

# HARD FIGHTER AND GENTLEMAN

### Bill Brennan Who Was Killed Sunday Night in Every Way Ranked High in Pugilistic Profession.

**By FAIR PLAY**  
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New York, June 17.—Bill Brennan who was done to death—it is thought by hired assassins—in his uptown cabaret restaurant Sunday night, was in every way a credit to the pugilistic profession from which he retired last fall.

Born in Ireland Bill came to the Middle West at an early age. He first showed a marked ability as a baseball player and the best was carried through his career not from a punch but from being struck by a baseball.

He profited by his success in the prize ring to improve himself in many ways. No fighter had a more pleasing manner than Brennan and his genial disposition and quiet demeanor were more suggestive of a Wall Street man than a pugilist. He was one of those fighters who improve all their opportunities and at the time of his death he was a well read man and altogether a fellow of high intelligence.

Ring annals will certainly assign him to a high place in his profession. There never was a tougher opponent than Brennan and it was his misfortune to come into his prime at a time when Dempsey was at his zenith.

Bill was not only a clever boxer but a good hitter—what might be called a knocker out of second raters. It was only the really first class men who could withstand Brennan's attack and the writer has always believed he would have hit with the best of them had he been endowed with a natural ferocity. This he did not have. Bill was a natural gentleman and when the crucial test came against men of first rank he always fell short.

His two best fights were against Dempsey in 1920 and Firpo in the winter of 1923. He caught Dempsey at a time when Jack had been trying to train mainly at 42nd street and Broadway and for 12 rounds he gave Jack as good as he got and a little more. Finally he was stowed away with a blow to his solar plexus.

Carpenter is still a real drawing card. Francois Descamps has to keep a card index of bouts that are offered. Lots of them are good ones from a financial standpoint, too.

The trouble is that Descamps agreed to box Gene Tunney if Billy Gibson, the marine's manager, would lay off it until after the Carpenter-Gibbons fight. Now Francois wants Gibson to set back the Tunney engagement again so that Carp can grab a lot of the good money now offering—money, be it noted, that might not be offered were the orchid man to be flattened by Gene.

This will happen, for while Tunney is a first class good fellow his heart is not so large and his instincts not so sympathetic as Tommy Gibbons' are.

It looks as though Pancho Villa and Abe Goldstein will shortly be matched. It isn't so much that Abe wants Villa's title as that Pancho wants Goldstein's bantam crown.

About the only thing a crack flyweight can do is to look higher, there being so few good men in his own class. True, so far as Villa is concerned, there is Genaro, and it seems to be on the cards that a battle between the two for the world's flyweight title will be held this summer.

What Bud Taylor needs is more experience. He has everything else. Villa's crouch seemed to bother him more than would have been the case had he had a wide experience.

Bud says that experience is just what he is after these days. When he comes East again he will be filled up with that valuable commodity, he says. Taylor, by the way, will meet Pete Sarmiento in Milwaukee on June 19. A real battle promises.

## BASEBALL QUESTION BOX

If you have some question to ask about baseball—

Write to John B. Foster, the man who helped make the rules under which the game is played today. If you want a personal reply enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise your question will be answered in this column.

Address: John B. Foster, special baseball correspondent of The Daily Advance, 111 World Building, New York.

Question—Batter bunts the ball in front of the plate and the ball bounds up and hits his bat which is still in his hand. Is the batter out?

Answer—If the batter was in his box when the ball hit his bat it should rule it a foul as the batter's box is in foul ground.

Question—Did Merkle make his not-touching second base play in a world series game or in a National League game? Was it a bonehead play? In what year was it made?

Answer—The play was made in a National League game between New York and Chicago in 1908 and it was not a bonehead play. For years players had been in the habit of run-

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ning from the field the moment the winning run crossed the plate. That was all that Merkle did. Technically he could have been forced out for not touching second. There was absolutely no reason why he should touch second as the winning run had scored on a clean hit by which the batter could not be thrown out at first. Chicago protested and was upheld without any consideration as to the play from the merits of sportsmanship and the actual completion of a run.

Question—Two hands are out. Runner is on second. Batter singles to the outfield and is run down trying to make second. Runner who was on second scores before the third out is made. Does the run count?

Answer—The run counts, and the batter gets a single.

Question—If there are two strikes on the batter and the next pitched ball hits the bat accidentally and rolls fair is it supposed to be a foul or fair hit?

Answer—It is a fair hit. The fact that the bat and the ball meet accidentally does not take away the responsibility of the batter.

Question—If a player bats a home run and he skips a base because he is too fast is he out if you touch the base with the ball?

Answer—He is out if the ball gets to the base before he can legally reach his way to it. Players who are too fast are as much a menace to their teams as those who are too slow.

## CHICAGO CLUB IS BIG GAINER

### With the Giants Bobbing in and Out of First Place and Yanks Feeling Shaky New York Teams May Yet Lose.

**By JOHN B. FOSTER**  
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New York, June 17.—Perhaps the most significant fact in major league baseball, as the clubs enter upon the fighting center of the season, when they must reduce to 25 players each, is that the Giants stand some 50 points lower in the percentage column than they did a year ago.

The Giants were in first place Monday, but by the narrowest kind of margin, and they have been bobbing in and out of first for several weeks. They are a good half week back in the race, as compared with 1923, and they have not the margin of games won to fall back upon in case of eventualities that they had then.

The big gainer in the National is Chicago. The Cubs have a net advantage of some 175 points over their standing last mid-June and they are the first club that has dropped the Giants from first place, even temporarily, since 1922.

The Giants, it is true, have taken great advantage of the other Eastern clubs, as they always have done in years in which they won the championship. But they have met a different kind of resistance from other sources and they are on the defensive against the West, which has the better of them to date.

Brooklyn, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh have not done as well, so far, as they did in 1923, but the relative difference is not great and they still have a chance to get into the fray, which would make it all the harder for the Giants.

St. Louis seems to be inferior to its 1923 form. The clubs that are better than last year at this time are Philadelphia and Boston. Obviously neither of them can win the championship, but the more they improve, the better it will be for them and for the rest of the league. Boston especially needs to make a showing, for with the Boston Americans going strong in the American League race, the Braves are having a hard time interesting the bean city fans.

The Cubs are the finest team of runners-up. They have fought their way up because they could show something. But for the debacle against Cincinnati, they might now be leading the Giants with two laps to spare.

If Cincinnati and Pittsburgh get into the fight the West will at last be a real menace in the National League.

The New York Americans have found it harder to get along in their league, too, and their percentage has been cut, but there is yet to prove a downright pugnacious, well founded and well fortified runner-up there.

Boston is making a lot of trouble and has gone through the West more than holding its own. But the fight must go further than it has to make it appear that Boston will last out both Detroit and St. Louis. If it does, there may be enough defeats sprinkled here and there to hurt St. Louis and Detroit in the same proportion that the Yanks are hurt, and the Yanks may squeeze through. It is a fighter race than the National, because it is more compact. Today there are less than 200 points separating top and bottom.

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## SHATTERED OLYMPIC RECORDS



Leroy Brown, clubmate of Scholz, who bettered the Olympic running high jump with a leap of 6 feet 6 1/2 inches.



Jackson Scholz, of the New York Athletic Club, who lettered Olympic records for the 15-meter dash at try-outs for the Olympic games recently staged.

## The Sportsman

(Copyright, 1924, by The Advance)

New York, June 17.—The greatest boat load of American athletes ever assembled are off for the 1924 Olympics. Their greatness was established beyond question at Harvard Stadium on Friday and Saturday. But one question, more important perhaps, than whether they will win or lose, remains. That is: what sort of reputation for American sportsmanship will they bring back from abroad when they come home?

America has the highest type of sportsmanship. That fact has been demonstrated on many a field in this country. But somehow, in the past, we have failed to secure the friendship and admiration of our foreign competitors.

Some say it is because they are so jealous of our success. But that would hardly seem to account in full for the general foreign distrust and enmity which at times seems actually to bristle with antagonism. If we are so provocative, then, we must be a disturbing element against the very purpose for which these Olympic games were revived by the good Baron Coubertin.

If, therefore, we err this time, let it be upon the side of magnanimity. We want no favors. We need none. But we do need, overwhelmingly and above all, the sincere good will of all these nations against which we compete.

And it will take the highest grade of diplomacy, backed up by the conduct of every representative of ours, to turn the tide which has been setting steadily against America in this respect.

## ROTARY CLUBS ARE MEETING AT TORONTO

Toronto, June 17.—"Rotary's destiny is the establishment of a world fellowship of business and professional men, united in the Rotary idea of service," said President Guy Gundaker opening the fifteenth annual Rotary convention here today.

"A world fellowship, while necessarily contingent on the extent and successful establishment of Rotary in all the nations of the world, is likewise contingent on the correctness of the standards of business practice of the men privileged to enter that fellowship," he continued.

"Until men meet on the common ground of correct business methods, there can be no world fellowship of business men. The major Rotary activity for the immediate future will be an increasing and unceasing activity for better business methods and their standardization in codes."

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## Major League Baseball

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Monday's Scores  
New York, 7; St. Louis 2.  
Philadelphia, 8; Chicago, 3.  
Brooklyn, 5; Cincinnati, 2.  
Boston, 9; Pittsburgh, 4.

#### Standing of Teams.

	W.	L.	Pct.
New York	33	20	.622
Chicago	31	21	.596
Brooklyn	28	22	.560
Cincinnati	26	26	.500
Pittsburgh	22	27	.449
Boston	22	25	.468
St. Louis	21	32	.396
Philadelphia	18	28	.391

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Monday's Scores  
Detroit, 3; Boston 0.  
Chicago, 9; Washington, 8.  
Cleveland, 2; New York, 1.  
St. Louis, 10; Philadelphia, 2.

#### Standing of Teams.

	W.	L.	Pct.
New York	28	21	.571
Boston	27	22	.551
Detroit	30	25	.545
Chicago	25	24	.511
St. Louis	25	26	.490
Washington	24	26	.480
Cleveland	23	26	.463
Philadelphia	19	21	.387

of ethics. In countries where crafts are organized with great National associations, the greatest opportunity for achievement will be found in Rotary's campaign for written codes of correct standards of business prac-

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