

In the World of Sports

RICKARD DEATH LEAVES SPORT PLAN MUDDLE

Speculation Rife As to What Promoter Intended in Heavyweight Division—Possible Successor Also Intriguing Question.

By Alan J. Gould.
Associated Press Sports Editor
NEW YORK, Jan. 8.—(AP)—What Tex Rickard would have accomplished had he lived to carry out his elaborate plans offers as wide a field of speculation as that surrounding his possible successor.

Only Tex himself knew of many and no doubt daring ideas he entertained. He figured most of his big ventures out months and often years in advance. The promoter, for instance, had his eye on Tunny as the logical challenger for Dempsey's title over a year before Gene and Jack actually fought in Philadelphia. The Tunny ballyhoo was as expertly handled as that establishing Carpenter as a rival for the Manassa Mauler.

Rickard had mapped his plans definitely this year for a heavyweight revival featuring Jack Dempsey's come-back in a bout to be held at the Yankee stadium in September. The Stribling-Sharkey match at Miami Beach, February 27, is the only tangible part that remains, although it is not unlikely that Dempsey, after he has fully recovered from the shock of his friend's death, may decide to go through with his part of the program. Jack may feel that this would have been Rickard's wish, regardless of whether there may be a call for the old man mauler to take up some executive responsibilities left by Rickard.

To Go South.

Those close to Rickard believe he planned to make the Stribling-Sharkey fight the forerunner of extensive operations in the south, with Miami Beach as the base for a program of winter sports companion to his interests in New York. Significant in this connection is that Rickard had invested substantially in the Miami Beach Kennel club, besides holding other Florida interests.

For years Rickard maneuvered in an effort to obtain possession of an outdoor arena in the metropolitan district or to erect one which would enable him to play his big outdoor spectacles with the same certainty he operated indoors at Madison Square Garden. It can only be speculated upon whether he eventually hoped to gain control of the Polo Grounds or build a new arena in Jersey City, as it is said he contemplated.

Wanted Yankees.

As far back as 1924 Rickard sounded out Colonel Jacob Ruppert on the possibility of acquiring the New York Yankees, world's champions then, as now. It was not so much that Tex desired to invade the baseball field as he desired to have control of an arena adequate to stage his outdoor boxing extravaganzas. Falling in that he conducted negotiations for a considerable period for the purchase of a controlling interest in the New York Giants from Charles A. Stoneham.

Two years ago it was understood Rickard and his associates offered Stoneham \$2,500,000 for 51 per cent of the Giants' stock, but these negotiations fell through, it was Rickard's plan, if he obtained such control, to convert the Polo Grounds into an all-sports arena and lease the Yankee stadium for the home games of the Giants. To the boxing promoter it seemed an utter waste that there should be two such big parks idle during half of the baseball season and nearly all the rest of the year. Tex contemplated remodeling the Polo Grounds so that it would be equipped for bike racing and better arranged for boxing shows, while still having field rooms for football, soccer and other sports.

Promote Anything.

While Rickard's promotion efforts were confined chiefly to boxing, he often expressed his willingness to promote anything if there were possibilities of a gate in it. At the old Garden, he tried indoor swimming, in addition to bike racing and boxing. He discussed the possibilities of professional tennis in 1921, years before the pioneer efforts actually were made in this field by C. C. Pyle, who used the new Garden for the debut of his Lengien-Richards troupe here in 1925. Rickard was influential in establishing ice hockey on a big league basis in New York.

Not all of Rickard's high-powered plans materialized. At one time he considered staging the Firpo-Dempsey bout in Buenos Aires. For several years he also considered promoting a title bout with Harry Wills as the challenger, but opposition from various sources to a mixed contest, as well as other obstacles, forced him to abandon the plan. Rickard actually had the tickets for a Wills-Dempsey bout printed at one time, bearing the date of September 6, 1924.

SIX OF 10 COAST QUINTETS EVENLY MATCHED FOR RACE



It's not going to be a walkaway for any team in the Pacific Coast conference. All but four teams pack plenty of scoring punch. Above are three of the stars in the first loop.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 8.—(AP)—Basketball material appears to be so evenly divided among at least six of the 19 conference teams of the Pacific coast as to promise a bewilderingly close race for the championship. The season opens January 10.

Southern California, winner last year, has seven returning letter men to contribute to its title fever. Lloyd Thomas of football fame will captain the Trojan quintet from the guard position. He will be supported by two all-Coast players, Jesse Mortensen, center, and J. Lehners, guard.

The Trojans accept the belief of several hoop mentors that California, if there is any choice, stands out as the team to be beaten. The Golden Bears have a scoring machine built around the tall and fast center, Vern Corbin, who stayed out of football to train for the cage game. Nils Price, who coaches both football and basketball, has developed Corbin into a marvel at basket shooting.

The California-at-Los Angeles Bruins, under Caddy Words, will play their second season in the Coast conference and present a small but fast team with only one of last year's string lost.

Stanford, not in the money last season, is generally rated among the leaders this year, with the return of virtually the whole varsity plus able eagles from a powerful freshman squad.

The conference territory is split into two divisions, with the winners of each playing the other for the all-conference honors. Washington, winner of the northern half in 1928, is favored to repeat, but figures to have the closest kind of competition from Billy Rhinehart's Oregon tappers. Washington has most of its veterans in the lineup again, including Monty Snider and Percy Bolstad, star forwards.

Oregon State looks like a runner-up. On paper, Idaho, Washington State and Montana appear to have less roscate prospects.

BENEFIT FOR JOE IS ADVOCATED BY SPORTING WRITER

A movement was started, or suggested, in the Oregonian Sunday by Laur Gregory, sporting editor of that newspaper, for a boxing benefit in Portland for Joe Gorman, the fighter, who has resided at Grants Pass for several years past and who is well known in Medford. In a story reviewing Gorman's pugilistic career and dilating on the fact that he is about to lose his home, through a mortgage having been foreclosed on it, Gregory writes as follows:

"Joe Gorman, the grandest little fighter Portland ever had, whose name on a fight card a few years back was so certain a guarantee of action that the ringside and gallery customers fell over each other the best of nights, wants to come back.

"Joe has fallen on tough days in Grants Pass, where he now makes his home. His home was mortgaged and the mortgage has been foreclosed. Joe has a year to redeem it, if he can, but there are little Gormans to feed these days, and it's a gloomy outlook. So Joe, whose flying fists beat down some of the best boys the Pacific coast ever had, who might have become world's featherweight champion by being the first to defeat Johnny Kilbane, had he not gotten home sick and fled home just when Tex Rickard was talking about arranging the match, asks the chance to enter the fight game again and fight his way back.

"I don't know how good Joe is, nor what he can do. Many have tried to come back, few have succeeded at his age, which is 30. Willie Ritchie tried it a year or so ago in San Francisco. Johnny Dundee is attempting a return now. So is Jack Britton. They seem to be doing fairly well.

"Joe Gorman never was a dissipated, so he has a chance. It was a little more than four years ago, in October of 1924, that he made his last professional appearance, against Noble Cervante. He tells me he fought 10 or 15 times in Los Angeles in 1925 and that since retiring to Grants Pass he never has entirely withdrawn from ring activity. He has been fighting in the smaller places lately, and points proudly to a record of nine straight wins, of which four were by knockout. He still packs the old wallop.

"Joe is in Portland now, working out daily to get back his old condition, almost pathetically eager to return to form and become a money maker and attraction again to what he was of old.

And perhaps Joe can do it. But I'd hate to see this lad, who did so much for boxing in the northwest, who fought always with the best by many of our schools and colleges, and by offering to send, without charge, a large type card-board, 14x22 inches, to anyone upon request, they have made a very constructive contribution. Such requests should be sent to the American Sports Publishing company, 45 Rose street, New York City. Such efforts edify sports.

Keep the rules.
Keep faith with your comrades.
Keep your temper.
Keep yourself fit.
Keep a stout heart in defeat.
Keep your pride under in victory.
Keep a sound soul, a clean mind, and a healthy body.

Baskets and Bankboards

By Forrest (Phog) Allen
(President, National Basketball Coaches Association)

Dr. James Naismith, originator of the game of basketball, estimates that, at the present time there are 18,000,000 people playing this indoor game.

The reason why basketball has spread so uniformly to all the nations of the globe is undoubtedly due to the ingenuity of its inception. In 1891, when young Naismith originated the game, he was a teacher at the Springfield, Mass., Y. M. C. A. International Training school.

Naturally, the secretaries sent out from this school, carried the knowledge of the court game, along with their other work, into all the world and taught the principles of basketball to all peoples.

I believe that this is the reason why more people are playing basketball today than any other game—and the end is not yet.

Practically every foreign country has rules patterned after our American game. They look to us as the mother country, and have a right to expect guidance from us in formulating rules and in shaping sportsmanship.

Dr. Naismith tells me that he had received recent copies of the rules from Greece and Turkey. Also, in Germany and France the game is flourishing. The congested areas of Europe make large play space prohibitive. Basketball fits admirably into such a scheme, and also, into the temperaments of these central European peoples. Foreigners take their games seriously.

Ernest C. Quigley, the National League umpire and major sports official, writes me from Japan, that basketball had taken an unusual hold upon the Orientals. Great throngs attend all of their games.

King basketball is appealing. The close up of the game—the open play—the kaleidoscopic changes from offense to defense—the simplicity of the rules—the contact and combat—the dribbles—the thrills and the spills—the sensational shots—together with the quick snappy team work employed in getting the ball down the floor attract the millions today.

A great game to place upon our Olympic calendar! And why not? Basketball rules are uniform the world over.

For this and for other sufficient reasons, the rules of this game should be changed but seldom. If we change our rules too often, then the foreign countries will make rules of their own and basketball will lose its international possibilities.

The joint basketball rules committee, under the leadership of Director L. W. St. John of Ohio state University, is doing a splendid thing in making "Sportsman-

MIDDLEWEIGHT MAT CROWN TAKEN FROM MEYERS BY DECISION

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—(AP) A disputed world's middleweight wrestling championship was held today by Charley "Midget" Fisher, Butterfield, Wis., lumberjack.

On Fisher's shoulders rested the somewhat questionable crown that had been won by Johnny Meyers, Chicago, defeated by Fisher last night at the Broadway armory.

Although Meyers claimed the title and had obtained a court injunction restraining the Illinois state athletic commission from awarding the crown to anyone else, the commission recognized Gus Kallio, Louisville, as champion.

Fisher's claim to the crown was gained via the decision route. Both men had won a fall when the decision was awarded the Wisconsin lumberjack after thirty-six more minutes of wrestling.

Game, but outclassed, Art Evans, the Cherokee wrestler of Oklahoma, lost two straight falls at the Rialto theatre last night to Bob Kruse of Portland. Evans, the stronger of the pair, broke many holds with brute strength, but was unable to cope with the superior science of the Portland man, who is regarded as world's heavyweight championship lumber.

Evans lost the first fall in 25 minutes with an arm strangle, and the second fall came in 15 minutes when Kruse forced a hammerlock with the strength of his entire body and both arms, giving Evans no other alternative than to pat the mat. During the various stages of the match Evans managed to place decisive holds on Kruse but

LACK OF SCIENCE AND SPEED BRING DEFEAT TO EVANS

was seldom able to hold them long enough to cause damage. Several times he picked the Portland trampler off his feet and tossed him around and several times he downed Kruse with vicious headlocks to no avail.

Once or twice Kruse resorted to tactics not entirely approved by the crowd, a round of "boos" filling the theatre as fans voiced their disapproval. As an exhibition of strength the match has never been equaled in Medford, with Evans breaking holds by sheer muscle power, yelling Kruse, who would then wrestle all the harder.

Sympathy and support were generally with the Indians, who had already lost once in Medford, and now that he has lost a second time it is hardly probable that he will appear here again. He is a good man and has remarkable strength, his only weakness being lack of speed and science. However, Evans may take to a stiff training course and make a surprising comeback.

In the semi-windup Tommy Ryan, Medford's wrestling tailor, had little trouble in disposing of Jimmy Powell in three minutes. Powell was not in condition and far from being Ryan's equal in experience. Ryan has won all of his matches in Medford and is nearing main event caliber.

In the first preliminary Tex Porter and Carly Woods wrestled 15 minutes to a hard fought draw. The boys were evenly matched and provided a good exhibition. Porter had not appeared in Medford for over a year and went into the match against a hard handicap, Woods having been wrestling in local rings for the past several months. Despite that fact, Porter gave him a hard match and fans are wondering if they will see the two together again—the next time in a longer match, giving better opportunity to show their wares.

The next match will take place January 21 and will feature the best men that the wrestling management of the Rialto theatre can procure. Sailor Jack Wood, who wrestles Fred Mortensen in Grants Pass tonight, was the official referee and announcer.

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