

Lesnevich Is 8-5 Over Fox; Cougars Bounced By Ducks

Gus Already Holds Kayo Over Negro

By NED MILLS
NEA Staff Correspondent
NEW YORK, March 3 (NEA) — Gus Lesnevich was tagged Honest Gus after the Billy Fox contest a year ago.

Going in a 32-year-old 1-4 underdog against the not yet 21 Philadelphia negro who had never tasted defeat in bagging 43 consecutive knockouts, Lesnevich called on everything he had learned in his 14 years of ring experience to KO Billy in the tenth.

Now the light-heavyweight title is up again Friday night at Madison Square Garden in a return match, with Old Gus an 8½-5 favorite.

The contest promises to be as heated as was their last bout. Neither has ever given a bad performance, and neither has been out-

The light-heavyweight champion and pride of Cliffside Park, N. J., has been boxing heavyweights since last February.

HISTORY'S FASTEST
In May he tangled with Melio Bettina at the Garden, but not for long. He put the Italian away in less than a minute of the first round, his 58-second KO of the heavy-weight contender being the fastest in Garden history.

It was a fight, however, that resulted in strong criticism of Referee Frank Fullman, who should have stopped the fight when Melio was knocked out in the 35 seconds but was allowed to regain an upright position. Knockdown timekeeper Billy Cavanaugh had already counted out Bettina but Fullman obviously hadn't seen or heard him.

Last summer Lesnevich took a decision from Tami Mauriello at Brooklyn's Ebbets Field. In October they boxed again, this time at the Garden, and Gus disposed of the lubby Bronxite in seven rounds.

That made Gus' wins four in a row. Mauriello, two of his victories having come before he donned a Coast Guard uniform for a four-year hitch.

Fox, on the other hand, hasn't let the Lesnevich knockout dampen his spirits.

STILL KO ARTIST
Since then he has resumed his KO spree with seven. This makes the phenomenal record of 50 knockout victories in 51 fights, with the Lesnevich defeat still the only loss in his career.

Fox has taken on George Kochan twice, Tony Gillo, Artie Levine, Billy Cooper, Gus Guedes and Jake LaMotta. Guedes stayed the longest. He lasted until the eighth round.

Gus will go into the ring not only the favorite on the betting books but a darling of the fans. Lesnevich has been handled by but one manager since his ring debut, Joe Vella and the champ were boyhood buddies and have virtually never been separated. A happily married family man with two children and Mrs. Lesnevich expecting a third, Gus is rarely seen in the night spots.

He has an unblemished record for integrity and sportsmanship, has never been connected with questionable characters.

Coming out of the service broke in 1945, Gus has saved the purses from his seven subsequent fights and through shrewd investments at the advice of Vella, is free of financial worries.

He is the winner of the 1947 Edward J. Neil trophy, a plaque awarded

Principals In Title Defense



GUS LESNEVICH

BILLY FOX

GOALIES TURN HERO IN TACOMA ICE TILT

By The Associated Press
Not often do padded and static goal tenders emerge as the individual heroes of a hockey game—but two of them did last night in the Pacific Coast Hockey league.

In Tacoma, Goalie Dinnie McMannus of the New Westminster Royals turned in a brilliant 45 saves. His performance sparked the Royals to a 5 to 4 victory in overtime.

In Fresno, the San Francisco Shamrocks continued to hold their jinx over the Fresno Falcons with a 4-3 win—but Falcon Goalie Bill Brennan was the outstanding star. Despite a cut forehead, suffered when he was struck by a puck, Brennan turned in 31 saves.

Both division leaders suffered losses meantime.

The hard driving Seattle Ironmen bowed to the Canucks in Vancouver, 4-2, for the Ironmen's 19th loss of the season.

In the southern division the cellar was held by the Boxing Writers' Association, of New York to the person who has done the most for boxing during the year.

Fox and his manager, Frankie Palermo, though, were on Commissioner Egan's carpet over the fast knockout of Jake LaMotta. Fox was exonerated and LaMotta suspended for not reporting his poor physical condition.

Both smashing punchers, who can also take a punch, Gus and Billy packed the Garden with a \$102,500 gross take last trip, and promise to increase that figure this time with tickets going at a \$20 top and scaled down to \$2.

Dick Wilkins Sets Circuit Score Record

EUGENE, Ore., March 3 (AP)—The Oregon Ducks dashed the hopes of Washington State's Cougars for even a tie for the northern division Pacific Coast conference basketball title last night with a convincing 72-54 win.

The Oregon victory left only Oregon State and Washington in contention for the championship. The two could finish in a tie if Oregon defeats Oregon State in its one remaining game and Washington takes its final two from the basement Idaho squad.

Washington State, leading the northern division until the Cougars invaded the State of Oregon last week-end, took the lead only once last night. That was midway in the first half. They never seriously threatened after that.

NEW HIGH POSTED
The game was marked by a new individual northern division scoring record for all conference play. Dick Wilkins' 15 points for Oregon boosted his grand total for four years' eligibility to 639 points. The previous record of 634 was set by Red Rocha of Oregon State last season.

Oregon took a 9-2 lead at the outset last night. The Cougars came back strong and went ahead on Vince Hanson's free throw at 17-6. George Heathcote added a field goal to make it 19-16. Then Oregon took over and knotted the count at 19-19.

The score was tied again at 21 and 23-all before Jim Bartlett fired five points in less than a minute to put Oregon ahead to stay at 28-23. The Ducks had a 38-32 lead at halftime.

The Cougars' Vince Hanson took scoring honors with 16 points. Wilkins led Oregon with his 15.

Bears Reduced To One Hurler
BERKELEY, Calif., March 3 (AP)—It's three down and one to go—and the University of California baseball team will be out of varsity pitchers.

The Bears' lost hurler Virgil Butler, via the scholarship route yesterday. Butler, from Vancouver, Wash., won 10 and lost one for the Bears last year. He will consider pro offers.

Earlier losses because of academic ineligibility were Jackie Jensen and Dick Lerner. Lerner signed with the San Francisco Seals.

Nino Barnise is the sole remaining varsity regular.

Tree Spraying Killing Birds

SEATTLE, March 3 (AP)—Because it believes new tree and fruit sprays are killing too many young birds, the Washington state game department will release no more birds in the state's orchard areas.

The department made the announcement today in disclosing that experimental plantings will make this spring to enable further study of spray effect.

Ralph Moore, Oregon State college-trained biologist, is devoting full time to the problem, the department said.

Velez Floors Joey Dolan For Decision

SPOKANE, March 3 (AP)—Joe Velez, 129, Seattle, knocked down Joey Dolan, 25, Spokane, six times last night to win a clear 10-round decision in a boxing card main event.

The victory boosted Velez into the top ranks of Northwest fighters as he pounded the more experienced Dolan over the ring. Only stubborn courage kept Dolan in the fight.

In the semi-final match Wilf Desjardins, 140, Spokane, knocked out Dean Abney, 147, Hermiston, Ore., in 2:08 of the third round. All preliminary fights were scheduled for four rounds.

Other results: Sonny Orrock, 181, Spokane, outpointed Jimmy Allen, 173, Hermiston, Ore.; Eddie Halliwell, 154, Spokane, outpointed Dick Abney, 154, Salem; Al Cowan, 146, Spokane, knocked out Don Roberts, 141, Hermiston, in 1:09 of the second round, and Duane Emond, 125, Seattle, knocked out Bill Begman, 131, Spokane, in 1:55 of the second round.

Gopher Cage Coach Asks For Relief

MINNEAPOLIS, March 3 (AP)—Dave MacMillan today asked to be relieved of his duties as head basketball coach at the University of Minnesota.

Frank McCormick, director of athletics, said he would accept of the request, although with regret.

MacMillan asked that he be assigned to other duties in the athletic department.

MacMillan, 62, is an associate professor in the department of physical education. He was head basketball coach for 18 seasons.

Minnesota finished seventh in the conference standings in the season which closed last night. Rated as a leading contender for the championship in pre-season speculation, the team won five games and lost seven.

He was a former long-time basketball coach at the University of Idaho. His 1921-22 team won Idaho's only Coast conference championship.

Citrus Loop Scrap On For Post Of Musial

NEW YORK, March 3 (AP)—While Stan Musial, slugging St. Louis Cardinal star continues to hold out, four players are battling for his first base job.

Dick Sisler, who was groomed for the first base job in 1946 only to flunk out in favor of Musial, is one of the four striving for the position at the Cards' St. Petersburg, Fla., camp.

The others are Rookies Glen Nelson, Mike Nattain and Nippy Jones who finished the 1947 season at second base for the Red Birds.

Nelson played for Lynchburg and led the Piedmont league in batting last year with a lofty .371. Nattain batted .312 and clubbed 22 homers for Columbus of the American association.

Manager Eddie Dyer was greatly impressed with the performance of Nelson yesterday and he apparently has the inside track on the job at the moment.

Castoff Trying

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., March 3 (AP)—Elmer Riddle, a castoff from the Cincinnati Reds, stole the pitching show as the Pittsburgh Pirates went through their second training day. He impressed Manager Billy Meyer with the fastest ball seen in the Cub camp.

"That boy has something. He is snapping off his curve and he throws the ball hard," Meyer said.

Who's On Third?

SARASOTA, Fla., March 3 (AP)—The question of who will play third and short for Boston's Red Sox still is a mystery. Manager Joe McCarthy had Johnny Pesky and Vern Stephens working at short with Bill Hitchcock and Johnny Ostrowski at third yesterday.

Sain Holds Out

BRADENTON, Fla., March 3 (AP) Boston Brave Pitcher Johnny Sain still is a holdout at his Pine Bluff, Ark., home despite a reported \$25,000 offer. The right-handed flinger, a 28-game winner last year, is the only major holdout on the club. Mike McCormack, Bama Rowell, Nanny Fernandez and Al Treichel also are unsigned.

PORTLAND—Joe Kahut, 185½, Woodburn, Ore., knocked out Bobby Zander, 200, Los Angeles, 5.

SPOKANE—Joe Velez, 129, Seattle, outpointed Joey Dolan, 126, Spokane (10).

Joe Kahut Belts Out Bob Zander In Fifth

PORTLAND, Ore., March 3 (AP)—Joe Kahut, slugging Woodburn, Ore. farmer, laid claim today to the Pacific Coast heavyweight championship after flattening Bobby Zander, Los Angeles heavy, in the fifth round of their scheduled 15-heat battle last night.

It was Kahut's second successive knockout since returning to the ring following a year's absence because of a farm injury.

Kahut built up an early point margin with jabs to Zander's head and body, but neither fighter looked particularly impressive until the Oregonian hooked a left to his opponent's stomach and a right to the jaw in the fifth. The Californian went down hard and stayed on his face throughout the count.

Kahut weighed 185½, Zander an even 200.

Preliminaries: Aaron Joshua, 125, Calcutta, defeated Joey Clemo, 126, Portland, 10. Tony Kahut, 185, Woodburn, Ore., knocked out Billy Davis, 154, Portland, 1; Jackie Jackley, 124,

Portland, defeated Jerry Struts, 124, Portland, 4; Leo Talbot, 178, Portland, won from Sy Jones, 182, Portland, on foul; Dave Davey, 195, Tacoma, defeated Bill Carnegie, 160, Portland, 4.

Bill Bevens Out

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., March 3 (AP)—The New York Yankees may be without the services of Right-Hander Bill Bevens for six weeks.

Bevens injured his right leg off-iciating a basketball game three weeks ago and Dr. Sidney Gaynor, team physician, diagnosed the trouble as a pulled muscle.

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