

LIMERICK BOXERS OF THE PAST

RUGBY NOTES Active Weel

Paddy Healy's Unbeaten Record

(By N. M.)

(By J. M. "K. C.")

WHEN we realise the wonderful progress amateur boxing has made in this country since the formation of the Irish Amateur Boxing Association in 1911, it brings our minds back to the early years when the sport had not the recognition or support it enjoys to-day.

In those days the only means a boxer had of getting a fight was by issuing a challenge in a Dublin weekly paper called "Sport," which devoted a column for that purpose. This was usually replied to through the same medium, as promoters were very few. It was the challenger's friends who usually financed and staged the show, and as boxing was not so universally popular as it is to-day great risks and responsibility had to be taken. Hence I pay tribute to those gallant few who in days gone by helped to keep the sport alive in our city. One outstanding amongst them was the late Paddy Healy.

THE PERFECT ATHLETE.

Healy, with his magnificent physique, had all the essentials that go to make a first-class heavy-weight—a knock-out punch and a fighting spirit that was unconquerable, with height, reach and weight—the perfect athlete.

I do not intend to deal with his wonderful deeds as an oarsman or International footballer, because his name is a household word in the realms of those sports. But as an outstanding boxer of that time he had no equal in Ireland.

Healy first came into public notice when Louie Smith and the late Joe McGrath ran their boxing booth in Byrnes Field on the Military Road, now Crescent Avenue. Their principal fighter was Mickey Head of Dublin, who was taking on all comers, and, of course, "putting them away."

MEMORABLE FIGHTS

Healy turned up one night, and to the surprise of the audience went the full six rounds in a terrific fight, which was declared a draw. He next fought Patsy Kavanagh, Army and Naval Middle-weight champion, and won in six rounds; fought Kavanagh again and stopped him in four rounds. He then fought Hector Atkinson at Kilkee and won in four rounds. His next was his memorable fight with Sini Robinson, Heavy-weight champion of Jersey City, U.S.A., at Kilkee, when Healy won in 20 rounds. He again fought Robinson at Ennis and defeated him in 14 rounds. Fought Mick Galvin, Heavy-weight champion of Army and Navy, and won in six rounds.

HEAVY-WEIGHT CHAMPION OF IRELAND

He then fought Sergeant Begley, D.M.P., for the Heavy-weight championship of Ireland at the Athenaeum Hall, Limerick, and won in two rounds. At this time Jim Jeffreys, Heavy-weight champion of the world, came to Dublin and offered £100 to any man who would stay three rounds with him. Healy proceeded to Dublin with Jack "Holly" O'Halloran, his

then trainer, and accepted the challenge, but after an interview with Healy, Jeffreys' manager said, as his principal was to fight Tom Sharkey for the championship in three weeks, he could not run the risk of damaging his hands. Healy demanded this in writing, which was then published. Healy also offered to take on Tommy Burns the night he beat Jim Roche, but nothing was doing. This was the spirit of our champion.

TAIL PIECE—AMERICAN JOURNALISM.

In describing the sixth and last round of the World's Heavy-Weight Championship fight between Primo Carnera and Jack Sharkey, at the Madison Square Gardens, New York in which Carnera knocked out Sharkey, the holder of the title, in the sixth round, an American sporting scribe goes on to state—"As both men advanced for the sixth round, Sharkey rushed in with a left that will land to-morrow. Carnera countered this by digging in a left punch to Sharkey's mid-section that divided the dinner he had yesterday into eight equal portions." Sharkey looked as if he would like to be in heaven, but he suddenly thought there were no lbsers in there, and with all the power of his 14 stone odd 'hang' a right hook on Carnera's jaw that would have felled an ox. Primo smiled, as he thought it was the missus had only blown him a kiss.

SUNDAY PUNCH NOT ENOUGH.

Sharkey then realised that his Sunday punch, the best he had, was not enough, and as he had taken more punishment in this round than a country school teacher hands out all the winter, he decided to make one final effort, but here he made the mistake of coming too close to the "concrete mixer." It was then that Carnera brought that right of his up from the sub-basement, and when Sharkey stuck his chin into the elevator shaft, the next thing he knew he was surriding in the cool waters of Honolulu. Gee, it was a pip of a punch that would have made a brewer's chimney shaft bend in the middle, and I don't remember seeing anything like it since the night I gave 'back talk' to a Philadelphia cop. Say—why don't those boxing people get an educated referee, that could count to twenty, and give the other guy a chance.

READ IT AGAIN.

I notice a letter on Wednesday night's "Leader" from an authority on everything, but evidently not on boxing, because if he read the article on "Boxers of the Past" in last week's issue intelligently the answer to his question is obvious—a thing can't survive if it didn't exist.

It said: "At that time Limerick was at its peak with Boxing Clubs, etc."

That was nearly 25 years ago. The Mechanics' Club he mentions was only formed less than three years ago.

NOW that we have had plenty of Junior Cup time to read up the form of the Juvenile C thirty players who will battle for the same right to earn a place on the Irish-Shannon team to meet France a fortnight Richmond, hence, we wonder who the lucky Kick off fifteen will be.

The final trial takes place at c'clock headquarters to-morrow (Saturday). North Mu At Murrayfield, Scotland will clash at last are with our bogey team, France, and by bringin we await the result of that game. It is unfr

Coming back to our own team, my guess is that very few changes will be made in the Whites, or Probable fifteen. I still hold that Straindec will be the scrum half, with probably one change in the forwards. Clancy (London Irish and Connacht) may get the front row position, and so oust Griffin. One change has been announced in each team. Due to injury, McKay had to cry off the Whites. Davis (Dublin University) has been promoted from the Blues, his place on the Whites going to Crowley, of Lansdowne. K. Quinn has declared off the Whites, and his place goes to J. Blayne (Wanderers).

Munster Junior Cup.

The hardest of all cups to win, the Munster Junior Cup, will have its opening round on Sunday at Thomond Park, when the county side, Askeaton, meet the local favourites, Old Crescent. The trophy, presented by John Macaulay as far back as 1909, was first won by past students of Crescent College, Shannon hold the unique record of winning it in two successive seasons on three occasions. 1913-14 (no competition from 1914 to 1918) and 1919-20; 1923-24 and 1924-25; 1938-39 and 1939-40. Prior to 1909 Messrs. Tylers presented a cup for players under 18 years, which they subsequently withdrew.

Last season Old Crescent, by defeating Richmond in the first round, installed themselves as local favourites to make the semi-final of the Cup, but met their Waterloo at the hands of St. Mary's, who, subsequently, were defeated in the final by Constitution.

So far this season they have been presenting most attractive football and have amassed more than 300 points in fifteen matches. But now comes the Cup. The question is—will Old Crescent, who have an outstanding weakness as a scrum-maging power, be able to apply the science of good football against a heavier and determined country side, whose recent defeat (3-0) by Young Munster, Transfield Cup winners, does not reflect any discredit on them, as they were short several of their regular players.

Much will depend on the weather. Given a fine day I have no hesitation in tipping the ex-students, who have a grand back division. On the other hand, if the ground is heavy anything can happen. Popular captain of Old Crescent, Aiden Larkin, will be unable to lead his team, due to a recent serious injury. It is a pleasant duty to record that he overcame a very critical period and is well on the road to recovery.

The Juvenile Cup. In conjunction with the Munster

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(BY A. M. K.)

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