

SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

By JACK KEENE

While Gene Tunney still retains the title of American light heavy-weight champion, he has graduated from that class and is now a full-fledged heavyweight. He was a real heavyweight in his recent battle with Arminio Spalla, Italian, in which Gene was returned the

As a heavy Tunney may well expect to win more fame—and money—than he did as a light heavy. The picking is better. With the weight Tunney has added in recent months has come more hitting power with no de-

crease in speed or endurance. This alone makes Tunney a better fighter. He showed, too, against Spalla that he can take what the big maulers hand out and give some in return.

His added weight should help him in his coming battle with Georges Carpentier, which is to be staged July 22 or 23. A decisive victory in that melee will lead to a battle with Firpo or Gibbons. Gibbons may be a bit too tough for Gene, but the former A. E. F. star has the skill and defense to

hold his own in a battle with the Wild Bull of the Panapa.

Sam Hildreth, trainer of Zev, wants to bring Grey Lag out of stud and prep him to meet Epinaud when the French pet arrives in this country for a series of races. Hildreth and many of Grey Lag's admirers believe the horse has a better chance of making a showing or defeating the invader than the other leading nags now in training.

Grey Lag has been in stud only since spring, and in the opinion of most critics probably has not suffered as a result of this short lay-off.

Hildreth remembers the success he had with Purchase under similar conditions. Purchase had been retired to stud in the spring. Brought back in midsummer of 1921 he ran two wonderful races and won them. He was in shape when he went lame a few days before white stepping a fast mile.

Great things may well be expected of Owen Carroll, the Holy Cross College pitching star grabbed off by the Tigers.

Carroll's work with his college the past two seasons, and especially the last, stamps him as one of the best college pitchers produced in recent years. This does not assure him of an easy journey to fame in the majors, of course, but it does get him away to a good start.

A year ago Carroll went through the entire collegiate schedule with only one defeat. That was a 11-inning game against Princeton. This past season he went through the campaign undefeated.

Far back in the Cumberland mountains the little village of Ooltewah, Tenn., is watching the performance of a big league ball player, the first one of its home town boys to reach the majors. He is Luther Roy, young pitcher just taken on by the Cleveland Indians.

One of the greatest all-around college athletic stars in the country departed recently from the collegiate competition via the graduation route. He is Charles Black of the University of Kansas. His steps out wearing eight letters won in athletics. These were acquired in three major sports—three in football, three in basketball, and two in baseball.

HAW!

Frank Zuna will be one of the American marathon runners who will settle into a tireless stride at the crack of the gun when the Olympic marathon, the blue ribbon event of the international games, is run at Paris.

This despite the fact that when the American athletes sailed for Europe Zuna was told there was little chance of his being chosen for the race.

Zuna had acted against the advice of the Olympic committee in competing in two marathons in this country—Detroit and Baltimore—before the actual tryout

runs for the games were staged. Officials warned Zuna that in their opinion he would hurt himself out and thereby kill whatever chances he might have to outdistance the European stars in the big event.

Zuna, however, was allowed to accompany the team. It was also arranged that a short run would be held when the athletes had rounded into condition abroad, to determine whether or not Zuna was still in form. The race came off. Zuna was pitted against the man expected to take his place in the Olympic event.

The peppery runner was away with the gun and set a pace so fast that his rival dropped out after the third mile. Zuna continued the distance and maintained such a terrific gait throughout that he proved conclusively that he was ready to go the 26 miles when the right time came.

Which seems to be one on the committee.

Joe Ray, America's premier miler, will give Uncle Sam his best in the Olympic games, but the veteran Chicagoan will carry on nursing the disappointment that comes of seeing one's most cherished hope blasted.

Four years ago Ray journeyed to Europe to take part in the Olympic games. He had won fame aplenty in this country as a mile runner. His heart was set to show his heels to the greatest milers Europe could produce.

Then, two days before the finals in the mile run were to be staged, Ray pulled a tendon in one leg. He realized he had little chance of winning the event when he toed the mark. He tried his best, but finished eighth, with his leg aching him almost insane with pain.

Ray took the misfortune scalpingly, however. "I'll be there four years from now and I won't lose a lame leg," muttered Ray.

But four years—four years of indoor and outdoor running—told on Ray. The past year he has found the old stamina and speed lacking on occasions. Olympic officials were aware of this. The other day it was announced that Ray would not run in the mile—that he would be the mainstay of the 5000-meter run, a relay event.

Officials, in announcing the change, explained that Ray's presence was needed more on the team than in the mile.

Joe's admirers the decision brings mixed emotions. Some believe the decision a wise one. Paavo Nurmi, Finnish miler, is in the top of his form. In preparation for the Olympic events he has established new world's records at various distances. Joe's friends fear the result of a meeting between Nurmi and the veteran Ray.

Others, however, wanted Ray and Nurmi to "fight it out," their confidence in Ray being unshaken by his recent faltering.

The advisability of the change matters not to Ray. All he sees in his fondest hopes shattered again. Once more the chance has come and gone and fate has dealt a cruel blow to Joe.

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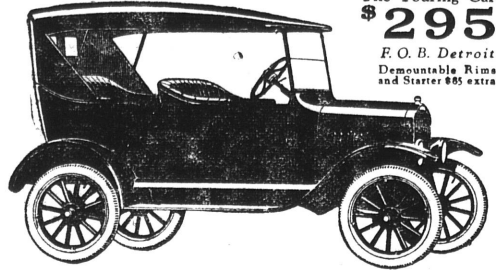
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