

LIGHTS OUT!—Down against the ropes in the sixth round of his middleweight bout with Gil Turner in New York is Gene Fullmer, on the way to losing his first fight in 30 appearances. Turner, from Philadelphia, won a unanimous decision over the West Jordan, Utah, slugger.

Sport Parade



By **OSCAR FRALEY**
United Press
Sports Writer

New York—(U.P.)—This is the day on which six young men in brand new flannels realize their brightest dreams.

They are baseball players who finally fought their way up to the major leagues. As rookies, they may have a lump in the throat and butterflies under their belts.

But this will be the one they will always remember—opening day and themselves in a big league lineup.

It must be very strange to Ramon Mejias, a 23-year-old Cuban who will go out there into right field for the Pirates. He doesn't speak English and when he went to spring training he was a complete unknown. But Ramon hit just the way he did for Waco in the Class B Big State league, where he batted .354 and hit safely in 55 straight games. So he gets his chance.

Pressure on Birds
The pressure rides even harder on two freshmen with the Cardinals. Third baseman Ken Boyer and center fielder Bill Virdon must conquer the dread of an extravagant buildup.

Boyer, a 24-year-old out of Liberty, Mo., has been tagged a "second Pie Traynor." Virdon, 23, from West Plains, Mo., is rated an even better rookie prospect than Wally Moon, who was rookie of the year last season. They have the size and the background. Virdon, a 175-pound 6-footer, was the International league batting cham-

pion with .333 at Rochester. Boyer, 6-foot 2-inch and 190 pounds, hit .319 at Houston.

Big things have been predicted, too, for J. W. Porter, a 22-year-old outfielder who goes into left field for Detroit. A raw-boned, 6-foot 2 Oklahoman, the freckled Porter is home from Army service.

There's less pressure, but no less desire, with Boston's Norbert Zauchin and Kansas City's Jack Littrell.

Zauchin, a 25-year-old first baseman, moves well around the bag despite his 6-foot 4-inch frame and 220 pounds. A Detroit, he hit .289 at Louisville last season and led the American association in runs batted in.

Littrell, a 26-year-old shortstop out of Louisville is a stringy 179 pounds on a 6-foot frame. His forte is defense, for he hit but .233 at Ottawa last season.

Five other rookies had their thrill of being in the opening day lineup Monday, catcher Hal Smith and second baseman Don Leppert with Baltimore; shortstop Bob Kline of Washington, and the Cubs' Harry Chiti, a catcher, and center fielder Gale Wade.

But for the waiting six, the big league baptism as an opening day starter is still ahead. For them it's the big chance and the bright dream, but with these no doubt, and apprehension, too.

Which, combined, make for a day they'll always remember!

Atkinson Named To Ride Nashua In Wood Event

New York—(U.P.)—Ted Atkinson will have the assignment on Belair Stud's Nashua in the \$100,000 added Wood Memorial at Jamaica on April 23, because of back-to-back suspensions to regular rider Eddie Arcaro.

Arcaro was handed a 10-day suspension by the Bowie Stewards Monday which will keep him idle until May 4, but he'll be back in harness in time to ride Nashua, the Kentucky Derby favorite, in the "Run for the Roses" at Churchill Downs, May 7.

The Maryland suspension came on the heels of one meted out by the Jamaica stewards for a similar infraction—interference—which begins today and runs through to April 21. The Bowie suspension picks up the following day.

Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons, Nashua's trainer, immediately engaged Atkinson to ride his charge in the Wood upon hearing Arcaro's second suspension. The Wood is the last major prep for Eastern Kentucky Derby hopefuls and is a rich prize in itself.

Tribe Manager Al Lopez Given Two-Year Pact

Cleveland, Ohio—(U.P.)—A "very happy" Al Lopez confidently set the 1955 baseball world championship as his target today as he began work on a new two-year contract that caught him by surprise.

The Cleveland Indians' popular little skipper was conferring with team General Manager Hank Greenberg Monday morning when Greenberg suddenly offered Al a new contract. It is believed to call for \$45,000 a year, instead of the present \$40,000.

"I'm very satisfied, very happy" beamed Lopez. The manager of the American League champions still had one year to go under his existing two-year pact.

"I guess I've won just about everything now but the World Series," observed Lopez, "and that's the target for this year. It makes a fellow feel good knowing he has the club behind him like I do."

Law Forbidding Women Wrestlers Constitutional

Salem—(U.P.)—Any law which would forbid women to engage in wrestling or boxing exhibitions would not violate the state constitution, Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton ruled yesterday. Such a measure is up for consideration before the Legislature.

Dead line Sunday Classified in at noon Saturday; 10 a.m. Monday for Monday; other days 5:30 previous day.

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Steve Nagy Grips Lose Out in Bid For ABC Top Spot

Fort Wayne, Ind.—(U.P.)—The Steve Nagy Grips of Cleveland lost out in their bid to take over first place in the team event in the American Bowling Congress tournament.

The Nagy club found itself in third place last night with a 3013 total, two back of the tied Howard's Clothes of St. Paul and Cole-Finder Mercury of Chicago.

Anchor man on the team, Nelson Burton, spared the tenth frame and needed a strike on his extra ball for a 3016 team total. But his ball crossed over to the left side of the alley and left three pins standing.

Middleman Chuck O'Donnell had games of 214, 239 and 237. Nagy had a 601 triple; Gil Smith, 595; Dick Hoover, 582; and Burton, 545. Team games were 1001, 1017 and 995.

Lowry May Lose Bout With Fiore Because of Cut

New York—(U.P.)—Welterweight Pat Lowry, vowing "no more middleweights for me," may not be able to keep a date with Carmine Fiore in his native Toledo, Ohio, on April 26 because of a bad cut over the left eye suffered in his squeaker victory over Pete Adams.

Lowry, a Korean war veteran with an imposing knockout record, rallied in the last three rounds Monday night at St. Nicholas arena to gain a majority decision over the hard-punching, but often wild, Adams in a widely telecast bout. The victory was the former Marine's second over Adams and his 38th in 46 outings.

After the fight, Dr. Vincent Nardiello, commission physician, took five stitches to close the wound and it hardly seems possible Lowry will be able to fight again in two weeks.

Red Wings Seek Stanley Cup Win On Montreal Ice

Montreal—(U.P.)—The Detroit Red Wings are out to smash the "home ice pattern" that has prevailed throughout the final series to clinch hockey's Stanley Cup championship tonight by beating the Montreal Canadiens at the Forum.

The Wings, leading 3-2 in games in the best-of-seven series that has seen the home team win each game, are bolstered by the improvement in Terry Sawchuk's condition. The star goalie still is recuperating from a flu attack but is "80 per cent better" than he was in Sunday's game.

The Canadiens also are bolstered in the addition of high-scoring Dick Gamble.

Gamble was called up to the Canadiens from Buffalo of the American Hockey league at the conclusion of that league's playoffs Sunday. The 24-year-old former Canadian led the AHL in goal-getting with 38 in 45 games.

At the entrances to the Panama canal, the Atlantic ocean's tide rises and falls an average of one foot, while on the Pacific side the difference between high and low is about 12.5 feet.

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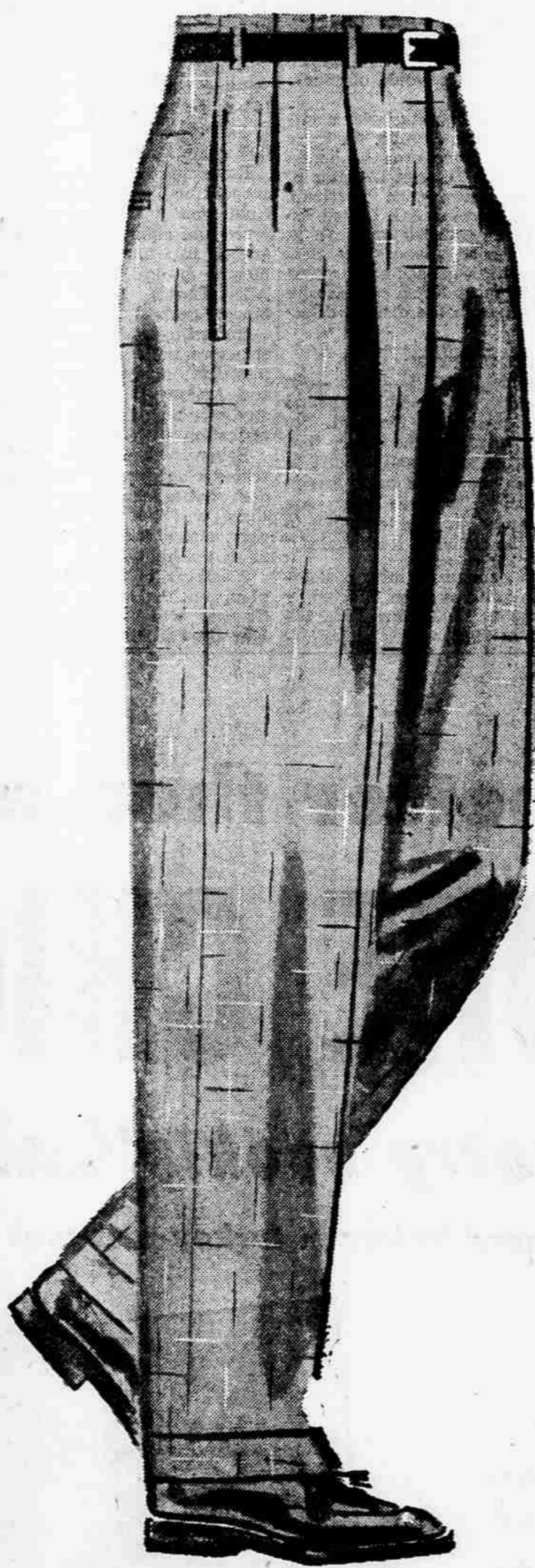
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