

The Mighty Atoms In Philippine Sports



Herminio Silva

The general conception of an athlete has always been that of a powerfully built person, a colossus, with the physique of a greek god and the strength of a bull. Jack Dempsey, Jim Londos, Jim Thorpe, Gene Tunney, De—Hart Hubbard, Georges Carpentier and other world celebrities are the real types of athletic prowess, but without having to go out of the confines of our own sphere, we have Paulino Fernandez, Virgilio Llobregat, Simeon Toribio, Manolo Nieto, Luis Pradera, Pedro Abiera, Constantino Rabaya, Regino Ylanan, Vicente Jaropillo, Big Boy Birtulfo and other well proportioned athletic celebrities. These great herculean specimens of physical perfection do not concern us because it is taken for granted that with such enormous advantages to their favor in physical prowess they should be world beaters, yet there are quite a few celebrities who have become well known not because of their strength and size but of their ability in spite of their physical handicaps to cope with the situation and beat out the "big fellows" in many instances.

There was Bill Johnston, Tilden's partner in so many Davis Cup encounters. The Californian was ranked second best racquet wielder in

the World a decade ago, yet he never weighing over 115 pounds, rather light for an American.

In the Philippines we have had a pretty long string of "mighty atoms" who although never weighing above the century mark have met and de-



Felix Ampon

feated men twice their size and weight.

Felix Ampon, Loreto net star and 1928 National tennis champion never weighed over 105 lbs. yet to-day he is still considered as one of the best tennis stars in the Philippines. His winning of the National championship in 1928 was no doubt very strenuous feat.

Enrique Medel, the great goal tender of Santo Tomas University was stopper for the 1927 Olympic team. Today he is still one of the best goalies in the country, yet Medel is not more than five feet two and practically weighs 100 pounds. He has stopped sure goals attempted by booters like Sebastian Ugarte, Llobregat and Perez, husky soccer stars.

Herminio Silva, the scoring machine of the champion San

J. Garay, one of the city's leading sports writer and feature man of THE SPORTS REVIEW. Garay captained Ateneo's strong track and field team in 1926 when the Blues tied with La Salle in the annual NCAA relay Carnival. Before competing in NCAA circles, Garay was MIAA sprinting champion. In collegiate circles he was nosed out by Olympic celebrities but the "mighty atom" always ran in the finals and was in every instance a consistent point winner. He retired after finishing prep school and to-day he is a full pledged engineer besides being a newshound. Nine chances out of ten, we would be right if we ventured to say that Garay is the smallest engineer in Manila, As a newspaperman he is already the champion atomic weight so we would not be wrong with the former assertion



Bernardino

of the Philippines track and field squad. Bernardino was national champion in the broad jump last year and although he lost out to Portacion in 1930, it was only after a hard fought contest between the two great broad jumpers.

Perhaps the smallest athlete that has donned a pair of track spikes was Francisco

leading sports writer and feature man of THE SPORTS REVIEW. Garay captained Ateneo's strong track and field team in 1926 when the Blues tied with La Salle in the annual NCAA relay Carnival. Before competing in NCAA circles, Garay was MIAA sprinting champion. In collegiate circles he was nosed out by Olympic celebrities but the "mighty atom" always ran in the finals and was in every instance a consistent point winner. He retired after finishing prep school and to-day he is a full pledged engineer besides being a newshound. Nine chances out of ten, we would be right if we ventured to say that Garay is the smallest engineer in Manila,

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Another track-men who does not scale over 100 pounds is Pertierra, La Salle's pride in the middle distances. For three consecutive years, Pertierra has repeatedly scored for La Salle in the 800 and 1,500 meter races, not only in NCAA competition but also in PAAF meets. He was a candidate for a berth on the Olympic team of 1930 and would have surely qualified had it not been for his parents' opposition to the trip. Being a youngster, only in his teens, he was not allowed to leave with the delegation.

Lorenzo Los Ba- *Lorenzo*



ños star middle distance runner who finished second to the great Yatar his team-mate in the 1930 PAAF meet is another vacuum weight. Lorenzo is a new man in the cinder path, yet he placed second in the 800 meter and 1,500 meter races in the NCAA meet and later in the PAAF.

Royong, Army quarter-miler and former Olympic star, is another pride of the small fellows. He was 1927 PAAF champion in the 400 meter run and in the Olympic Games held at Shanghai that year, Simplicio Royong was a point winner losing only to his team-mate Serafin Estrada in the finals.

Another great performer in the track was Padua now a practising medico. Padua never weighed over the 100 lb. mark and was only a little over five feet in height, yet his strides in the middle distance events equalled those of a six footer. Padua was mainstay of the U. P. track team from 1923 to 1926. He has retired from active competition but at the peak of his career he was easily one of the best collegiate performers in his line.

Castro, National University all around athlete is an Olympic celebrity, yet he is only a paper weight. Castro started his athletic career at the East High School. He was volley-ball player for his school, track performer, bas-

ket-ball guard and base-ball outfielder. Today he is still a pillar of support in athletics but instead of playing for the East High where he graduated a couple of years ago he defends the colors of National University where he is just as valuable as he was in MIAA competition.

Castro was olympic volley-ball player from 1925 to 1930. He is still a great performer and his weight and height are still the same.

Manuel Nieto, the greatest local full-back of all time was proud of the fact that in his heyday, no forward could penetrate his admirable defense but for one exception. Every

man on an opposing team feared Nieto, who was the terror of any forward line facing the Bohemian "Big guns". There was a man on the Aurora outfit who later on became a Espartaco star who played rings around the great Nieto and annoyed him considerably. Nieto would always promise that the next game he would put this forward out of commission. He never did and to-day old timers in foot-ball still recall Nieto's only nemesis. Whenever a man passed Nieto's defense it was this player and yet he was only a 100 pounder. Solano, forward for the Aurora and Espartaco teams was the man who baffled the great full-back, and hard as he tried, Nieto failed repeated-



This month saw the return of Ignacio Fernandez—the boy on whom the Philippines banked to land a world title and additional laurels for his country in that greatest of all money-making sports.

And Young Fernandez who followed in the footsteps of Pancho Villa, Clever Sencio, Pete Sarmiento, Young Nacionalista, all first rate fisticuffers, comes home for a rest and for a chance to earn a few pesos for his depleted pocketbook.

Like Villa, Pete Sarmiento, Johnny Hill, and Young Nacionalista, Fernandez went to America full of hopes and ambitions and, perhaps, good intentions and stern resolutions, but he returns broke after having earned a small fortune with his ring prowess—and spending it in the gaily lighted broad white way.

Fernandez if reports from America are correct, runs true to form of the local fisticuffers who seek fame and fortune in the land of the Almighty Dollar. He went to the United States, started like a world beater earned a reputation made some money then started on the downward grade. The reports state that his toboggan began to slide when he started to make whoopee. And that seems to be the finis which is written to the story of all local boxers.

Fernandez never would have risen to the same plane as the great Pancho but he might have been a world champion if he had kept his head. He would at least be among the best five little fighting machines in his division in the world, and, as such could, for three or four years, at the least, command big money. Anf if he had used his head he would even now be comfortably fixed and able to retire decently.

Until our boys learn that boxing requires as much conscientious living and persistent work as any other job or profession; that they cannot let vice and dissipation rule their lives if they expect to go very far, we will always have to write the same kind of FINIS to the stories of their lives as has been written to that of Villa, Sarmiento, Hill and others who sowed their wild oats and reaped pitiful poverty.

ly yet Solano is another of and was considered one of the the atomic freaks. best players in this country

Fernando Villareal, Olym- yet Villareal never scaled over pic half-back of yester years 105 lbs. at his best. was a former Bohemian star (Continued on page 22)

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SUMMER SPORT SPARKS

By Joe Araneta

No news had a more direful significance to the sport world at large than the sudden death of Knute Rockne. It was even more startling than the bit about the sinking of the Lusitania, in a way it was. For who knew anything about the torpedoed ship? nobody in Patagonia prior to the deed. But who has not heard of Rockne in some way or other?

Around South Bend, Indiana the news of the Wizard's demise must have been terrifically stunning. But it must also be admitted that it was felt in Baliuag, Bulacan; Cagayan, Misamis and in fact in every locus where Rockne followers exist. Only the other day a country athlete accosted me and started to prattle about the catastrophe.

This is the patrimony that Notre Dame's illustrious mentor has left athletic youth. A strong appeal to his imagination; a firebrand that sets him ablaze to go out and fight, and fight cleanly too even as Rockne and his "Irish" champions did.

With the proximity of election time, here are few things that might come in handy with the candidato who can't think of a suitable platform or who wishes to appeal to the student-vote:—More recreational facilities for the towns and barrios, i. e. football, basketball and tennis courts; swimming pool; wee golf course; and, of course a roller-skating rink will not be a bad idea.

Quite a few U. P. basketball luminaries of former years are invading the courts these days at Occidental Negros. Alberto Betia Maroon center-man as far back as 1923, is on the go again. The others are Cordero, Luzurriaga, Santos, Lemonsito and Guanco. Austria another ex-State player is coaching the San Agustin College hoop squad at Iloilo.

The Green and White is ably represented in Occidental Negros by Carlos Montilla and Ernesto Oppen both mainstays of past La Salle football teams, who are playing with the Isabela Soccer squad. Montilla was also a miler of note back in his college days.

It looks mighty serious the way Jesse de Veyra, cage pilot of the '28 Blue and White varsity, is limbering up these days... In fact it appears like an attempt at a come-back. Besides playing often at the Maa

The Mighty Atoms...

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Luis Medina, star Olympic half-back toured Java with the All Manila team. He has been a member of the champion San Beda A. C. team three seasons. He was selected to play on the All Filipino eleven that met the Chinan. He also played against Loh Hua, Fuh Tan, Saint Joseph's and other foreign outfits that have invaded the Philippines yet Medina is only a player of the liliputian variety

Central courts, he has just been on a long hike with E. Castillo, guard on last season's varsity to the peak of mount Kanlaon. What he saw from that "Times Tower" must have satisfied him for he plans to take up law at U. S. T. next June.

Contrary to reports made by Manila newspapers wee golf has never reached the craze stage here in Negros. Hacenderos are much too absorbed in the "wee" price of sugar.

A slab-artist is usually a big powerful husky athlete. Bertulfo, Estorba, Belmonte, Bautista, Echem Jaropillo, Armando and other well known harpooners have always been either giants or of the regular type, yet Santos Almuza, second string pitcher for the Ateneo team is a midget. He is not in the class of the above mentioned stars but by the mere fact that he is a varsity player proves that the small guys can also pitch. Bunye, the Sto Tomas pitcher is another of Almuza's size. Paner the crack

On the 19th of this month will fine old foes facing each other under different banners when the "Varsity" and "Kollege" cage squads clash in an exhibition game in connection with the Maa Sugar Central Post-Milling season celebration. Probable line-ups will include, Varsity: Betia, Cordero, Austria, Bugarin, Luzurriaga, Pasing, Gordon, Moliño; Kollege: Torres, A. Lacson, J. Suarez, E. Castillo, J. de Veyra, P. Araneta and J. Araneta..

U. P. short stop is known as "leaf miner" among his team mates, not because he is as destructive as the insect that has given Secretaries Alunan and Vargas so much to worry about but because he is so small that he has been compared to the farmer's pest. Paner in spite of his physical handicaps is one of the best amateur ball players in the Philippines. Villalon, Olympic back stop and star Trade school catcher may still grow as he is only a youngster, but he has starred on the diamond ever since he was an Intermediate student. Villalon is today one of the best catchers in the Philippines and he is more or less of Paner's size. Pablo, veteran ball player is also a pigmy compared to his team mates but his ability has never been questioned as he has made the Olympic team on several occasions.


Cariño and Jacob are two liliputian outfielders on Captain Yon's Mckinley nine but they are star clouters and all around players. Cariño before becoming a ball player was National champion in the broad jump.

There are also excellent performers in the prize fighting profession but due to the fact that even pigmies are pared against men of their own weight, the ability of the flyweight is not as outstanding as that of other athletes in track, baseball, foot-ball and other sports as the boxer fights a man of his weight while pigmies in other sports have to match their ability against men of all weights.

In spite of this, Kid Balagtas, Malabon flash only weighing 96 pounds at the most has defeated men from

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Hunting in The...

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This season, however, is only for snipes, coots and wild ducks

Pila, Laguna is famous for its snipes. So are Sariaya, Candelaria and Pagbilao, Tayabas. These places are frequented by hundreds of hunting addicts. Snipe hunting is quite less expensive than "big game" For Goots, Nampindan and Angono, Rizal, are famous. Hagonoy, Talipitip and Bulacan are also known to have quite a big "order" of coots and some times wild ducks.

Although on the 15th of this month, the permit for hunting in the Philippines expired, there are still many who enjoy their favorite pastime and a double thrill. They thrill at the chase of the wild animals or birds and also at the thought that they might be arrested by the Constabulary agents who are on the look out for "out of season" hunters. In our country only the hunt for wild boars is allowed throughout the year, because the government protects the animals during certain months of the year to prevent their extermination and to regulate hunting accordingly.

To name all well-known hunters in this country would be impossible, but to mention some will be quite easy because these are always in the news columns not only as hunting enthusiasts, but also as addicts of other forms of sports.

Among the best known hunters here we have the son of Mayor Earnshaw, Manoling, who often goes with another Manoling, (Beech), the Roces brothers, (Marcos and Rafael of Roces and Co.) and Andong of the TVT Publications), Miguel and Juan de la Riva, sons of Mr. de la Riva of the Casino Español, Francisco Gregorio Domingo, Eduar-

Celebrities Row

(Continued from page 10)

tain Ateneo's crack basketball team which he so ably led during the collegiate season, Suarez was one of the stars of the league and in the annual mythical All NCAA selection he was easily picked as one of its stars. Suarez has still another year at the Ateneo and many of his admirers expect him "to bring home the bacon" next season.

Suarez is not only a basketball luminary. He is an all around man. Suarez has captained the foot-ball team of his school in 1929-30 and last season was a pillar of support on the same team. The lanky star started his foot-ball career as a goal tender five years ago. He is still a good goalie but as his service were needed most as a full-back, he switched to this position which he has very well played. His game is so that other teams made overtures to make him their full back. The newly organized Philippine Columbian finally got him and has played several games for the

do Perrenoud, Primo Feliciano J. Montenegro, Leandro Gruet Feliciano Paterno, Mr. Hileman of Squires Bingham, Mr. Stevens Mr Myers, of San Juan Co. ,Mr, Lennigin, Mr. Floyd, the Elizalde Brothers, Antonio Roxas, Emilio Veloso, of the Filipino Hand Embroidery and Hat Company, his brother, Jose Veloso, the Zamora brothers G. Haygood, Adolfo Garcia, the well-known engraver and the lithographer, Federico Montes, Max Stevenson and many more.

To mention here how some of the above are able to continue hunting even when the law prohibits it, would not be fair to them, who have confided to the writer unsuspecting that the data furnished would go to print.

"Patsy Ruth" . . .

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tic bailer. At this stage Guagua II was within 300 meters ahead of the Patsy Ruth, Montee succeeded in passing her easily and farther yonder Malabon III Squibb and Malabon I were speeding a few feet away of each other in the order named. The Patsy Ruth passed them one by one and at the end of the first lap she was already leading. At the beginning of the second lap the Patsy Ruth showed signs of collapse and fearing lest she nose-dive Montee slackened her speed to three-fourths open at the throttle, and maintained this speed to the end of the eight and last lap winning the race by a big

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15 to 20 pounds heavier than him.

There have been other star formers practically knee high, but of great ability who have vanquished giants in varied and muetiform events, and years from now, when, the present stars have faded away there will still be new men great athletes and among these there will be midgets, who like those of to-day will hold their own with the great Goliaths of competitive Athletics.

margin, without having been overtaken even once. Mr. Montee broke the World's Record in class "D" with a 50 mile plus speed in a 2 mile course.

WORLD'S RECORD	CLASS "D"	NEW RECORD SET BY MONTEE
Dec. 4, 1929	Date	Dec. 7, 1930
Newport B. Calif.	Location	Guagua, P. I.
Crandall Comet	Name of Boat	Patsy Ruth
H. G. Ferguson	Driver	T. D. Montee
Crandall	Make of Boat	Sea Gull
Johnson	Make of Motor	Johnson
49. 484 mls.	Speed	50. 108 mls.

As the Motor-Boat season starts on August, we are informed that several competitors, among them the Saldaña Brothers

Stevens, and Meneleo Carlos are getting ready for the 1932 championships, building new speedy boats. Prospects for breaking more records looks good.

Club Squad.

Another sport which has taken part of Suarez' time was track and field. Three years ago, Suarez became known in collegiate circles as a crack miler. He beat well known middle distance runners in pre-season dual meets in spite of the fact that he was a green horn. He scored points for Ateneo in several collegiate dual meets in track but later had to hang his spikes because his parents did not want him to overwork himself. Taking the advice of his elders and his coach, he dropped the cinder path and limited himself to basket-ball and foot-ball, two sports which

claim him today as a star in both.

Recently, Suarez played on the All Filipino quintet that vanquished the crack Chenju squad and during the P. A. A. F. basket-ball championships he represented the NCAA in its winning rampage which finally landed the collegians the title. Suarez despite the fact that he is a guard, scored the greatest number of points during the NCAA victory excluding, P. Martinez his team mate and H. Silva of Sto. Tomas who being forwards were the high point scorers in the collegiate machinery, national champion in basket-ball.