

Big Season Looms Before Champion in Lightweight Circles

NEW CROP IS LIGHT

By JACK VEIOCK,
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NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—Nineteen-twenty
promises to be a mighty busy year for
Benny Leonard, dapper little boss of the
lightweight division, if he chooses to
make it so. Leonard is in demand

everywhere, and while the present-day crop of lightweight challengers is not an imposing one by any means, there are plenty of boys boxing around 133 pounds who are eager to mingle with "Benneh."

champion in the near future, when the late lamented twenty-round affair, canceled at New Haven, is pared to eight rounds and transferred to New Jersey.

TENDLER SOON TO GET CHANCE.

Leonard says Dundee is the best of his many rivals. But there are others. Lew Tendler, the Philadelphia southpaw, will get his chance at Benny before many months have passed if he wants it.

There's another lad who has just "arrived" at the point where he is demanding recognition. His name is Eddie Fitzsimmons and he is a new York product. Eddie has been boxing more or less since 1914, but he never attracted a great deal of attention until he got up

der Danny Morgan's wing. Of late he has cut some figure, with Morgan hurling adjectives in salvos and tossing Eddie's hat into the front yards of all the good lightweight from Leonard on down the line.

"You'll hear more of Fitzsimmons if we can coax these scary 133-pounders into the ring with him," says Danny.

"Trouble is, they're all busy dodging him. They claim he is not a legitimate lightweight, that he's a black-

133. That is all wrong. The trouble is that Eddie hits too hard. He isn't playful, not even in a gymnasium. Ask John Dundee. He knows."

Fitzsimmons' record as submitted by Dumb Daniel proves that he is ready for the best boys in his division. He has scored knockouts and won from many good, tough boys over distances varying from six to twelve rounds. He has beaten such boys as Phil Bloom,

Doyle, Charlie White, Louie Bogash and Young Borrel, and has knocked victories over Ray Rivers, Shaver O'Brien, Harry Carlson and Patsy Cline.

If Fitz is what Danny claims he is—and he sure looks like a comer from this distance—he deserves his chance. The lightweight crop is none too brilliant, especially since Leonard stands out so prominently above all the rest, and the advent of a newcomer who has

Plastic managers throughout the country are combing the grms for lightweight material. Billy Gibson has even gone so far as to put out a line for boys of promise who may step into Leonard's shoes some day when the time arrives for his divorce from the title. Gibson has selected Joe Benjamin, the California lightweight, as a probable successor to Leonard, and though Joe has

In far-off Australia they believe that Llew Edwards, the Antipodean champion, is better than Leonard. George Baillieu, who visited this country, as well as England and France, in search of boxers to appear at the stadium in Sydney, saw Leonard and Soldier Bartfield box at Philadelphia and went back home with the report that Edwards is by far the better of the two. Snowy Baker, writing

Baillieu's impressions as follows:
"George Baillieu, the stadium's representative, who returned to Sydney by the Sonoma after his search for boxers in America and England, saw Benny Leonard, the world's lightweight champion, opposed to Sergt. Bartheld in a ten-round no-decision bout. Before the contest Mr. Baillieu had offered Leonard a big sum to visit Australia and meet Llew Edwards in Sydney for the world's

Leonard in action, but knew of him only through his record.

**SYDNEY LOSES
BIG TITLE BOUT.**

"After having seen him opposed to Bartfield he was more than ever convinced that Llew Edwards is at this moment the best lightweight boxer in the world. On this conviction he offered Leonard \$50,000 for two fights in Sydney, the first to be against Llew Edwards."

second against any man whom he selected, but Leonard was not agreeable. He was keener on the ten-round no-decision bouts than risking his title over twenty, so Sydney was robbed of seeing what might have been one of the greatest lightweight events in boxing history."

Turning to Sandlots for the Future Greats

Why not? There is younger and better material on some of the sandlot teams than is to be found on a lot of the minor league clubs.

And, too, there are a lot of other reasons.

The big league managers at last have awakened the fact that a lot of good baseball material is going to waste, or being grabbed off by the middlemen of baseball, the minors, when it might as well go directly into the makings of a big league team.

But the awakening was forced on to the majors, at that. Unable to get the players needed through the draft and finding prices for minor league stars

stances scarce, they had to turn to the sandlot. And it is going to be a great thing for the major leaguers, too, even if they did adopt the idea through compulsion.

Take the case of the Cleveland club, for instance. Last year there was a young sandlotter named George Uhle. He went south with the Spokes and came back looking good enough to carry around the circuit a few weeks. He pitched so well

This spring Cleveland is taking three more sandlotters for a spring training. One of them, George Cykowski, is such a promising prospect that Branch Rickey, Cardinal manager, threatened to go before the national commission to air a claim he is said to have on the amateur's services. The result in Cleveland is added interest in the Spokes. The amateurs in Cleveland and their friends far outnum-

that the amateur faction will be mightily interested in the Spokes when one or more amateurs are in the fold.

Why shouldn't all Cleveland boys, who are stars at the game, be on the payroll of the Spokes? That would add local interest to the team. Suppose Cleveland had Peckinpaugh and Dode Paskert, both Cleveland boys, in their lineup. And Rube Marquard, too, who formerly was a Clevelander. Connie Mack used to grab

ried them along until they were ready to break in. Stuffy McInnis is an example. Branch Rickey has a happy faculty of developing major leaguers from green college stars—George Sisler and Heathcote.

Maybe the big league scouts might well employ their time looking over the sandlot talent the coming summer. It has been suggested to Lee Fohl, former Cleveland manager, that he accept an offer to manage a big amateur team in

Cleveland and in the meantime act as scout for big league clubs about the sandlots, making recommendations on straw. He thought had the "makings." It is an idea that is bound to grow, for amateur baseball has been expanding rapidly and some real talent has been developed there. The sandlotters are all going up. For some of the minor league players are on their way down.

