

The LIFE STORY of **MAX SCHMELING**

WERNER LAUFER
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Young German "Tramp" Becomes Circus Strong Man's Aid, Gets Job Carrying the Hod—and Battle in Beer Garden Turns Him to Ring



A training scene from Max Schmeling's earlier days is pictured above. At about the time this picture was taken, Max had just left the circus "strong man" act to become a fighter.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third of a series of six articles on the life of Max Schmeling and tells of his early prize ring experiences in Germany.

BY WERNER LAUFER
NEA Service Sports Writer

Jack Dempsey, the greatest champion of them all, rode to fame and fortune on the back of a horse. Max Schmeling, the German boy, who looks like Dempsey, started his rise in much the same way.

In Germany, the hobo takes to the open road. "I was a tramp," Schmeling confessed, with a full appreciation of what that word means in English. "I had plenty of time and was strong and healthy. I wanted to save the little money I started out with for dire emergency, so I took to the road."

Circus Days

One day he chanced across a tiny circus that was scraping along on the few pennies the war-ridden Dorfs had to lay out for amusement. The very first thing that caught the beetle-browed eyes of the adventurer was the one-man athletic show. Here was the stuff for Max Schmeling's boy. Here was the thing that set his eyes to blinking and caused his wide nostrils to quiver—just as they were to blink and quiver on the night at Yankee stadium, when big Jack Sharkey was to bounce his right off Maxie's rock-like chin.

Max became very clubby with the immense strong man, who dazzled the villagers with weight lifting performances. The man took a liking to Max also, and he and him as aid. Pretty soon Max was in the act. He worked up a swell trick of letting an automobile run over his hairy chest. The stunt always got a big hand and Maxie would grin and bow like a Cheshire cat.

Digger and Better

This was "big stuff" for Schmeling and he worked diligently at the weights, with the dream of building himself into such a specimen he would be able to astound the yokels by being the piece-de-resistance for a full-sized truck.

Circus life, however, was not long for Schmeling. When the show hit Cologne, the few wretched wagons and the toothless lion were attached by creditors. The strong man had enough money to clear out for Berlin. His assistant was stranded—broke and hungry.

Max finally found a job in Mulheim, a suburb. He carried a hod for bricklayers, wheeled loads of wet concrete, buffeted the punches of the pneumatic rivet hammer and made himself useful.

Shortly after his arrival, Max located a center of interest for his spare hours. Some of the gang took him to see the sport at the Mulheim Boxing Club.

This Is Good Sport, Too

Here it was—boxing with leather gloves—men stabbing at each other with their fists. This promised to be nearly as good sport as letting automobiles run over you. Max asked to "play" and when he donned the mittens and clumsily squared off with a closely cropped countryman, he found it was even better.

Ho! It was fun, when your opponent unexpectedly stuck his fist in your face. Ouch! It hurt, too. But it gave you a strange feeling of wanting to bring your knuckles down with all your might on that bullet head. And

it made your fist feel great to smash it into the man's belly. Ha! Here was something! Max made the club his "home" from then on. He also dropped into the Benrath Club on frequent occasions to see how the boys were getting along.

About this time occurred the scrap in a beer garden, where Max, after being bullied by three beer-drinking rowdies, put the slug on all of them. A witness of the affair, Herr Dubbaer, had also seen Maxie "go" at the boxing club. He induced him to take him on as manager for amateur fights.

Within a week Maxie defeated two of the town's leading simon-purees. Max was in earnest now and worked hard to improve his knowledge of boxing. But he was primarily a fighter and got by in good shape by rushing and slugging.

Gets Setback

At Chemnitz in 1924, a great amateur tournament was staged, where fighters from all parts of Germany competed.

Max waded through the preliminaries and semifinals until only he and Otto Nisip remained undefeated. Nisip had been fighting longer than Maxie and knew how to propel a left hand. Even though Nisip didn't land a solid smack, the left hand got the decision.

Max wasn't discouraged. He was eager for more of the fun, but the feeding was irregular in the amateur business. No gold watches were being given to the amateurs in Germany.

So Max decided to turn pro and put himself under the wing of Hugo Abels, a big sport from Cologne. Abels asked the Schlager what type of foeman he would like to meet in his first professional fight. Max said he didn't care as long as the fellow liked "schlagers." Abels picked him out a nice tough baby with a



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SHIPPERS WIN FROM SAWMILL

First Game on New Camp Diamond Set For This Evening.

The Shipping Department nine yesterday afternoon defeated the Sawmill department, 21 to 4, on the diamond at the Weyerhaeuser mill plant. The game was featured by the first home run to be hit in the Weyerhaeuser league. Tiltman, of the Sawmillers, clouted one out of the lot in the second inning.

Line-ups for the game yesterday: Shipping Department: G. Tomlin, cf; Murphy, rf; L. Tomlin, lf; Constance, c; Ervin, 3b; C. Diering, 1b; Kuga, ss; E. Deering, 2b; McGilvray, (correct) p. Sawmill team: Dahl, ss; Britt, 1b; Taylor, 1b; Boyer, 2b; Lerene, 3b; Fitzgerald, rf; Shelley, cf; Johnston, lf; Lourtisen, p; Hillman, p; Dahl, p; Lowell, c. "Pop" Varnadore umpired the game.

Tonight a large delegation from the Weyerhaeuser plant will accompany the Shipping Department nine to Camp No. 2, where the first game will be played on the new diamond there against the Loggers.

Food will be taken and the Weyerhaeuser gang is planning a real good time, with plenty of spirit manifest as to the outcome of the contest.

The next game on the mill diamond will be played Friday night, when the Mechanics will meet the Generals, a team from the various departments of the plant.

Sixty-seven religious denominations in North Carolina have a membership of 1,406,883.

American Tennis Stars Open Play To Flying Start

WIMBLEDON, Eng., June 26. (AP)—With Bobby and Mrs. Jones of Atlanta, Ga., among the distinguished guests in the stands, Miss Elizabeth Ryan, American resident of England, gave United States a flying start in today's play of the English tennis championships, when she defeated Miss Josanne Shart, Belgium's No. 1 women's ranking player in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1.

Racing through twelve straight sets, Mrs. Helen Willis Moody and Miss Ryan defeated Mrs. V. Burr and Miss G. N. Thompson, England, 6-0, 6-0, to become the favorites to win the English women's doubles championship.

Miss Greet Loose, Miss Mary Greet, youthful Kansas sensation, was eliminated by Miss Payot, experienced Swiss player, 6-4, 6-3.

Berkeley Bell and Gregory Mangin, alternates on the United States Davis' cup team, defeated Count Von Salm Hoogstraaten of Austria and Burr of England, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.

Big Bill Tilden and his Dutch partner, H. Timmer, Holland, won their first doubles match, eliminating R. Deterding and J. R. Reddall, England, 6-4, 8-6, 6-2.

Doubles Team Forced George Lott and Johnny Doeg, United States' doubles champions, were forced to the limit to defeat the English team of V. A. Caselet and J. C. Masterman, 8-6, 13-11, 7-5.

Miss Helen Jacobs, California, made short work of her match with Miss H. Stanley, England, winning 6-3, 6-0.

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