

Slowed-Up Gavilan Still Figures To Retain Crown

By JIMMY BRESLIN
NEA Staff Correspondent

PHILADELPHIA — (NEA) — Kid Gavilan, who has been named "the most exciting fighter to watch on television," and Johnny Saxton, whose style rocks people to sleep more often than his fists, meet for the Cuban Kid's welterweight title tonight at Convention Hall here.

The 15-round bout will be beamed into the nation's living rooms, where armchair fans figure to get immersed into a jangle of fists styles which should tax even the most accurate scoring system.

The bout originally was to have been held in September, but a combination of Gavilan's condition — plus a case of "mumps" — postponed it until now.

This is Gavilan's seventh defense of his 147-pound title. His last outing was in April when he was beaten back in his shot at the middleweight crown by busy Bobo Olson in Chicago.

Saxton, 24-year-old Long Island youth, has lost only two bouts in his career and holds victories over such as Joey Giardello and Joe Nicell.

In this one, however, Saxton doesn't figure to feel too well even if he wins the title. Johnny has a 15-day date in a New York City jail waiting for him the minute the fight is over. He received the sentence for flagrant disregard of traffic tickets.

With this weighing on his mind, plus a lack of mobility in the ring, Saxton is a definite underdog.

Styles would seem to determine this. Gavilan is at his best against a slow-moving opponent. The Kid usually skips and moves around this type of fighter, sparing him with that busy left hand.

That is, the normal Gavilan can do these things. But time and an accumulation of over 100 fights have robbed a lot of the bounce from the Kid's legs. He showed this plainly in his try for Olson's crown.

In that one, he tried to stand still more than usual and found he couldn't pick his spot for flurries against an always-punching Olson.

He could come into trouble against Saxton because of these. Johnny is far from a flash when he fights, but he has a steady wear-em-down style which works best in close. If Gavilan finds he would rather stand around than bounce and move, he is almost guaranteed to get a lot more fight than he can use.

There has been speculation about Gavilan's right hand, which, he says, he broke before the Olson bout. However, the Kid's right never has meant much more to him than an extra set of the jungle drums he likes to beat. The left, both jab and searing hook, always has been his weapon.

Saxton, by accident or design, has figured in more weird fights than boxing people care to remember. Television fans remember two of them clearly — his 1952 frightful in succession — which saw Ref Ruby Goldstein throw Livio Minelli and then Lester Felton out of the ring for not trying.

Johnny is a hum-drum sort of fighter, a bore-in specialist, who doesn't appear to do much even when he gets close to his man, but can score heavily with short and sharp jolts.

Saxton has never had a weight problem, but Gavilan has had one right along. More than once, the emphatic, talking Cuban has said he couldn't make the 147-pound limit any more. In his last try at that weight — in a top-close — for comfort joust with Carmen Basilio — he was drawn and weak.



KID GAVILAN
... defender



JOHNNY SAXTON
... challenger

Diamond World Mourns Loss Of Hugh Duffy

BOSTON (U) — The baseball world Wednesday mourned the loss of Hugh Duffy, whose fabulous .438 batting average in 1894 for the Boston National League baseball club is an all-time record.

The 87-year-old star died Tuesday at his home from a heart ailment. He would have been 88 next month. Active in baseball almost to the end, he was a Boston Red Sox scout through 1953.

He broke into the major leagues as an outfielder with the Chicago Nationals in 1888 and hit better than .300 in 11 of his 18 big league seasons. His wife, Nora, died Aug. 22, 1953. They had no children.

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Pepsi Cola	12
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Last night's results:
Ricks' B, Griggs' A
Stukle 1, VFW
Weyerhaeuser 2, Pepsi Cola 1
Great Northern 2, Oregon Tech 2
Carl's 0, Ellington 4
Calhoun 2, Superior Tery 2

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FOOTBALL

NEW YORK — Oklahoma retained the No. 1 position in The Associated Press poll.

NEW YORK — Southern California's Jon Arnett led his team his team with 179 yards in rushing and scored three touchdowns against Oregon was chosen The Associated Press Back of the Week.

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All-Stars Boast Top Hoop Talent

CHICAGO (U) — Some of the brightest stars in collegiate basketball circles last season will get together Wednesday night in an attempt to defeat the Minneapolis Lakers, champions of the National Basketball Assn.

Among the all-stars will be fabulous Bevo Francis of Rio Grande whose scoring feats the past several seasons were sometimes unbelievable.

Francis will be surrounded by

such stars as Joe Bertrand and Dick Rosenthal, Notre Dame; Frank Ramsey and Cliff Hagen, Kentucky; Johnny Kerr, Illinois; Bob Leonard, Indiana; Bob Pettit, Louisiana State; Frank Selvy, Fur-

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