

CONN ELUDES LOUIS UNTIL EIGHTH HEAT

By GAYLE TALBOT

NEW YORK, June 20 (AP)—Joe Louis still has it. Billy Conn knows. Knocked out by one of the greatest of champions, bleeding from cuts across his left cheek and nose, Conn sat smiling on a rubbing table deep under Yankee stadium last night and declared with solemn finality that he would never fight again.

"The Kid from Pittsburgh is putting his cue stick in the rack," said the gamster who had gone down under an eighth-round barrage from the fists of Louis. "You've seen the Kid's last fight. It's not there any more."

Tears glistening in his eyes, little Johnny Ray, who raised Billy from a pup in the boxing game, added his own sad words to Conn's vaudeville. "There's no use going on if he's going to get his head knocked off. Billy will never fight again. He's done. We're not kidding ourselves."

In every respect, except for those who had their hearts bent upon Joe Louis retaining his crown, it was a lugubrious ending to what had given bright promise of being one of the memorable events of boxing history the last few seconds, when the dynamite in the big negro's fists suddenly went off and left Conn wrapped in darkness on the floor, the great crowd banded in the Yankee ball yard had witnessed as dull a fight as the ring game ever spawned. At \$100 a head it must have been horrible.

Billy Realized It Was Coming

Afraid to mix it with the grim, determined Louis, Billy had for seven and a fraction rounds done almost nothing except dance around and elude with desperate purpose the blows that he seemed to realize would come sooner or later.

He was a far different Conn from the cocky, aggressive youngster who just five years ago thrilled a similar crowd by fighting Louis for all he was worth down to the bitter end in the 13th round. Last night the spark was gone. Possibly Billy left his best fight in his training camp.

"I knew I was making a stinking fight," he said apologetically to State Athletic Commissioner Eddie Egan, who visited him in his dressing room. "I thought I could keep away from Joe for 15 rounds," he added with a rueful grin, "but I know better now."

In Conn's defense, probably no fighter living today could have done any better than he did against the Joe Louis who stalked him and finally brought him down last night. Possibly none could have eluded the negro with the fearsome fists even as long as Billy did.

Louis Was Near His Best Form

The 45,266 fans who paid \$1,925,564 to witness the one-sided spectacle at night can tell their grandchildren they saw a great champion at near to his best. Perhaps it was his best. Conn, at least, said it was a more terrible Louis he faced last night than in 1941.

Trim and sharp as a bushel of razor blades of 207 pounds, the Brown Bomber must have appeared an awesome customer even to Conn when he shed his white bathrobe just before the opening bell. And there was no particle of doubt once the gong clanged that Joe was going after his man with a tenacity that would be difficult to deny for long.

Joe didn't hurry things, exactly. He just shuffled eternally forward, waiting almost patiently for the opening he was certain would come. Billy must have felt the futility of his retreat long before the two terrific rights and a left to the jaw smashed him down after 2:19 of the eighth round.

The early stages were boring. With Louis holding his fire and Billy operating with extreme caution, not a half-dozen blows were exchanged in the opening round, and most of those were light lefts flicked to the champion's emotionless pan. That round and the third were the only ones that could have been awarded the Pittsburgh Kid.

Body Blows Slow Conn's Speed

Gradually Louis increased the pressure, until, by the fourth chapter, he was dealing Conn considerable punishment with stinging left jabs, and occasionally was crowding his lighter opponent close to the ropes and whanging him to the head and body with hard left and right hooks. At this stage the champs' body blows appeared to be taking a trace of speed out of Billy's nimble feet.

As Louis won the fifth, sixth and seventh rounds by increasingly wider margins the crowd, as well as Conn, must have sensed that the play was approaching its climax. Billy tried fewer and fewer punches. Once, in the sixth, he slipped to one knee after taking a jolting Louis jab on the chin, but he bounced up without a count and tried to grimace cheerfully at his pursuer. But it was a sad effort.

Apparently sensing the kill, Louis went out to finish it in the eighth. For the first time, the men in his corner sent him out with sharp ejaculations of impending victory.

Early in the round Joe caught Billy in a corner and gave him a rough going-over. In the midst of the flurry of punches, Conn gave a little laugh and said something inaudible to Joe. He couldn't recall later what it was he said, but it appeared to have a powerful effect on Joe.

Seconds later Louis launched a terrific right in mid-ring that caught Billy flush in the face and opened a cut under his left eye that sent blood cascading down to his chin. Then the end came with stunning suddenness.

Right to Jaw Begins the End

As they came together in a neutral corner the big negro whipped a right cross to the head that buckled Conn's knees. Then, the great finisher that he has always been, he whanged another right to the jaw that started Billy down, and brought across a left that dumped him on the canvas.

There was never a chance that he would gain his feet by the count of 10. He struggled as Referee Eddie Joseph took up the count with the official time-keeper, but at the final sweep of the official's right arm the Pittsburgh Kid had only succeeded in propping up on elbow. His eyes were glazed and unseeing as his handlers rushed across and helped him to his stool.

For defending his title successfully for the 22nd time, Louis figured to draw approximately \$577,700 as his end of the purse. Conn's share was approximately \$289,000.

Fortunately for Billy, he is supposed to be sufficiently well fixed financially to quit the ring at 28 if he feels like it—and there is no doubt he was serious in his intention last night. It is said on good authority that he is worth \$200,000.

As for Louis, the money he made last night is not expected to do much more than pay off his debts to Promoter Mike Jacobs and the government, to whom he is far in arrears on his income tax. He said he will not fight again this year.

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New Power Located On NL Mounds

By The Associated Press
Managers Leo Durocher of the Brooklyn Dodgers and Eddie Dyer of the St. Louis Cardinals, whose singing talents are confined mainly to the bathtub, were humming the same tune today—and it sounded suspiciously like the song entitled "Coming In On a Wing and a Prayer."

Searching frantically for another starting moundman to ease the pitching burden of his overworked staff, each perspiring pilot received a much needed lift yesterday when Joe (Brooklyn) Hatten and Ted (St. Louis) Wilks, a pair of pitching problems all season, came through with handsome hurling exhibitions to bring victory to the Dodgers and Cards, respectively. Both Durocher and Dyer were keeping their fingers crossed praying that their heretofore erratic moundsmen have finally hit their stride.

Hatten, highly touted ex-sailor, whose stylish left wing was counted on to notch "at least 15 victories" for the Dodgers in this, his freshman year, finally flashed the form expected of him as he blanketed the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-0 yesterday on seven-well-scattered safeties to enable the Brooks to retain their game and a half National league bulge over the runner-up Redbirds.

Dyer's sigh of relief resulted from the gilt-edged performance turned in by Wilks, whose sore arm had been a source of constant worry to the freshman manager. The pint-sized Wilks, relegated to relief chores after failing to finish in each of his three starting assignments earlier this season, replaced faltering Red Barrett in the third frame of last night's tussle with the Boston Braves and held the tribe scoreless the rest of the way while the Cards went on to win 8-3.

Detroit's Tigers continued to crawl up close to the leaders in the American league by clawing the Philadelphia Athletics 3-0 in a twilight affair before 12,413 home roosters. Virgil Trucks spun a six-hitter to stretch the Bengals mastery over the cellar-dwelling Mackmen to eight straight games. Held hitless for six innings by Cincinnati's Ewell Blackwell, the Giants turned on the Reds' freshman sensation in the seventh with a pair of damaging blows which coupled with four walks and a hit batsman produced four runs and gave the Polo Grounders a 4-3 victory. A two-run triple by Sid Cordon, who eventually tallied the pay-off run, was the decisive blow.

Puppies should be fed four or five times a day until they are six months old. Wolfhounds are considered to have the keenest eyesight of all dog breeds.

Atomic bombs are a greater threat to the United States than to any other nation except Great Britain. Dr. Hans Simons, dean of the new School for Social Research, New York, declared here at the northwest institute of international relations. Concentration of America's production in vulnerable industrial centers make it necessary that the nation halt atomic bomb production and pledge never to use the bomb first, he asserted last night.

"There are others willing to use the atomic bomb who are less inhibited than we," Dr. Simons warned in proposing we abandon the bomb. Mallard ducks average 10 to 12 eggs a clutch. Moose have been clocked at 42 miles per hour.

Fight Notes

NEW YORK, June 20 (AP)—Notes from the ringside: The second production of the Joe Louis-Billy Conn heavyweight fight entered the realm of "big business" but it fell far short of rivaling the golden era of sports of 20 years ago.

Seated in Yankee stadium, probably wishing they could turn the calendar back to their heyday, were two aging former glove swingers who caused financial boxing history to be written almost two decades ago. They were Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney and their second "battle of the century" at Chicago coaxed a gate of \$2,658,660.

Louis and Conn, matching ring skill last night at ticket tops of \$100 (one hundred dollars) brought 45,266 customers into the stadium who paid a total of \$1,925,564.

The eighth round explosion that blew Conn into self-announced retirement was still ringing in the ears of thousands of fans; the ball park was practically empty and workmen were dismantling the ring when a slim, slightly stooped gent in a gray suit circled the area.

He could have been out in the moonlight alone, for all he was noticed. The man was Mike Jacobs, high mogul of boxing and promoter of the most recent spectacle that drew fans and newsmen from many parts of the world.

Louis' cut of the gate receipts, estimated at \$577,700, possibly gave former champion Dempsey and his old manager Jack Kearns, each a mental twinge. It was in 1921 when Dempsey kayoed Georges Carpentier at Boyle's Thirty Acres in New Jersey, that Kearns signed for a guarantee of \$500,000. On a percentage basis, the "take" would have rivalled the more than half-million earned by the present titleholder.

First indication the big fistic show would not do the business predicted earlier in the ballyhoo—the first \$5,000,000 gate—was noted a few hours before ring time. Ticket scalpers upriver were offering the choice \$100 pasteboards for as low as \$30.

Louis, aside from successfully defending his title for the unprecedented figure of 22 times, also established a new ring record of having earned a total of \$2,956,086.

Bomb Called Threat To U. S. and Britain

PORTLAND, June 20 (AP)—Atomic bombs are a greater threat to the United States than to any other nation except Great Britain. Dr. Hans Simons, dean of the new School for Social Research, New York, declared here at the northwest institute of international relations. Concentration of America's production in vulnerable industrial centers make it necessary that the nation halt atomic bomb production and pledge never to use the bomb first, he asserted last night.

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O'Toole Thinks Fight Smelled

WASHINGTON, June 20 (AP)—Rep. O'Toole (D-N. Y.), terming the Louis-Conn heavyweight championship fight "stinkeroo," said today "one more Mike Jacobs-directed fight like last night's and boxing will be dead as the do." O'Toole, who three years ago was instrumental in persuading the war department to forbid a proposed fight between Louis and Conn when both were in the army, witnessed last night's bout by television.

"Mike Jacobs ought to be barred from using the mails to defraud," O'Toole jested to a reporter, referring to mail distribution of the fight tickets, with a top of \$100 for ringside seats.

Les Scarsella, Oakland first baseman, banged out his 17th circuit blow last night to deliver his league-leading club a 6-5 decision over San Diego. Larry Jansen, ace moundman of the Seals, held the Seattle Rainiers to six hits for a 10-3 victory and his 15th in 18 games this season.

With more than half the season left, Scarsella needs only six homers to equal the 1945 mark of 23 held by Ted Norbert, playing for Seattle. The league's home run record is 60, clouted by Anthony Lazzeri of the old Salt Lake club in 1925, but baseballs were bouncer then. Jansen is nearly half way to the 1945 game-winning mark of 31 which won Bob Joyce a ticket from the San Francisco Seals to the majors. Joyce's 1945 record was the highest in the league since Frank S. May of the Vernon club turned in 35 in 1922.

Scarsella clouted his game-winning ninth frame with the count knotted at 3-all. He earlier singled home two runs, and his total of three for the night gave him 62 for the loop's top number of runs batted in this season.

Jansen had little to worry about as his mates pounced on two Seattle pitchers for 17 hits. The victory left San Francisco a game behind the pace-making Oaks. Manny Perex won a tight pitching duel with Al Smith for a 3-0 victory by the Hollywood Stars over the Sacramento Solons. Each hurler allowed six hits.

Portland's Beavers snagged a 4-3 decision over the Los Angeles Angels with a three-run tally in the final stanza. Glenn Crawford got a walk and Herm Reich singled to open the rally. Tom Turner sacrificed them along and Eddie Wheeler's single sent Crawford and Reich home to tie the score. Roy Helser, Beaver

hurler, singled and Joe Dobbins drove in the winning tally with a single to right center.

Brooklyn 7, Pittsburgh 0. New York 4, Chicago 3. St. Louis 8, Boston 3 (night). Only games played.

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Marks Will Tumble in Coast Loop

By The Associated Press
The leading pitcher and heaviest home run hitter of the Pacific Coast Baseball league, sparking the pennant chase of the chief rivals, today had impressive bids to surpass the top players in their specialties last year.

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SPORTS

By Hale Scarborough, Sports Editor

Tag Team Fight Mainlines Mat Card In Armory Arena

A tag team match, putting together four of the most able grapplers in the business out here in the northwest, is the main part of the muscle card at the armory tonight.

Among the four men in the tag match is the current Pacific coast junior heavy champ, plus the man he took the title away from and two former champions, so it will almost be a re-union.

Champ Georges Dusette is paired with Joe Lynam on one team to match wit and brawn with Martino Angelo and Paavo Katonen on the other team.

For the benefit of fans who might not have seen a team match previously, this is one of the more spectacular types of maul events ever devised for activity for wrestlers and enjoyment for spectators. Only one member of each team is in the ring at a time and the other is left outside the ropes on the apron, with one hand clutching the turnbuckle.

Partners change places by the man in the ring working over to his corner and tagging his helper, who thereupon comes through the ropes and into the ring.

That's what the rules of the game call for but not always does a tag match go along that smoothly, and there is no indi-

cation of any smoothness in the one tonight, considering the principals.

In a four-round opener scheduled to go on the mat at 8:30, Jack Kiser gets together with Billy McEuin, the Texas bad man.

Women's Semi-Final Golf Round Paired
Next rounds of the Lamm women's golf tourney at Reames Country club will be played tomorrow morning with Ann Rogers meeting Betty Sharp and Luster Nersech playing Jerry Jarrow in the 18-hole championship bracket.

Finalists in the first flight, Ellen Farrrens will play Mabel Merryman, 18 holes, and in the nine-hole bracket Nita Finnigan meets Carol Shaw.

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