

STIRRIN', the DOPE

By VEDDER GARD

RUTH STARTS SINCERE EFFORT TO RESTORE DIAMOND PRESTIGE

Bambino Hustles in Gym and on Road—Aims to Strengthen Legs.

By Henry L. Farrell

United Press Staff Correspondent
NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—More hits, more homers, more happiness and less fat is the 1926 program that Babe Ruth has set out for himself.

The Babe, tiring of putting on weight raising chickens on his New England estate, has abandoned the country and is getting himself in shape for another baseball campaign in a gymnasium here.

He is doing two hours on the road in the morning and three hours in the afternoon on rowing machines, on the handball court and the rings.

Down to 215

"I weighed 226 pounds when I left the farm, and I'm down to 215 pounds now," the Babe said. "That still sounds like a lot of weight for a ball player, but it's getting solid, and I'm a good-sized fellow."

The Babe did not take offense when it was talked that his bosses at the New York Yankee office had decided aged players and fat players on the club could not spend two weeks at Hot Springs in the spring with all checks paid.

"It isn't the dough," the Babe said. "If I thought it would do me any good, I'd pay my own freight and go down there for some baths and some golf. The trouble is that the fellows who go down there try to do too much in a few days."

"I loaded around all last winter and thought I could take a few hikes and a few baths and get myself in shape. I tried to do too much and broke down, and I know the reason now."

Realizes He Slipped

"My legs went bad on me last year and I know I didn't play real baseball. The fellows told me the only way I could keep the 'dogs' working was to keep using them, and I've been using them all winter."

"I went up with Eddie Collins and other fellows into the Canadian woods and I had to ride on a truck for a couple of days, but after a week or so I was able to out-hike some of the boys."

"But the old eye is still good and the arm is all right and I think I can hit a few of them out of the park next season if the 'old dogs' stand up under me, and I'm getting them in shape to stand."

BIG PAUL FAILS TO IMPRESS

Berlenbach Lacks Cleverness to Become Star Heavyweight.

By Joe Williams

NEA Service Writer
NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Paul Berlenbach never will rank with the immortals of the prize ring, despite all the glowing phrases you may read of his potential powers as a coming heavyweight.

Paul can hook with the left and shoot the punch over straight.

Though he does not seem to be a master of timing, the Manhattan Dutchman manages to get considerable power into the blow. The effect is that of a jarring jolt, rather than an explosion.

Proceeds are to be turned over to the Shriners' hospital for crippled children. A crowd of 20,000 was expected.

One-Handed Fighter

But Paul employs his right hand solely for defensive purposes. If it were not for this it would be easy to enthuse over Berlenbach as a possible conqueror of Jack Dempsey in months to come. A strictly one-handed fighter seldom catches up with lasting fame, and this is what Paul seems to be.

Old Man Hickey, who manages the Dutchman, thinks he is the ring's new man of destiny. Hickey relates how Berlenbach was deaf and dumb at the age of 2, following an attack of scarlet fever. Now he has these faculties restored ten years later by accidentally touching a live electric wire, how he took up wrestling and went on to win the Olympic championship; how he decided of his own accord that boxing was better suited to his temperament and muscular gifts, and how, starting as a preliminary fighter two years ago, he climbed by gradual degrees to the light heavyweight championship.

Hickey Dominates Berlenbach

Berlenbach is Hickey all over. The once trainer and mentor of old Bob Fitzsimmons completely dominates him. Hickey's moods are Berlenbach's. Hickey's thoughts are the fighter's. Berlenbach's own personality is completely submerged in the older man's influence.

Hickey is boxing instructor at the New York A. C. That is where he and Berlenbach met. Berlenbach was an amateur wrestler at the time. He began fiddling around with the gloves. Hickey ignored him. Berlenbach worked all the harder. One day Hickey put on the gloves with the youngster. The story is Berlenbach crumpled the professor with a left hook to the body right off.

Kayored His Instructor

Whether this is one of the picturesque little legends that spring up to furnish conversational background for a new and sudden success, I don't know; but at any rate Hickey immediately became Berlenbach's manager.

Hickey is credited with being the author of the famous "shift" with which Fitzsimmons gained so many of his notable triumphs in the yester-years of the sport. This shift consisted of a bluff to hit with the right hand, a sudden shift of body and feet, followed by a quick planting of the left to the waistline.

Berlenbach does not use the shift at all. It is not hard to understand why either. The shift is a strategic maneuver demanding shrewdness and mental trickery. Fitzsimmons was excellently equipped to use it, but Berlenbach is about as cagey as a wooden Indian.

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