

# HEARD

by Red Hurd

Herald and News Sports Editor

## Necessary Tonic

An AP story the other day brought back memories of the man who did as much as any pugilist to fill the fight game with color and glamour.

I refer to Maxie Baer, the Glorious Clown, who packed TNT in his big right fist.

The item said that the Livermore Butcher was signed for an exhibition bout with Champion Ezzard Charles. Baer, with typical frivolity, talked facetiously of making a comeback.

He's fat, forty, but still sexy.

If serious in his comeback talk, which is highly doubtful, the huge champion who did most of his training in night clubs would do one thing for sure. He'd inject some color into the fight game that is now dull gray.

Baer held the crown for only one year. He clubbed clumsy Primo Carners into insensibility June 14, 1934, and one day short of a year later met surprising defeat at the hands of the Cinderella Lad, Jimmy Braddock.

September 24, 1935, Maxie Baer met a Joe Louis that was young, strong and a deadly hitter with either hand.

Baer took the count on one knee with a silly look on his face, a beaten, sorrowful clown.

With all his wisecracks, there was something rather tragic about Baer's career. He was directly responsible for the death of one fighter and indirectly caused the death of another.

There seems to be little doubt that Baer, although actually a one-punch fighter (a long, looping right hand from a distance of about three feet) carried murderous, shattering dynamite.

One can't help but feel that if Maxie and brother Buddy could have been rolled into one fighter, the world would see the greatest champion ever.

Buddy had the size as did Max but he didn't have the ability. Max had the ability but didn't take the fight game seriously. He'd clown with a title was at stake, as he did against Braddock when the longshoreman lifted the title from Baer's curly head to mark one of the major upsets in fight history.

There was something tragic about Maxie's horseplay. It was especially notable after his terrible fists were responsible for snuffing out the lives of two boxers, Ernie Schaaf and Frankie Campbell.

Baer wasn't afraid of a man in the world and no one can sell me that he feared Joe Louis. But he was afraid of himself. Afraid of his spine-shattering punch.

Yes, the heavyweight fight game, now sunk low in doldrums could use another Maxie Baer. A huge man, with a paralyzing punch, who would wave at the crowd with one hand and crash his opponent to the canvas with the other.

Let there be no misunderstanding. I'm not advocating a bevy of clowns to revive boxing. But another Maxie Baer may be the tonic that would

## Torrid Battle to Modify Three-Year Clause of Rose Bowl Pact Looms

CHICAGO, Oct. 11 (AP) — The western conference generally favors renewal of its Rose Bowl pact with the Pacific coast but a battle on modifications looms.

One strong factor wants the three-year clause revised or eliminated so the big 10 champion will automatically get the Pasadena trip.

The present contract, which expires after the 1951 Rose Bowl

game, prohibits any team going more than once in a three-year period.

The school that wins two successive conference crowns could not be a repeat performer at Pasadena. Michigan won the title in 1947 and went to the Rose Bowl, but could not return although again winning in 1948. Runner-up Northwestern was selected.

Another group, which has support in George D. Stoddard, president of the University of Illinois, and Ted Payeur, Northwestern athletic director, believes the three-year clause is sound. Stoddard says that otherwise the Rose Bowl game would be "over-emphasized."

He and Payeur, as well as some other ranking officials, think that the clause reduces possibilities of

recruiting by a dominating school that could keep up a high level of football by selling Rose Bowl dreams to prospects.

Publicly, the only voice raised against a pact of any kind is that of James L. Morrill, president of the University of Minnesota. He did not want it in the first place and is campaigning against its renewal "with all my power."

He contends the Rose Bowl agreement greatly adds pressure on teams and coaches, has failed to better relations between the two conferences and has cut into big 10 prestige since the conference had previously always stood adamant to post season games.

Stoddard originally sided with Morrill against the five-year pact which was signed in the fall of 1946.

"I am not on Morrill's side this time," Stoddard said. "I think the Rose Bowl has cemented friendly feelings between the two conferences. (Illinois was the first team to go.) But I will side with him if the three-year clause is eliminated."

The question of the three-year repeating item appears to be the big hurdle before continuance of the series can be ironed out. This is true both in the big 10 and on the Pacific coast. Generally, faculty representatives — the governing bodies — are strongly inclined to favor it while strictly athletic groups, with power only to recommend, are mostly against it. Why should the Pacific coast conference winner play anyone but the

champion of the big 10? They ask. Other revisions are minor, such as ticket distribution, etc.

Ironically, Minnesota is a likely choice to represent the big 10 in the 1950 New Year's Day classic. The Gophers tangle with Ohio State Saturday, the winner taking the inside track. There is no chance that President Morrill will order Minnesota to stay home if it gets the bowl bid.



**GORGEOUS GEORGE AND GROANER** Bing Crosby engage in some horseplay. Wagner appears here Wednesday night at the armory in a one-hour bout against Georges Dusette. The SRO sign is expected to be hoisted for this match. Wagner last appeared here in 1946. He'll have his violet, beautiful robes, and full repertoire of wrestling tricks with him.

## Sellout Crowd Seen For Wagner-Dusette

A turn-away crowd is expected Wednesday night at the armory nationally-renowned wrestler, displays his grappling holds against popular Georges Dusette.

The event is the main feature of a three-bout program, and is billed for one hour or the best two of three falls.

Wagner, since leaving Klamath Falls three years ago, has soared to national prominence in the wrestling ring. He has played before capacity crowds in the east and recently drew 18,000 in St. Louis.

Although Wagner will be the betting favorite, Dusette will be the crowd's choice.

Dusette earned a crack and Gorgeous last week when he full-nelsoned the Mad Russian, Leon Karlinko, into unconsciousness.

Promoter Mack Lillard announced Monday that he had secured gruesome Karlinko for a return appearance in the semi-windup. The Mad Russian will attempt to scare Al pull heavyweight boxing from its state of suspended animation.

## Reserves

I got excited over a football result the other day, and in the rush of deadline, failed to check details.

I refer to the KUHS Wildcat win over Merrill. As a result I drug out glowing adjectives and described the Wildcats as the "team that beat the team that beat the champions."

As a matter of fact, the two coaches agreed before game time to play Merrill reserves.

## DUCATS ON SALE

Reserved seat tickets for the Pelican-Medford game Friday night are on sale at the chamber of commerce. About 500 tickets are available. Because of the usual rush for tickets to the Black Tornado game, ticket buyers are urged to purchase ducats as soon as possible.

## Round Debate

PORTLAND, Oct. 11 (AP) — The city boxing commission may decide today whether Hardrock Gordon of Roseburg must go 15 rounds with big Bill Petersen if their scheduled bout next week rates as a Pacific Northwest heavyweight title match.

Fight promoter Tex Salkeld said he had turned the question over to the commission. Chairman Ray Smith said a meeting today may settle the question.

The dispute came up after Gordon and Petersen, who now claims the regional title, were signed. Salkeld explained he assumed on arranging the match that both would agree to 15 rounds. He said Gordon insisted on only a 10 rounder as he had never gone the longer distance.

## Bomber Plans Exhibitions

BALTIMORE, Oct. 11 (AP) — Joe Louis is planning to begin training soon at Pompton Lakes, N. J., for a series of what he calls "ten-round exhibition bouts with ten-ounce gloves."

Following a four-round exhibition with Curtis (Hatchetman) Sheppard here last night, Louis disclosed he would like to engage in about six or eight of the ten-rounders with the rounds of three minutes' duration.

Normally, heavyweight exhibition bouts are four two-minute rounds and 16-ounce gloves are used.

The retired heavyweight champion boxed in good style and moved sharply last night although he was carrying considerable excess weight at the midriff.

Louis said he is willing to meet any challenger in the proposed exhibitions. He added he hopes that the New York state boxing commission will allow at least one in Madison Square Garden.

Asked if he was considering a comeback, Louis said: "I'm not thinking along those lines now."

He planned to fly today to San Francisco where Ezzard Charles will

## Booster Club Formed by Local Sportsmen Group

A new Klamath Falls Booster club was formed last night by about 25 sportsmen who gathered at the Winema hotel in an informal session. It was decided that officers wouldn't be elected until plans had been formulated for the aims and purposes of the new sportsmen's group.

However, a committee was selected to draw up a platform for the new group. The committee consists of: Chuck Bonney, chairman; Skeets O'Connell, Paul Deller, Ken Klahn, Lyle Kellstrom, George Flitcraft and Floyd Wynne.

The group has voted to meet next Monday evening at 7:30 at the Winema hotel for the purpose of completing their organizational plans. It was decided at last night's meeting that the club would be open to all interested sportsmen, and the basic purpose would be the promotion and boosting of athletic endeavors in Klamath Falls and vicinity.

At last night's meeting, Coaches Bob Hendershot of Klamath High and Daugherty of OTI spoke briefly of both last week's and this week's football games, and motion pictures were shown of Klamath High squad scrimmages, as well as a complete showing of last year's Klamath-Bend game.

As official name has not yet been chosen by the group, but a preference was shown in many quarters for the present title of "Booster" club.

## Rapid Rolly At Fullback

SEATTLE, Oct. 11 (AP) — Rapid Rolly Kirby, expected to be in top shape by this Saturday, will romp from the fullback spot when the University of Washington Huskies tangle with Stanford.

Kirby's switch to fullback was made necessary when Coach Howie Odell learned yesterday that it was extremely doubtful if either Hugh McElhenny or Hank Tiedemann will have shaken off their hurts by game time. McElhenny already has missed two games and Tiedemann one.

## Frosh Eleven Nips Ashland

The KUHS freshman footballers nipped the Ashland frosh, 14 to 13, Saturday on the losers' field.

Ken Young, halfback, scored all of the Klamath points in the first quarter, plunging over the line for two scores in the first quarter and booting the extra points.

Ashland scored in the third and fourth quarters. Klamath was on the Ashland one-yard line when the game ended.

Detroit — Chuck Davey, 141½, Detroit, knocked out Ken Brown, 145, Detroit (2).

defend his heavyweight title against Pat Valentino Friday.

## Boxer Near Death

DETROIT, Oct. 11 (AP) — Talmadge Bussey, 36-year-old Detroit lightweight, lay near death today after being knocked out in the ninth round of a ring battle last night.

Surgeons performed a delicate operation to remove a blood clot from his brain. Several hours later they reported the fighter's condition "slightly improved but still critical."

Bussey and Luther Rawlings of Chicago fought.

A hard left to the jaw knocked the Detroit Negro unconscious in the eighth round. The bell rang before the referee had finished counting him out, and his seconds revived him to start the ninth round.

But with Bussey ready to collapse, Referee Herman Spinelli stopped the fight after only a blow or two had been struck in the ninth. Rawlings was awarded a technical knockout, and Bussey fell unconscious to the mat.

## Leafs Bow To All-Stars

TORONTO, Oct. 11 (AP) — The Toronto Maple Leafs still are looking for their first victory over a National Hockey league all-star team today.

Coach Hap Day's Stanley Cup champions, bowed 3-1, to an all-star team last night before 13,513 shirt-sleeved customers in Maple Leaf Gardens.

The defeat was the third straight for the Leafs who have captured hockey's highest honor, the Stanley Cup, the past three years. They lost 4-3, two years ago and 3-1 last season.

Two-thirds of the gross gate of \$25,892.25 went to the players' pension fund and the remainder to six Toronto charities.

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