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SPORT NEWS

BRITISH FANS ARE GLOOMY

By Lester A. Huston, International News Service Staff Correspondent.
LONDON.—British boxing fans of the new year with the flag at half-mast. Those Englishmen who love the gentle art of the resined ring are mourning the losses of 1923 and are grieving just as deeply for the moribund prospects of 1924. There is gloom in abundance throughout the boxing realm.

To the casual observer the gloom is justified. Cander compels the statement that the prospects of British boxing appear to be not a bit more fresh than a hot-house rose that has been left outdoors on a frosty night.

Throughout 1923 there was not a single boxing match in England. What was advertised as the best turned out to be the worst, namely the Georges Carpentier-Joe Beckett miss, which ended in a minute and a half, with Beckett slipping off the effects of an overdose of Carpentier's knuckles.

When 1923 began the recognition of champions of Great Britain were: Jimmy Wilde, flyweight; Tommy Harrison, bantamweight; Joey Fox, featherweight; Seaman Hall, lightweight; "Kid" Lewis, welterweight and middleweight; Jack Bloomfield, cruiserweight; and Joe Beckett, heavyweight. Not a single one of these knuckle-buffing knights has advanced an inch toward higher honors in pugilistic ranks.

Out of the seven Wilds has retired following his defeat by Pascual Villa in New York, and Beckett has slipped into oblivion since Carpentier polished him off so expeditiously. Hall, Harrison and Lewis have progressively retrograded to the ranks of worn-out veterans. Fox has not fought in England being busy with bouts in the United States, and Bloomfield has failed to take advantage of a great natural ability to develop into a real top-notch.

The present day hopes of British boxing—if there is any hope for it—are Roland Todd, the middleweight champion, who is now in America; Buster Lake, a clever young bantamweight, and the aforementioned Bloomfield. What Todd and Lake need is to develop a wallop. What Bloomfield needs is to discard some of his peculiarities of temperament and give his natural ability a chance.

Generally speaking, it is the absence of the highly essential punch that hanks the crops on English boxing prospects for 1924 and probably a few years after. There are shoals of fails working out daily with the padded mites who shake a clever glove, but none of them are experts at the necessary chore of turning out the lights for their opponents. Knockouts are almost as rare at fights in England as they are at the meetings of the Ladies' Aid Society of Dulakee.

In fact, it not infrequently develops that there is more fighting done by the spectators than by the legitimate participants at boxing matches in London. British boxing fans have been disappointed so often when they came to see a couple of scrappers fight that they have taken to "bringing their own." If they don't like the way a boxer parts his hair, or the cut of his fighting trunks, or if they disagree with the ruling of a referee they fight it out among themselves.

Twice since December 1, 1923, boxing matches at London arenas have broken up in riots. At one of

them a bout between Danny Fresh and Billy Matthews, Fresh claimed a foul. The crowd got so hostile about it that the referee refused to give a decision, but waited until the next morning when he gave a couple of doctors to kick in with a medical opinion, and announced through the press that Fresh was the winner on a foul. The police had a few busts then than the referee.

It may be that the hope of British boxing is among the spectators. Some fine night a robust scrapper is going to get enough training fighting the other custom ers to put him in shape to challenge Dempsey. Unless that happens England is quite likely to have all her war debts paid long before she can claim a world's boxing title.

PASSION PLAY PROMISED U. S.

PARIS, (AP)—The Passion Play given by the St. Patrick's Players of Washington, D. C. last year will be presented next Holy Week in a New York theatre with the aid of four leading participants in the Passion Play of Selzach, in the Swiss Oberland.

Agreements with the Selzach principals were made by John J. Noonan of Washington, who went to Oberammergau and Selzach for the Rev. Francis P. Hursey, a director of the American Actors Guild.

Here, Shaun, the Selzach Christus, Herr Amiel, the Pilatus and the manager—Kere Dobbler and his wife, have offered to do to the United States for the performances in which it is hoped, John McCormack will appear.

Selzach is a village of 1,200 near Zurich. About a third of the population, including both Catholics and Protestants, appear in the play which has been given in that district for 500 years and at Selzach for the years. Unlike Oberammergau, the play is given in an enclosed theatre, with the usual lighting and scenic effects. The Selzach production differs also in that it combines the spoken drama with oratorio and tableaux. The play is on more of a commercial basis than the more famous German one and the village plans the erection of a \$250,000 theatre, no great feat in itself.

The American production, on a larger scale, this year is intended to raise funds to be divided between the poor parishes of Maryland and a proposed half million dollar Passion Play amphitheatre to be built on the grounds of the Catholic University at Washington.

Mr. Noonan arranged also for the shipment of soil from the Holy Land for the production.

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INDIANS TOOK MANY HONORS

Cleveland American Ball Team got 'Their Share' in 1923 Season.

CLEVELAND, (AP)—A review of 1923 baseball records shows the Cleveland Indians, as a team, not only led the American League in hits and had the largest number of strikeouts during the season. The season's average of its players, especially Sumner Tris Speaker, and pitcher George Uhler and Stanley Caveshide, stand out.

Uhler won 26 games more than any other pitcher in the circuit and pitched to the record hitless game. In addition he worked in 29 consecutive shutouts, another season's record.

Caveshide was the only American League pitcher to allow less than three earned runs to a game. His average was 2.78.

In addition to leading the team in hitting with an average of .348 Speaker set a world's record by knocking out 59 two-base hits. Harry Heilmann and Babe Ruth were the only regulars to exceed Speaker's hitting mark, but the Cleveland leader drove in more runs than his best rival, and playing in two less games drove in just as many runs as Ruth—139.

In 124 innings in which he worked in 14 games only one man, Fred Haney, of Detroit, stole on Shorrock Smith, Indian outfielder. Smith also is credited with "pitching" seven runners off first base.

Playing his first season as an Indian, Lutcke proved one of the sensations of the league. Although not leading the third base-men in fielding, he led them in covering ground. In 143 games he is credited with 365 assists, an advance the mark of 295 set last year by Jimmy Dykes of Philadelphia.

Lutcke had 184 putouts, 15 more than Willie Kamm of Chicago, who played in six more games. Kamm had six less assists than Lutcke.

Cleveland batsman drew 443 bases on balls, had 254 strikeouts and made 1,594 hits. They scored 583 runs, 57 more than Detroit, and 65 more than the champion Yankees, despite the latter's 164 home runs.

Charley Jamieson, the tribe's pitcher, led the league in hits, making 227 with a batting average of .315.

HOPPE LOSES IN OPENING BLOCK TO W. COCHRAN

CHICAGO, (AP)—Young Jake Hoppe, son of the famous white-hair, defeated Willie Hoppe, champion, 5-0 to 2-0, Monday night in the first block of their 150-point battle for the world's 15, balling limited championship.

German Bride Seals to Provide Wedding Feast But Is Arrested

MUNICH, (AP)—Two hours after being married recently Marie Schurman was in jail. The ceremony over, her new husband went to his work as a carpenter, and Frau Schurmann went shopping. The police say she picked the pockets of several women shoppers. Frau Schurmann admitted the charges. She said that her money to starting was to supply food and drink for the wedding feast, an German bride is supposed to do.

She couldn't bear to tell her husband, she said, that she was without money. The police released Frau Schurmann after all the invited guests had been notified that the wedding supper had been postponed, indefinitely.

Most husbands merely pretend to be hard-boiled to keep from being roasted.

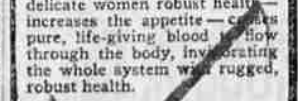
LOVE FOR MODEL SHIP GETS HIM IN TROUBLE

THE 20-year-old son of a wealthy family, 15, for his name suggests, is a descendant of those ancient and noble Danes who thought the ocean was their playground. When his day-dreams became a reality, and full-blown sailor with a fleet of boats and a thousand strange countries.

So interested was he in a ship model he saw in the office of the David Ford company that he picked it off under his arm. He was arrested and arraigned in boys' court all because the legacy of his ancestors is a love for the sea and its toys.

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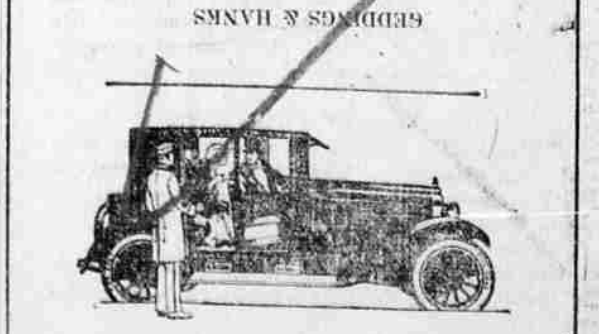
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