

IN THE SPORT REALM

THE SPORT OF FLY CASTING

It has Come to the Front Rapidly as is Evidenced by the 200 Contestants in National Championship.

(By George E. Case)

As alluring to the wielder of rod and reel as the traps are to the lover of the shotgun is the thrilling sport of casting. Here is a game which is growing rapidly in popularity and extending its fascination over the disciples of Isaac Walton in no uncertain manner so that today there is a growing demand for the facilities of casting clubs that will furnish to this sport the same opportunities for its enjoyment that trapshooting clubs have brought to the shooter.

To many, however, the sport of casting is still shrouded in the fog of mystery. It sounds all right but what is it? Briefly it is a sport that includes all the competition of distance events with all the joy of accurate target work and yet a sport that requires a degree of skill that is not appreciated until you have tried it.

The lure of the sport and the interest in it are shown by the fact that in the last National Tournament held at Chicago, there were present some 200 contestants from all parts of the country, representing nearly a score of clubs. It is not in the contestants alone that the interest is manifest but in the fascinated crowds of spectators that watch the contests to see who can make the longest casts of the little baits and who can come nearest to hitting the centers of the floating targets to determine the accuracy of their casts.

Casting is a pastime that those who are interested in sport should be familiar with because of the genuine pleasure and value it offers and because of its growing interest and importance. Fishing rods of steel, wood or bamboo, just the same as you would use for angling in the quiet stream near home or down the harbor will do for a start and much fun can be secured with even the crudest equipment. As the work progresses and you begin the formation of clubs members will begin to secure tournament equipment to do their best work with although the tournament game rules are liberal enough to admit any equipment within reason.

Securing Information

Casting clubs spring up in many instances spontaneously. A few lovers of the rod get together and an informal casting contest starts on the lawn out of which a great deal of fun can be secured. But in the formal organization of clubs the true benefits and the highest pleasure are secured. In their formation every assistance will be rendered by the National Association of Scientific Angling Clubs which has developed the art of casting to its present high pitch. Information and answers to queries can also be secured through the writer by addressing him in care of the National Sports Syndicate through the sporting editor of this paper.

A big advantage in the formation

Today's Calendar of Sports

Racing
Winter meeting of Cuba-American Jockey Club, at Havana.
Winter meeting of Business Men's Racing Assn., at New Orleans.

Bowling
Opening of annual tournament of American Bowling Congress, at Peoria.

Basketball
National championship tournament of the A. A. U. opens at Atlanta.

Swimming
National A. A. U. 500-yard junior championship, at Minneapolis.

Boxing
Eddie Fritsimmons vs. Johnny Sheppard, 10 rounds, at Detroit.

of clubs lies in the fact that facilities can be provided for practicing under tournament conditions so the casters can compare their work with that of the experts in the sport and be prepared to compete in the big tournaments held under the auspices of the National Association of Scientific Angling Clubs. Furthermore, it enables the members to become better and more scientific anglers and also promotes sociability and comradeship. With club practice one is not so liable to fall into faults which will be hard to correct later as if practicing alone and he can soon learn just what he can do with his rod and exactly how to cast his fly or bait. For a man may be ever so skillful a fisherman yet when he first tries the art of casting in a contest he will find that he has a lot to learn about the scientific end of this sport.

Layout of Casting Pool

In laying out or planning a casting pool where natural water facilities

may not exist care should be taken to make it possible to cast always with the wind. Consequently the circular pool is the best type. If arrangements can be made to layout an artificial pool it should be about 120 feet in diameter and 30 inches deep. The pool should be filled to such a depth as to bring the casting platform 18 inches above the surface of the water. This will make an ideal plan of pool. The distance bait events can be held on any convenient lawn. It should be remembered, also, that all kinds of fun can be had from the sport without any such complete arrangement as the artificial pool mentioned above and that in most cases natural bodies of water are available which can be made use of in full accordance with all the requirements of this great out of door sport.

If Georges Carpenter has been quoted correctly, he stands ready to sign for a fight anywhere, and the promoter who succeeds in signing Dempsey will be awarded the international title bout.

SPORT GOSSIP

Pennsylvania looks like a sure winner of the Eastern intercollegiate basketball championship.

Several of the Harvard football players will compete in the university's annual boxing championships this month.

The Mel Coogan-Willie Jackson bout at Paterson will not take place until March 15, as Coogan has a bad hand.

It begins to look as if the 25 cent gate will be abolished in the big leagues. The old two-bit stand was where real baseball fans were made.

Two collegians—Eayrs, formerly a star pitcher at Brown and later manager of the Providence team, and Ford, the Tufts' infielder—are to be given a trial by the Boston Braves.

Chief Bender was a whale in the Virginia league last season. Working for the Richmond team, the old Athletic pitcher took part in 34 games, winning 29 and losing two.

According to Jack Dempsey the fight game is getting to be nothing more than a money-grabbing proposition. The public has suspected as much, especially in the heavyweight champion class.

From the way Johnny Kilbane has been outpointed in his recent bouts one of two things appears certain—

the featherweight champion, either doesn't take the short bouts seriously or else he is on the down grade.

Holland's experience during the war, when she was entirely at the mercy of foreigners for her supplies of iron and steel, has led her to plan a large

blast furnace and rolling mill.

Earl Caddock, erstwhile champion wrestler, has gone into the automobile business at Walnut, Iowa. Caddock will continue in the grappling game and hopes to secure another match with Joe Stecher, the titleholder.

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