCOTT



The business of directing the affairs of boxers is a poor one at its best for the rank and file of so-called managers who infest the gymnasiums and the stadiums. For every boxing mentor in the United States who is handling the affairs of a champion there are a thousand little fellows who are following the same racket with little

or no success. Their social status is about that of a mendicant. As a matter of fact most of them are beggars: begging the promoters for fights and the sporting editors for space in the papers.

This type of manager usually has little to offer, but in spite of his seemingly futile efforts he hangs on hoping that some day he may uncover a champion or a contender who will provide him with a meal ticket for the rest of his life. Jack Kearns, Billy Gibson and Eddie Kane are among the elect few who have been lucky in the past two decades by producing real boxing attractions.

Eddie Kane was a street and bar-room singer in Sioux City up to the time he started handling the affairs of Mike and Tom Gibbons. Billy Gibson was an unknown until chance brought him in contact with Benny Leonard, the greatest drawing card ever produced in the lightweight division. Jack Kearns was a drifter who grafted a living by various divers methods until a ray of luck handed him a contract with Jack Dempsey's name signed to it. Kearns is still managing a champion in the person of Mickey Walker. Gibson has produced another big money getter in the person of Gene Tunney while Eddie Kane has Sammy Mandell, lightweight champion of the world, under his wing, although Eddie's earnings with the Gibbons are said to have sifted from his hands like sand.

There is still another type of manager, viz., the fellow who keeps a large stable of bruisers and fights them often for any price within reason that he can get. This chap prospers and is usually a good business man. He believes in the old adage of quick turnovers and small profits. Where a champion gets \$15,000 to a cool million for a battler his bruisers command prices ranging from \$200 to \$5,000 and, if a lucky break comes his way, he sometimes produces a boy who can command fifteen or twenty grand. A champion, excluding the heavyweight division, usually fights three or four times a year. The business man manager books his men three or four times in a month and in the long run he comes out ahead of the game in financial returns. This method, however, has its bad effects. The fighting life of boxers who fight week in and week out is cut short three or four years and the manager of this class seldom, if ever, produces a champion.

Frank Churchill, erstwhile Manilan and for whom these paragraphs are principally intended, belongs to the latter class of managers. He has handled one champion, the late Pancho Villa, and, if he continues to employ his present method, he will likely never manage another.

Pete Sarmiento, Johnny Hill and Clever Sencio were of championship material. Sarmiento is back home after three or four years of constant fighting in the United States, and with only a few more months of lucrative boxing ahead of him. Ordinarily, he should have two or three years of boxing ahead, but his old time form is gone. The speed with which he tossed punches and his sensational legwork that made him famous and earned Churchill and him more than \$300,000, have vanished, as was attested in his bout last month with Kid Johnson.

Johnson, who is little more than a ham bruiser with nothing to recommend him but a terrific

good purse, fights often but will probably never attain the much coveted crown of the feather sector.

Fernandez, considered by Manilans the greatest championship prospect who has been developed in these islands since the death of Villa, is going the way of Sarmiento. Clever



MANILA EAGLES: ALL-AMERICAN

Standing from left to right: Poole, catcher; L. Harkins, pitcher; Crosby, catcher; Doyle, 1st base; Woolfe, center field; Scott, pitcher.

Front row from left to right: Stevenson, pitcher; J. Harkins, shortstop; Frazer, left field; Beale, center field; Thayer, right field; "Buddy" Barnes, mascot; Robinson, 2nd base and manager; Brantigan, coach; Mayhall, pitcher; McCutcheon, catcher.

punch, was unable to faze the former Meralco conductor with his punches, but in spite of his lack of ring knowledge and his extreme awkwardness, he was able to outbox little Pedro. Of course, he outweighed Sarmiento by seven or eight pounds, but that handicap never bothered Pete's boxing during his heyday.

Hill is still fighting in America and meeting with only average success. He commands a

Sencio is dead. He died in the ring, figuratively speaking, the victim of Bud Taylor's killing punches.

Nursed along gradually Fernandez should become a champion. He won't, however, unless Churchill changes his present tactics and takes matters a bit easy. He won't. Instead of matching him against boys of his own class for the time being and giving the youth

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a chance to become acclimated, he has rushed him in against such phantoms as Bell, Petrone and Canzoneri, only to get him beaten. Bud Taylor, who has two ring killings to his credit, will be next for Fernandez if his Manila mentor, Santo Tomas Cortez, is to be believed. Cortez, like Churchill, is afflicted with the money mania so the combination is apparently perfect.

Fernandez is bound to be a money-maker during the next two or three years; always a contender commanding fair purses, fighting often but always just out of reach of the title. He may win the crown, if Bud Taylor, the present titleholder, is slipping, as some believe, but the chances are against him as far as his keeping it is concerned, with such men as Petrone, Bell and Canzoneri in the ring.

Boxing in Manila last month was headlined by the Sarmiento and Johnson fight, Christmas Eve, which ended in Johnson's winning on a foul in the sixth round. The last bout of the month between Harry Wills and Irineo Flores, ended in the same way, Flores losing in the fifth round after delivering a number of low blows. There was nothing sensational about the latter bout, but the Christmas attraction started strong and gave signs of holding out until the end of the prescribed twelve rounds. It would have, had not Sarmiento's right not started working low.

A clash in Manila boxing interests promises a number of sterling cards during the coming month. A. W. Yearsley's new Lerma Park Bowl will be dedicated to boxing on the evening of February 4, with a bout between Kid Johnson and Pedro Campo. The latter will drag his lightweight title into the ring for Johnson to punch at.

At the same identical moment, Pete Sarmiento will attempt to regain his old bantam crown when he crawls through the ropes at the Olympic Stadium and squares off with Little Moro, flyweight champion and a claimant for the bantam crown. Stewart Tait is tossing the now vacant bantamweight throne into the ring with them.



With two big fights on tap for the same evening, both houses will probably be much smaller than they would if the bouts were separately staged. It will be an interesting experiment to watch and may bear fruitful results. During the past decade or so, several have attempted to compete with the downtown arena, but none have succeeded. The central location of the Stadium is a decided asset to Tait and it will probably survive many more efforts to compete with it.

The owner of the new out-of-town bowl, however, is to be admired for his courage. If he succeeds in continuing to secure good talent,

the Lerma Bowl can be expected to grow popular, for a time at least.

The outstanding feature of the Manila sport calendar in December was the sudden rise of the Eagles, All-American baseball team in the Philippine Baseball League, from an aggregation of erring players to a sterling combination. Bobby Robinson has now banded together one of the best All-American nines that has made its appearance in Manila since the early days of the game in the Philippines. After taking a bad start, the Eagles have come back to play a game that smacks strongly of the majors.

It took Robinson's men a long time to iron out all of the kinks and break into the win column, but their last two starts have ended in victories over the two strongest teams in the league, Meralco and Cavite. Good baseball was the only thing that won for them.

The Cavite-Eagles game of Monday, January 2, was the best exhibition of baseball turned in on the Nozaleda lot this year. The session went the innings, three longer than the prescribed distance. Three bunched hits in the last of the closing canto won the battle.

Mayhall pitched a spectacular game. He has done this since the start of the season, but weak support in the opening games furnished him with little opportunity to chalk up a real victory. Now that his team support has bolstered up the tender spots, "Nig" can be expected to win the majority of his games from now on.

Mayhall is still only a youngster in baseball years. He started his career on the diamond in the Philippines four years ago and he rates a berth on any Pacific League team right now. Another year in the local loop and he should be ready for a shot at Class B baseball and from there, who knows.

The Fort McKinley Scouts have come to the front along with the Eagles, thanks to the aid of a good pitching staff, newly recruited. A few weak spots in the infield still exist, although it's nothing to worry about. The army entry makes up for all fielding deficits with its heavy hitting power. The team is leading the league

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in slugging and has the only home run of the season chalked up on its team averages.

The McKinley players started a hitting streak the last of December and defeated the Eagles and Cavite, and tied with Meralco, all on the same weekend schedule. The Scouts game with Cavite on January 1 will stand out in the history of Philippines baseball as one of its most sensational contests, although it failed by a few plays to live up to the standard set by Cavite and the Eagles on the following day. The battle went ten innings and Liboon, navy twirler, pitched a no-hit game for the first six innings. The score stood zero-all at the start of the tenth and the battle would have lasted another two or three innings had not Fructuoso, Cavite right-fielder, pulled one of the greatest boners ever witnessed on the local field.

Fructuoso duplicated Freddy Merkle's famous play of the 1908 series by failing to touch second when two men were down and one run was crossing the plate from third base. It was an easy putout at second, retiring the side and relegating the Cavite man to the best ivory pedestal in the Philippine hall of boneheads.

On the same day, January 1, the Eagles nosed out Meralco, 1 to 0, in a six inning game. Belmonte, chief umpire on the field, came within easy distance of finishing the day in one of the local hospitals by calling the contest at the end of the first half of the seventh inning on account of darkness. Meralco had boosted the score to 1-all at the start of the last contest but dusk made it impossible to see the ball and the right honorable Mr. Belmonte halted the game. The score reverted to the last even inning, leaving the Eagles in the lead. Bedlam followed in the obrero bleachers. The umpire, however, was ignorant of the rule and his face registered a pained and surprised look when told of what his judgment had actually caused.

If the brand of baseball that has been played in the league during the last two weeks of December continues, the future of the game for the balance of the first half of the season is practically assured. It is a much higher quality than that played last year and the increased gate receipts show it.

In amateur sports last month, the F. A. A. F., the regional team championships, headlined the program. The baseball, basketball, volleyball and relays title events were run off, the University of the Philippines winning major honors in basketball and baseball. The former competition was spirited, the local varsity five defeating the Manila Railroad team, 45 to 41, in the final encounter. The baseball was nothing to brag about although the competing teams were evenly enough matched to make the battles worth while watching.

The apparent poor quality of baseball now being played in amateur circles in Manila will

probably continue, with the result that the Philippine League will eventually suffer. Little or no effort is being made by the schools to develop players. Playground baseball is the vogue and the playground director, Silvestre Torres, is encouraging it to the limit. Torres's sentiments are to be admired, for playground baseball is an excellent athletic pastime for girls, tired business men and the aged, but certainly not for a red-blooded boy. In America, the sand-lots are the traditional source of all big-league material. But the vacant lots of Manila are dedicated to beanbag and playground baseball. Just where future talent is coming from is a mystery. Certainly, it won't be from the P. A. A. F., and outside of the army, navy and the Philippine Baseball League, most other good players are in Bilibid. That is no joke, as attested by the excellent team upholding the colors of the Manila bastille.

Francisco Aragon, ranking tennis star in the islands, had occasion to take the court last month in the first Metropolitan tennis tournament. The event was played on the Loang-Laan courts and Aragon won as usual, beating his brother in the finals.

The city net meet, sponsored by the P. A. A. F., was run off according to schedule, Felix Ampon winning by defeating Lt. Guevara in the finals.

Only the usual unofficial weekend races supplied the yachtsmen with anything to do. The organization of the Philippines Fleet of the International Star Racing Association may help matters during the next month or two by producing a regatta with free sandwiches, beans, beer and pickles for the multitude.

Golf last month was nothing unusual. The customary December tournaments were played at Wack Wack and Caloocan and the first 19th Hole Medal session was negotiated on the Muniy links. It remains for February to produce the biggest links event of the season—the Philippine Open Tournament—wherein J. R. H. "Bob" Mason will defend his title.

Mason may run into serious difficulty this year, much more than he did last season. Two army golfers, Captain Kendall J. Fielder and Lieutenant Joseph Cranston, promise trouble. Fielder is the best of the two, and the army departmental champion. Ben Few is always a threat and was a finalist last year. Johnny Tuason, amateur champion, will be the leading Wack Wack threat, and he has a good chance of snaring the throne. There is always a dark-horse to give a champion additional trouble, and the latter, whoever he happens to be, will furnish the headlines in the papers for a few days.

According to the present calendar, golf, baseball and boxing will headline the month of February and the same menu is slated to be continued through March.

tions, and reports to aid in the organization and efficient administration of agricultural and vocational education, which sum shall be expended as herein provided.

"SEC. 2. The said sum shall be available for the fiscal year ending December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and twenty-eight, and shall be apportioned among the various purposes of this Act, as follows:

"(a) Aid in constructing school buildings and purchasing equipment therefor .....	P100,000.00
"(b) Payment of salaries of teachers, supervisors or directors of agricultural subjects.....	150,000.00
"(c) Payment of salaries of teachers of trade, commercial, home economics, and industrial subjects.....	150,000.00
"(d) Aid to the College of Agriculture, University of the Philippines, for the establishment of a Department of Agricultural Education for the training of teachers and supervisors of secondary agricultural instruction.....	25,000.00
"(e) Aid to provinces, cities, and municipalities in preparing teachers, supervisors, or directors of agriculture and teachers of trade, commercial, home economics, and industrial subjects.....	25,000.00
"(f) To the Bureau of Education for the creation of a division of agricultural and vocational education, the administration of this Act, and the making of studies, investigations and reports.....	50,000.00

"The Director of Education, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Public Instruction, shall pay out of the funds specified in subsections (b), (c), and (e) of the preceding paragraph of this section and for the purposes therein enumerated, such amounts as are needed in this appropriation. The allotment shall be made on a per capita basis for the average number of pupils enrolled in the agricultural and vocational schools of the provinces, cities, and municipalities during the months of August, September, and October of the preceding year. Of the sum specified in subsection (a) an amount equal to two times the sum appropriated and made available by a province, city, or municipality petitioning for aid, shall be allotted: *Provided, however,* That if the sum herein appropriated is not sufficient for all provinces, cities, and municipalities petitioning for aid, the following order of preference shall be observed, provinces, municipalities, cities: *And provided, further,* That among each class, the date and time of filing applications shall govern in determining such preference.

"SEC. 3. Any province, city, or municipality desiring to take advantage of the provisions of this Act and receive the aid for the purposes herein specified, shall approve in due form a resolution stating: (a) its desire to take advantage of the provisions of this Act; (b) its conformity with the conditions imposed in this Act for the grant of aid; (c) the nature and character of the work or instruction established or to be established for which aid is sought; and (d) the amount of money available for the project from local funds, and the lands, equipment, and other necessary materials, and their corresponding value.

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## Getting the Schools Adjusted With Industries

Included with the current schools legislation effective this year are provisions for the employment of four technical men at salaries (which may be as high as \$10,000 per year together with travel expenses) that ought to attract some of America's best educators. After Governor General Stimson reaches Manila, Governor Gilmore plans to go to the United States to confer with educators and men interested in the direction of public education, and select the new technical staff for the bureau of education: men for school curricula, agricultural education, vocational education, and teacher training. The most important of the new acts appears below.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:

"SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated out of the funds in the Insular Treasury not otherwise appropriated the total sum of five hundred thousand pesos to be apportioned among, and paid to, such provinces, cities, and municipalities as may desire to take advantage of, and comply with, the provisions of this Act,

for the purpose of cooperating with them in constructing agricultural and vocational school buildings for vocational schools to be established or already established and purchasing equipment therefor, in paying the salaries of teachers, supervisors, and directors of agricultural subjects, and teachers of trade, commercial, home economics, and industrial subjects, in preparing teachers for the said subjects, and for the use of the Bureau of Education in the administration of this Act and in making studies, investiga-

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