DEMPSEY'S FLOP TO FLYNN

ONE BLOW ENDED THE FIGHT, BUT THE GOSSIP IS GOING YET.

"Eye Witness" Heard the Story From Salt Lake Promoter, but "Didn't Wish to Shame" Dempsey by Asking Him About It.

The story of Jack Dempsey's famous flop to Jim Flynn often has been told in fistic fanning bees. It isn't new, but "Eye Witness," a Chicago Tribune reporter assigned to "get the truth on Dempsey," repeats the story of the frame-up as he learned it from a Salt Lake fistic promoter.

BY EYE WITNESS.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Feb. 24.—Well, that was a long preliminary on Hardy Downing I gave you yesterday to a main event that was over in one wallop, though the gossip it caused isn't over yet.

Anyway, this little town of Murray, where all the chatter started and where the fight in question was, is seven miles out on the great white paved highway that sweeps down from the capitol steps in Salt Lake southward for thirty wonderful miles—smooth as a floor.

The fight was to be for the benefit of the Murray firemen's fund and the secretary of the fund, a Swede, had charge of the arrangements. Hardy Downing got the tip that the fight was going to be on the queer, and he went to the sheriff's office in Salt Lake and told them his hunch, saying, "If this fight turns out crooked it'll make a lot of scandal and hurt the whole game around here, and I wanted it stopped."

WARNING DULY ISSUED.

The sheriff's people kind of stalled and said they didn't see what they could do, but they did warn the Swede and the Swede washed his hands of the whole business. But the arrangements went on just the same and the fight came off.

"Yes," said Hardy, taking up the ticklish end of the story without any apparent fear it might go off in his face; "yes, I was there. I was sitting alongside a friend of mine"—here Hardy mentioned the friend's name, but unfortunately it's skipped my memory, for most of these names are new to me—"and he said to me, 'Now, watch this, for it will come quick.' So I was watching because I'd been tipped off."

"Well, how did it go?" I asked.

TELLS OF ARTISTIC FLOP.

"Flynn came on fanning with both hands and Jack went into his shell"—that means dropping his head and sort of hunching oneself—"dropped his left, got the blow, fell, and as he fell *put his right glove against his cheek* and then did a little flopping.

As Hardy spoke the seven words I have italicized he accompanied them with a level, searching glance of his keen eyes.

Throughout his narrative Hardy was terribly detailed. He even mentioned a figure involved. He said it was $500. The clamor that night in certain Salt Lake saloons where sports foregathered was fearsome.

The sequel of the story is not the least interesting part of it, though it was a sequel that came to nothing.

OFFERS TO FIGHT FOR NOTHING.

It would be about a year after the Murray episode that Jack and some of his pals blew into Salt Lake from San Francisco and one of the first men the pals sought out was your Uncle Hardy. They told him that on the train there had been a lot of talk about matters in general and some things in particular and that Jack had cried like a child.

They apparently came to Hardy as sort of intermediaries, and Hardy told me he guessed Jack had had a brush with Kearns in Frisco, adding: "At least his pals said so." Hardy also says that the intermediaries said: "Jack says he wants to square himself in Salt Lake. He says if you'll take him on here he'll fight for you for nothing."

Downing replied: "I never ask any man to fight for me for nothing. I paid Jack $2.50 for a fight once, but that was all he was worth then."

JACK APPEARS IN PERSON.

Finally Jack himself came for a talk with Downing, saying, among other things, Hardy avers, the following: "And, Hardy, I'll fight for you for nothing. I want to square myself here. You know I always been a great mamma's boy. (That seems to be a favorite phrase with the champion to this day.) I always had to figure on money for the folks, and probably I done things I ought not to done. But when she needed money I figured I had to get it some way."

Then he repeated his offer to fight under any conditions.

Downing was counting up at the moment—it was the night of one of his exhibitions—and he said: "All right, we'll talk it over. You meet me at 11 at so-and-so's place. Jack agreed."

DEMPSEY FAILS TO APPEAR.

Well, Hardy went to the rendezvous and waited till 12. No Dempsey.

"But," says Hardy, "I got a line on him next morning and called him up. 'He's not here,' was the answer I got.

"'I know he's there,' I said, 'tell him to come to the phone.' He did come and said he would be over. Then he blew to San Francisco and I never saw him again till he got back from the East."

That's Hardy's story as told to me.

You will say, reader, "Why don't you go to headquarters for the facts?"

WHY HE DOESN'T ASK JACK.

Frankly, because I haven't got the nerve. Not because I'm afraid Dempsey will bust me, but because I don't want to shame him with such questions. That's how hipped he's got me.

Besides, I guess everybody makes bad, blind mistakes one time or another in life. I have. And he was young and had a hard row to hoe.

(To be continued in The Star tomorrow.)

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Southwestern Trounced Old Rival.

WICHITA, KAS., Feb. 24.—Southwestern college had little trouble defeating Friends university here last night, 45 to 17. The Quakers were completely outclassed by the Southwestern five, which showed championship form. Gardner collected eight goals from the field for the winners, most of them sensational shots.

Illinois Basketeers Finished Strong.

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 24.—Illini basket shooters last night defeated the Gophers, 26 to 20. At the end of the first half Minnesota was leading, 9 to 8. Illini maintained a terrific pace in the last session and Minnesota was unable to meet it.

Bethany Won Close Game From Hays.

HAYS, KAS., Feb. 24.—Bethany college defeated the Hays state normal basket ball team here last night, 24 to 23.

A St. Mary's Victory Over Washburn.

ST. MARYS, KAS., Feb. 24.—St. Mary's college won from Washburn college in basket ball here last night, 24 to 14. Washburn did not obtain a point in the second half except on fouls.

McGRAW WON'T QUIT GIANTS.

Report of Fight With Stoneham Is False, Manager Declares.

HAVANA, CUBA, Feb. 24.—"Report absolutely false.—McGraw."

"The above is the answer from John McGraw, manager of the Giants, to a cable query on the rumor that he and Charley A. Stoneham, owner of the New York club, had engaged in a fistic battle in Havana recently, the outgrowth of which was that McGraw would quit the management of the team.

The rumor had gained wide circulation here. It was based on a statement made by Jose Mendoles, a Cuban planter. Mendoles said that McGraw and Stoneham engaged in a violent quarrel at a Havana roof garden which ended in the exchange of blows and a knockdown.

SPORTING COMMENT

THE news that the University of Missouri will send Sprinter Scholz and other Tiger stars to the Illinois meet rather than to the annual indoor games of the K. C. A. C. in Convention hall, March 6, came in the way of a K. O. to Director Reilly, who is arranging the meet here, and to Shannon Douglass, jr., chairman of the club's athletic committee and a former famed Tiger sprinter and quarter miler.

Before Dr. Reilly selected the March 6 date he put the matter up to Dr. W. E. Meanwell, Missouri's athletic director. Reilly had the option on the hall for March 6 or 13. The Missouri-Kansas dual meet was slated for the hall March 19. Usually the university managements have arranged the dual meet to come two weeks after the club games or two weeks before.

Dr. Meanwell assured Director Reilly that Missouri would send its team to Kansas City in preference to Illinois and told the K. C. A. C. director to go ahead with the March 6 date, as the later date would force the dual meet to take a date too late in March.

So it really was the Missouri director who selected the March 6 date for the club games. Hence the surprise when the story came that Missouri would send its stars to the Illinois games.

In other years Missouri has been finely loyal to the Kansas City meet. There is every reason for this.

Missouri has a big alumni association here.

Missouri draws many of its athletes from the Kansas City high schools, more than any other valley school, possibly more than all of them put together.

Missouri as well as Kansas, of course, depends on Kansas City for support in the annual dual meet here.

In other years Kansas has sent stars to other meets, but Missouri always, as far as memory recalls, has remained steadfastly loyal to the Kansas City meet. Perhaps that loyalty to the meet here has had something to do with attracting a majority of Kansas City's high school athletes to the Columbia school. Maybe the practice the Tiger athletes have had on the hall track in the club meet has had something to do with the preponderance of victories Tiger athletes have won on the same floor with their Jayhawker rivals.

The morning story from Columbia quotes Director Meanwell of Missouri as saying that Scholz would go to the Illinois meet because his success there will determine to a large degree his chances in representing the United States in the Olympic games this year.

It is hard to believe that Dr. Meanwell was quoted correctly. The Illinois game will have no more to do with ranking Olympic games athletes than the Kansas City meet, or any other indoor meet.

The western Olympic trials will be held in Chicago this summer. They will not be indoor trials. The finals will be the annual A. A. U. championships, an outdoor, not an indoor, meet.

The Illinois meet has no connection with the Olympic trials.

Perhaps Director Meanwell may have been figuring on the publicity Scholz would receive in the Illinois games. If so, his calculations are awry. The Associated Press carries as much stuff on the Kansas City games as on the Illinois games. Scholz's winning an event in the Illinois meet will have no more bearing on his Olympic chances than the winning of a similar event in the Kansas City games. Argument along that line is the bunc. C. E. McB.

McANDLESS WON OPENING GAME.

Balkline Billiard Tournament Opened in Boston Yesterday.

BOSTON, Feb. 24.—The seventeenth annual Class A 18.2 balkline billiard tournament opened here last night at the Boston Athletic Association with David McAndless of Chicago, the present Class A champion, paired with Julian Rice, who recently won the Class B championship in Brooklyn. McAndless won his match by a score of 300 to 137, his high runs being 59, 49 and 33.

The tournament, which is held under the auspices of the National Association of Amateur Billiard Players, will be in progress for ten days. Two matches will be played daily.

EUSTACE WON IN STRAIGHT FALLS.

Jess Westergaard Lost to Kansas Wrestling Champion.

JUNCTION CITY, KAS., Feb. 24.—Allen Eustace, Kansas heavy weight champion, won from Jess Westergaard in straight falls here last night in the feature bout of the American Legion mat carnival. Eustace won the first fall with the toe hold and the second with a bar arm and scissors in forty and twenty-six minutes respectively. In the semi-final Ross of Wakefield threw Beard of Augusta with the toe hold in twenty-two and twenty minutes. Joe Stecher is to wrestle Eustace here within a month.

THE SAME OLD TRAP STORY.

After Tying Troeh in Frisco Tourney, O. N. Ford Lost in Shoot-Off.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—Frank Troeh of Vancouver, B. C., won the amateur trap shooting championship and Len Hawxhurst, Oakland, won the professional title at the tournament here.

Hawxhurst won after an exciting tie with Charlie Spencer of St. Louis, while Troeh won only after a tie with O. N. Ford of San Jose. Hawxhurst and Spencer tied at 196 broken targets from a possible 200. Spencer has the high general average of the tournament with a total of 679 from 700.

THE S. L. TO OPEN APRIL 14.

A 154-Game Schedule Was Adopted by Minor League Magnates.

ALANTA, GA., Feb. 23.—The 1920 playing schedule of the Southern Association adopted late last night provides for 154 games with the season opening April 14 and closing September 18. The opening games follow:

Nashville at Birmingham
New Orleans at Mobile
Atlanta at Chattanooga
Memphis at Little Rock

DROP GAMBLING PLAYERS

THREE BIG LEAGUERS NOTIFIED THEY ARE NO LONGER WANTED.

No Names Have Been Given Out, but One of Them Is Said to Have Been Drawing a $7,000 Salary.

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—Three widely known major league baseball players have been dropped for gambling on championship games, the result of a secret investigation that has been in progress for a long time. The names of the players cannot be mentioned at this time, as the magnates, fearful of the dreaded "blacklist" law, positively refuse to give out names. However, the three men have been notified that they are no longer wanted, which means they are through with baseball as far as the major leagues are concerned.

Of course, there was a "squealer." Otherwise it might have been difficult to fix the guilt of the men. After this man had talked, another of the trio confessed. The third man, who has been standing pat, has been on the salary rolls at $7,000 a year. He has been sent a contract for about one-third that sum which he will not sign. Close watch will be kept on the three men during the season and if they are found at the parks, mixing with known gamblers, or acting in a suspicious manner, they will be permanently excluded from all games.

The major leagues have had sleuths working in various cities and towns for several months quietly picking up bits of information, which, pieced together, made a case sufficiently strong to warrant dropping the suspected men. Two of them were so impressed by the array of evidence that they gave in at once and supplemented the information in the hands of the magnates by confessions. Both major leagues are involved in the scandal.

Ban Johnson was to hold a conference with Garry Herrmann in Cincinnati today, after which he will go to New York and confer with President Heydler of the National League. Johnson hoped to announce the choice for chairman of the national commission before leaving New York.

SMITH WON IN TWO ROUNDS.

Jack Connors Was Knocked Out by Ex-Soldier Boxer.

AKRON, O., Feb. 24.—Sergeant Ray Smith, who held Bob Martin, interallied heavy weight champion, to an even break, last night knocked out Jack Connors of New Jersey in the second of a scheduled 12-round bout. Smith battered his man at will and early in the second round put over a right to the jaw and Connors crumpled.

Carl Tremaine, Cleveland, midget, knocked out Eddy Lavery, Akron, in the eighth round. The flashy Cleveland boy registered two knockdowns early in the fight.

MOORE SHADED JACK SHARKEY.

The Midgets Fought a Double 6 Round Bout Last Night.

PORTLAND, ME., Feb. 24.—Pal Moore of Memphis shaded Jack Sharkey of New York in a fast double 6-round match here last night. Although Sharkey fought a terrific battle, Moore had a slight advantage in every round.

Jackson on Verge of a Knockout.

HOT SPRINGS, ARK., Feb. 24.—Harry Bramer, Pacific Coast champion, came close to stopping Nate Jackson of Oklahoma City here last night in a 10-round bout. Bramer's cleverness and punching power was too much for the Oklahoma lad. The boys are bantam weights.

HENNESSEY TO MEET BARRERE.

Manager Johnson and the Boxer Will Leave Tomorrow Night for Ft. Worth.

Harry Hennessey, Kansas City boxer, will meet Battling Barrere of New Orleans in a 10-round no-decision match at Fort Worth, Tex., Friday night. Manager "Chick" Johnson and Hennessey will leave for Fort Worth tomorrow night. The boys will fight at the 130-pound mark.

A bout between Otto Wallace and Joe McGowan may be staged in North Kansas City on an early March date. Or possibly Arlos Fanning may be sent against Harry Brewer's winning lightweight. Fanning can make 133 pounds at 3 o'clock.

The Thorp-Wallace 10-round bout scheduled for Leavenworth March 2 will draw a big crowd of Kansas City fistic fans. Thorp also is carded to meet Ray Long in St. Louis March 8.

MADE A PUNCHING BAG OF CONANT.

Frankie Mason Scored a Technical Knockout in Three Rounds.

FORT WAYNE, IND., Feb. 24.—Frankie Mason, Fort Wayne, world's flyweight championship claimant, made a punching bag of "Red" Conant of Port Clinton, O., last night and the bout was stopped by the referee in the third round. Conant, at the time, was hanging on the ropes in a helpless condition. Mason weighed 107¾ pounds, ringside, and Conant 117 at 3 o'clock.

SECOND PLACE TO OTTAWA FIVE.

College of Emporia Lost Kansas Conference Contest, 26 to 35.

OTTAWA, KAS., Feb. 24.—Ottawa college went into second place in the Kansas conference basket ball championship race here last night by winning from the College of Emporia, 35 to 26.

Wallace Drove Hill Through Ropes.

WICHITA FALLS, TEX., Feb. 24.—Otto Wallace of Milwaukee won over Freddie Hill of Fort Worth by a technical knockout in the seventh round of a scheduled 12-round bout here last night. Wallace knocked Hill through the ropes and Hill refused to come back.

A K. S. N. Meet for High Schools.

EMPORIA, KAS., Feb. 24.—Every high school in Kansas is invited to enter the annual invitation track meet at the Kansas State Normal April 23 and 24. Medals and cups will be given to the individual stars and schools placing in the meet.

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Offering the Best in Burlesque.
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Extra Feature—Catherine Crawford and Her ... Jon Girls
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Big Matinee Today
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Adults 25c, Children 10, except on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays.
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Featuring Al and Lole Bridge
Night schedule, Pictures 6:15, Hi Jinks 7:30 and 9:30.

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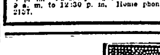

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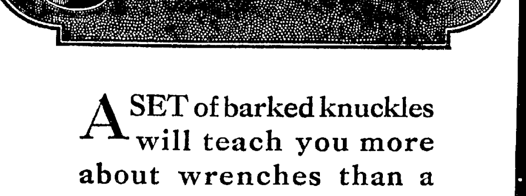

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