

Champion Jimmy Carter Wins on Pay Nights . . .

By JIMMY BRESLIN
NEA Staff Correspondent
TOLEDO, O. — (NEA) — Carmen Basilio had just floored Johnny Cunningham for the fourth time and now the referee was moving to stop it.

Basilio got up and shook his head as he walked for the exit. "Why in hell," he asked the one who had just floored him, "that Jimmy Carter go around and lose fights to somebody like this Cunningham? Can't imagine a champion of the world not being able to stiffen a guy."

As the fellow talked Cunningham, the Baltimore garbage man who holds a 10-round decision over lightweight Champion Carter, was just leaving the ring after his knockout on Ray Arcel's Saturday night fight.

Two months before, he had

shocked the boxing business with a victory over Carter in Miami, Fla.

Cunningham is just another example of the helpless feeling you get watching James J. Carter in a losing fight. It's like being stuck in a traffic jam with a high-powered car. The vehicle is there, it's got gas in the tank — but it just can't get going.

Since May 25, 1951, when Carter won the championship with a 15-round knockout of Ike Williams, he has lost six fights and been held to two draws. On one of his losses — to Lauro Salas — the title went with it. He won a return from Salas to get his crown back. He has lost 16 bouts in his entire career and been held in eight draws.

Yet Carter is spoken of in the same breath as Kid Gavilan, in

his title fights this year. Carter knocked Tommy Collins down 19 times in a Boston massacre, methodically chased and chopped down George Araujo in 12 rounds and stuck Armond Savoie in the deep-freeze with a single right hand punch in Montreal.

Between these devastating showings, dead-panned Carter has lost three bouts and been held to a draw.

It is easy to find an answer to the Carter riddle. You don't have to look any further than his next championship match which now appears to be a San Francisco scrap with Sid Flaherty's Eddie Chavez.

In California, they give Chavez a good chance to whip Carter. Along the shores of the Pacific they remember Carter losing to Art Aragon and Chavez and Salas

and being held to a draw by Babe Herman. People on the coast — and here is the piece which puts the puzzle together — will turn out in large numbers for a Carter-Chavez fight.

It ends the Carter riddle because actually the lightweight champion of the world is nothing more than an old-fashioned business fighter. He knows how to set up a big pay night and an easy match better than anybody who has come along since Benny Leonard set up the boys for big ones.

Carter lost to Savoie and set up a big Montreal pay night. That battle also set up a \$50,000 pay night against Collins. Araujo was a true challenger on paper, but Chavez has been put into the spotlight because of his decision over the champ.

Carter went through some lean years in the ring business and forced his manager, Willie Ketchum, to borrow \$10,000 even while he was the king. Carter had little appeal as a champ. So he went out and followed the old-time pattern. This isn't to infer that he lost bouts on purpose, but he simply showed up for a non-title fight in nothing more than average shape, listless and with little incentive.

Those non-title losses don't mean a thing.

Eddie Chavez — and the nation's television fans who will see the fight — are going to find that out in February.

Decision Left To Faloney

MIAMI, Fla. (AP) — A head-on collision between national champion Maryland, methodical steampunk of 10 opponents, and Oklahoma, a fast moving machine after a sputtering start, rocked the Orange Bowl Friday.

Eagerly awaiting what was supposed to be the real answer to Maryland's strength were 69,839 ticket holders and a nationwide television audience.

Some persons weren't convinced that undefeated Maryland should have been rated first over once-beaten Notre Dame in the Associated Press poll.

Oklahoma took care of that question. The Sooners were beaten, 28-14, by Notre Dame in their opener at Tatum Field, by Pitt. Then Coach Ed Wilkinson made some personnel changes and they won their next eight games.

Wilkinson and Coach Jim Tatum each thought his team should be underdog.

"If we had Bernie Faloney at quarterback, I believe we would have a little better than an even chance," Tatum said Thursday night.

Faloney's injured left knee was in such condition that Tatum left it up to him to decide if he should play.

Wilkinson didn't agree with Tatum that the absence of Faloney could make a big difference or that Maryland should be the underdog.



ANOTHER CARNERA? — Trainer Steve Klause gives Milo Maligoli the once-over. The seven-foot, 270-pound Italian hasn't fought yet, but the idea is to pawn him off as another Primo Carnera, who made a fortune (and was fleeced out of it) in the United States with little pugilistic talent.



SPLITTING T — Bud Wilkinson (left) congratulates Jim Tatum on Maryland's all-conquering football season, but the Terrapins' coach knows Oklahoma will be ready in the Miami Orange Bowl on New Year's Day. Wilkinson succeeded Tatum as Sooners' head man.



ER — Keeping in shape new job as a Phillies' is Duke Markell, re-tire New York policeman. The old Bronx product led national League in its, chalked up a no-for Syracuse against Toronto. (NEA)

HAUL AND!

Georgia Tech In Fifth Try

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — West Virginia's football team, belittled by many, met Georgia Tech's vaunted "lowjackets" in the 20th annual Sugar Bowl game Friday.

Although Tech had the poorer record with eight victories and a tie in 11 games and came into the fray with one of its better backs in poor condition, the Southeastern Conference team was favored by 13 points.

West Virginia won eight of nine games and captured the Southern Conference title, but its accomplishments were discounted by numerous critics.

Coach Art (Pappy) Lewis brought his Mountaineers here late Thursday for a brief glimpse of the playing field and then hustled to a quiet spot for the night. Georgia Tech's forces have been here since Wednesday.

Bobby Dodd, seeking his fifth straight bowl success since taking over as Tech's head coach, said Leon Hardman definitely would not start but the halfback would see service, probably late in the second quarter.

DIES
MILWAUKEE, Ore. (AP) — A city policeman was found dead at the wheel of his car in front of the City Hall here Thursday. A heart attack was blamed for the death of the patrolman, James W. Worell, 45.



GENERAL ORDER — Landing a baby snailfish is rare than catching a big one, but it proved no trick for Gen. Mark W. Clark. He bagged a seven-pounder a few miles out on the Atlantic off Fort Lauderdale, Fla., as a guest of Capt. Fred Voss aboard the "Lucky Lady." (NEA)

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Meanwell 'Rockne' of Basketball

By HARRY GRAYSON
NEA Sports Editor

NEW YORK — (NEA) — The football rules makers were run ragged trying to keep up with Knute K. Rockne of Notre Dame.

Dr. Walter E. Meanwell was the Knute Rockne of basketball.

Yet his death the other day at 69 attracted little attention nationally.

Doc Meanwell had as much to do with the basketball rules as Rockne had with those of football.

Meanwell mainly was responsible for the elimination of the dribble for one season, but public de-nouncement brought it back a year later.

Meanwell never played basketball as a collegian, but brought fame to Wisconsin with his short pass, criss-cross, pivot and bounce pass game.

OR ELSE

Players had to fit into the Meanwell system or else. Some highly-talented youngsters couldn't make the switch, but Meanwell also brought out the latent talent of many who appeared mediocre at the outset.

In Meanwell's first season at Madison, the team went through 15 games, 12 in the Big Ten, without

defeat. Teams played 10 or so fewer games then. Meanwell's 1913 squad lost only to Chicago and won another undisputed title. Ever hear of a side getting shut out in basketball? Well, Wisconsin defeated Parsons, 50-0, in 1914! The Badgers held Minnesota to a total of 16 points in two games. They had what might be loosely described as a stout defense.

STICKS

Meanwell stuck around for a long time, but his star set in 1932, when warfare with football coach Dr. Clarence Spears broke out. "Fat Spears" went to Wisconsin believing that he would some day become athletic director. Meanwell had the same idea.

Football players circulated a petition aimed at getting rid of Spears. One of them admitted that Meanwell had sanctioned the idea.

Meanwell and Spears got their walking papers, paving the way for Harry Stuhldreher to walk in and take both the athletic directorship and the head football post. As things developed, the one-time Notre Dame horseman was wading into trouble, too.

Meanwell disciple Bud Foster assumed the basketball spot and

remains on the premises.

So, you see, Dr. Walter E. Meanwell wielded a lasting influence in more ways than one.

It comes as a distinct surprise to those who saw him at Madison Square Garden every time Bevo Francis scored more than 10 points. . . . Little Rio Grande's widely-ballyhooped had notched 32 against Adelphi, 39 against Villanova, 41 against Providence. . . . A fair-to-middlin' big man should hold him to a low total and compile a sizable one while Bevo tries his hand at guarding. . . . Stanley Jones wears a 52 suit. . . . They wanted Jones in uniform for a television appearance in New York, but had a frightful time finding shoulder pads big enough. . . . Maryland's 253-pound All-American tackle finally wore those of Arnie Weinmeister, the professional Giants' six-foot four-inch, 260-pound tackle. . . . Walter Alston attended the minor league meeting in Atlanta to please the Brooklyn brass. . . . The Dodgers' new manager begged off when it came to the major powwows in New York. . . . The big of Ohio country boy contends that his business is strictly on the field.

Gator Bowl Stars Carry Same Number

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — No. 24 was the most watched player on the field Friday as Texas Tech and Auburn met in the ninth annual Gator Bowl football game.

The special popularity of that was worn by both Bobby Cavazos of Texas Tech and Bobby Freeman of Auburn — top individual stars of these two offense-minded teams.

Cavazos was one of the 10 national leaders in rushing with 757 yards and second best in scoring with 80 points.

No telling how much more he would have done if Tech Coach Dewitt Weaver didn't have so much depth in the backfield. He used 24 ball carriers and 18 players figured in rolling up the nation's highest point total of 428 last fall.

Freeman's forte, on the other hand, was passing. He gained 603 yards in the air plus 341 on the ground for a total of 944. Cavazos passed for only 67, giving him a personal offense of 824 yards.

Auburn, like Texas Tech, used a full unit substitution system and Freeman got to play only about half the time.

Top Sports Thrill

Matthews' Upset By Cockell Heads List

By JACK HEWINS
SEATTLE (AP) — Three blazing minutes of bloody drama when the world caved in on Harry "Kid" Matthews brought the Pacific Northwest its greatest sports thrill of 1953.

There may be arguments from golfers, the basketball devout and the speedboat fanatics, but there can be no doubt among those who saw the Matthews-Don Cockell fight that here was the supreme moment of an exciting year.

Under the sharp lights of Sick's Stadium the biggest crowd in Northwest fight history — 577,000 worth of people — watched Matthews carve and rock the British Empire champion for eight rounds. Cockell had a cut under one eye you could hide a finger in. He was on the chopping block, ready for the final blow.

Then in the ninth round the fat, clumsy, courageous Cockell blew a low, battering ram punch through Matthews' guard and the Kid was on the deck, taking a nine-count while the silence hung over the jammed arena like a fused and threatening bomb.

Twice more Matthews dropped, once nearly sailing from the ring from the force of Cockell's bullish attack. At last the gong saved him and let the crowd breathe again. And you can get an argument today on any street corner from Vancouver, B.C., to Boise, Idaho, by recalling that Cockell was given a split decision. Pick either side.

up to a stirring climax and the battle of Ted Richards and Irvin Cooper in the 36-hole finals was one of the great spectator events of the year.

Basketball screams for recognition, pointing to several high spots. As if last spring's dramatics were not enough, Oregon State gave 1953 a farewell shiver of delight with its upset victory over Indiana's national champions.

Washington's great '53 team, scything all opposition on its way to the Pacific Coast Conference and regional titles, actually reached the climax when it crushed Seattle University in the regional playoffs at Corvallis. Arguments had raged for two seasons over the comparative strength of the two clubs. After that tussle Washington's third place finish nationally was almost an anticlimax.

But the selection of both Bob Houbriggs of Washington and little John O'Brien of Seattle U. on the All America hoop team marked another peak in the Northwest's 1953.

The top games were Oregon's Western International League could supply the top baseball thrill of the year. This was provided by Yakima's Legion Juniors when they won the Junior World Series.

As for the pros, their troubles were more dramatic than their achievements. Seattle dropped its two pilots, replacing General Manager Leo Miller with Dewey Soriano and Field Boss Bill Sweeney with Gerry Priddy. Financial problems beset the WIL from start to finish and several clubs appeared ready to fold. Civic support has saved Wenatchee, Yakima and Spokane.

Football's major stories were along similar lines, with Johnny Cherbeg stepping in as head coach at Washington and Babe Curfman moving out as top man at Idaho.

The top games were Oregon's defeat of Southern California and tie with California, and Washington State's upset of Washington.

Individual triumphs of note included Patricia Frisk's winning of the national women's junior figure skating crown and — making it a Pat hand — Patty Lesser's victory in the women's national collegiate golf tourney.

SPORTS SHORTS

The only triple play in the National League during 1953 was executed by the Cincinnati Redlegs. It was made on Aug. 30 at the expense of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Michigan State wrestling coach Fendley Collins went through his collegiate wrestling career at Oklahoma A. & M. without a defeat, witnessed by the biggest crowd you'd have to rate the Gold Cup race No. 1.

But golf is a slow-paced game, with thrills well spaced and smothered in tension. And while it was packed with the color and excitement of the moment, the Gold Cup was just another victory for the Sic-Mo-Shun fleet, more a chase than a race.

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