

BAT WILL BET HE CAN MAKE 126 WEIGHT; HE'S WILLING TO POST 510,000, SAYS PILOT

By GEORGE KIRKSEY
United Press Staff Correspondent
CHICAGO, Jan. 13. (UP)—Christopher "Bat" Battalino, the boy no longer recognized as featherweight champion by the New York state athletic commission because he failed to make the divisional weight limit in New York last Friday, is willing to wager \$10,000 he can make 126 pounds, 9½ less than he weighed five days ago.

Pete Reilly, co-manager of the Hartford, Conn., boy, today said that Battalino was willing to post \$10,000 of his own money that he will make the featherweight limit for his title bout with Freddie Miller, Cincinnati southpaw, at Cincinnati January 25.

Reilly came to Chicago to sign for Battalino to meet Earl Maestro in a return title bout, but the Chicago challenger who failed in an effort to lift Battalino's crown in the Chicago stadium November 4 turned down the offer. Reilly then left for Cincinnati to sign for a return bout with Miller, defeated by Battalino in a title match July 23.

Battalino is still recognized as featherweight champion by the National Boxing association and by boxing fans everywhere. Battalino's willingness to fight and his five successful defenses of his title in a year and a half against Ignacio Fernandez, Kid Chocolate, Fidel La Barba, Freddie Miller and Earl Maestro can't be wiped out by an edict by one member of the New York commission.

Battalino's failure to make the weight limit for his proposed bout with Lew Feldman in New York was caused by a knee injury which prevented the champion from training, according to Reilly. Battalino weighed 135½, nine and a half pounds over the limit, the afternoon of his scheduled bout with Feldman. The New York commission refused to allow a postponement of the bout, despite the fact that Battalino had a doctor's certificate that he had a bad knee.

"Battalino weighed 125½ for his bout with Maestro two months ago and he has made the weight limit three times within a year and five times in a year and a half," said Reilly. "He can make it again. He would have made it for Feldman if the New York commission had allowed him a postponement to recover from his knee injury."

Maestro's unwillingness to meet Battalino again is a story in itself. When they fought in November many persons left the Chicago stadium believing Maestro allowed Battalino to rough him out of the decision. Even at the end of 10 rounds of savage fighting, only the difference of a knockdown by Battalino permitted him to retain his title.

Yet Maestro, with a chance at the title and a big purse, does not want to meet Battalino again. It's not because Maestro isn't game,

SCHMELING GO UP IN AIR, DECLARES KEARNS

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. (UP)—The proposed heavyweight title bout between Max Schmeling and Mickey Walker, planned for Miami on February 25, was ordered cancelled today by Joe Jacobs, manager of champion Schmeling. He refused to sign the contract, saying the gate would be too small.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (UP)—The proposed Max Schmeling-Mickey Walker 15-round heavyweight title bout at Miami, Fla., is "very much up in the air" and may not be held at Miami, Jack Kearns, Walker's manager, said tonight.

Contracts for the Miami bout on February 25 were to have been signed today, but because of objections by Joe Jacobs, Schmeling's manager, they were not signed. "And there's no indication now when they will be signed," Kearns declared.

Kearns said he and Walker were ready to sign today, and had intended entraining tonight for Miami, but Jacobs refused to sign, raising a technicality over a certain clause in the contract. Kearns explained that the clause itself of little importance and that it apparently was used by Jacobs merely to avoid the bout. He said Jacobs apparently had been informed by his representatives at Miami that the financial outlook for the bout was poor.

The bout may be moved to Chicago, New York, Los Angeles or St. Louis, Walker's manager continued. He said Jacobs believed the bout should draw at least \$500,000 and that apparently the gate would not be realized at Miami.

Another conference is scheduled at Madison Square Garden tomorrow. Jimmy Johnston, manager of boxing at the garden, said tonight that no change in location had been decided yet.

but because he's taking dancing lessons and doesn't want to start training again until February. Maestro has ambitions for a stage career and is being encouraged by his wife. He may even retire from the ring soon.

None can doubt Maestro's courage in the ring after seeing his two slashing battles with Bud Taylor, his game stand against the rough and tumble Battalino, and other give and take struggles with Kid Francis, Eddie Shea, Santiago Zorrilla and Midget Mike O'Dowd.

NEWS OF THE SPORT WORLD

GREAT SHIRES SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRACK SIGNS PAPERS ACES BID FOR GRIDIRON FAME

DALLAS, Tex., Jan. 13. (UP)—Chester Arthur "The Great" Shires, erstwhile first baseman, prize fighter and basketball player, today signed an \$11,000 contract to play this season with the Boston Braves.

Shortly after he had returned to the signed contract to Judge Paul Fuchs, Shires left for Milwaukee, where he will play professional basketball until he joins the Braves in their spring training camp. His 1932 salary is \$3,000 more than he earned last year with the Milwaukee club of the American association. Shires led the league in batting, with an average of .365.

"I want to get back in the American league if there's a chance," he told the United Press. "I have some scores to settle with that league."

He revealed Connie Mack all but signed papers last winter sending him to the Philadelphia Athletics for \$20,000 in cash and one player.

"The Philadelphia deal was all over but the signing," Shires said, "then a certain American league club president told Mack I was a punk player and would do his team no good. I was to replace Phil Todd at first base."

"One American league club paid \$65,000 for a first baseman last year and he batted just .277. The president who put out the cash didn't want me in the league because I would show up his prize lemon."

Shires is 24 years old and weighs 203 pounds. He said he would be down to 198, his playing poucentage, when the season opens.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRACK ACES BID FOR GRIDIRON FAME



The University of Southern California is turning to its track and field stars for material to build another national championship football team. Here are Norman Paul, low hurdler and broad jumper, who is out for a halfback berth under Coach Howard Jones; Jess Hill, one-time broad jump champion, who won fame in football and baseball, and Dick Barber, holder of the I. C. A. A. A. broad jump record. Barber under-studied Jim Musick at fullback and will be out for the varsity next season.

By GEORGE H. BEALE
United Press Staff Correspondent
LOS ANGELES, Jan. 13. (UP)—So great has been his luck in turning track stars into football stars that again next fall.

This time the call will go to Norman Paul, low hurdler and broad jumper.

Paul has announced that he will be a candidate next season for one of the halfback berths on Coach Jones was well pleased with the development since he loses some great backfield men through graduation. Arthur Thurnblad, Chicago, is the defending champion.

Paul weighs 165 pounds and will be the fastest man on next year's

squad, excepting only Dick Barber, who, like Paul, made a late decision to try competing both in track and football.

Barber played football when he was at Long Beach high school but he gave it up when he entered Southern California. He was content to coast along and make himself the intercollegiate broad jump champion, which title he won in the I. C. A. A. A. meet last spring with a leap of 25 feet, 3½ inches.

This fall he heard that Jones was looking for a fullback to alternate with Jim Musick and Barber turned out for practice. He advanced rapidly from the goofs to the fourth team, then the third and finally he became Musick's understudy. Barber looked mighty good in the games

he finished and next year he will be regular fullback.

Barber's feat is somewhat of a duplicate of that of Jesse Hill, who once held the I. C. A. A. A. broad jump championship and who became a great fullback in his senior year at Southern California.

Hill now coaches football and plays professional baseball. He does the latter so well that the New York Yankees are said to be planning to take him to the big leagues the year after next from Hollywood in the Pacific Coast league.

Another track man who made good in football in a big way at Southern California is Bob Hall, the tackle. Hall, who graduates this fall, is the I. C. A. A. A. shotput title holder.

STARS ENTERED IN TABLE TILT

CHICAGO, Jan. 13. (UP)—A world's champion, four former world's titleholders and the world's greatest banking player will be in the field of 12 stars entered in the 1932 world's championship 3-cushion billiard tournament starting at Mussey's billiard room here Monday.

The schedule calls for 66 games extending over 21 playing days. Arthur Thurnblad, Chicago, is the defending champion.

SKI GIRLS WILL TRY FOR TEAMS

CHICAGO, Jan. 13. (UP)—The six girl skaters who score the most points in the national outdoor skating championship at Oconomowoc, Wis., Saturday and Sunday will represent the United States in the Olympic winter games at Lake Placid, N. Y., next month.

The six favorites are Elsie Mueller, New York; Loretta Neitzel, Detroit; Elizabeth Du Bois, Chicago; Rose M. Brady, Detroit; Dorothy Franey, St. Paul, and Helen Bina, Chicago.

RECKLESS DRIVER GIVEN \$25 FINE

L. B. Dean, 24, pleaded guilty yesterday in the city police court to a charge of reckless driving and was fined \$25. Dean was arrested at 12:45 a. m. Wednesday, when he drove west on Fremont at 60 miles an hour, skidded around the intersection at Main street, and recrossed First streets.

SETH PARKER AT EL PORTAL

Which is hardest to face for the first time, a radio broadcasting "mike" or the microphones and cameras of a talking picture.

There are six radio celebrities who are in position to give an expert opinion: Seth Parker and five of his original National Broadcasting company troupe who play central parts in RKO-Radio Pictures' tense home-spun drama, "Way Back Home," at El Portal theater.

"The first time I faced a radio microphone was in giving a free skit over a very small local station," Seth declares. "I was perfectly confident about it until I was about to speak, and then the worst panic I've ever felt in my life hit me. It's something I've never gotten over, quite, in broadcasting hundreds of programs and skits over the giant NBC network and other stations."

"It was the thought that my

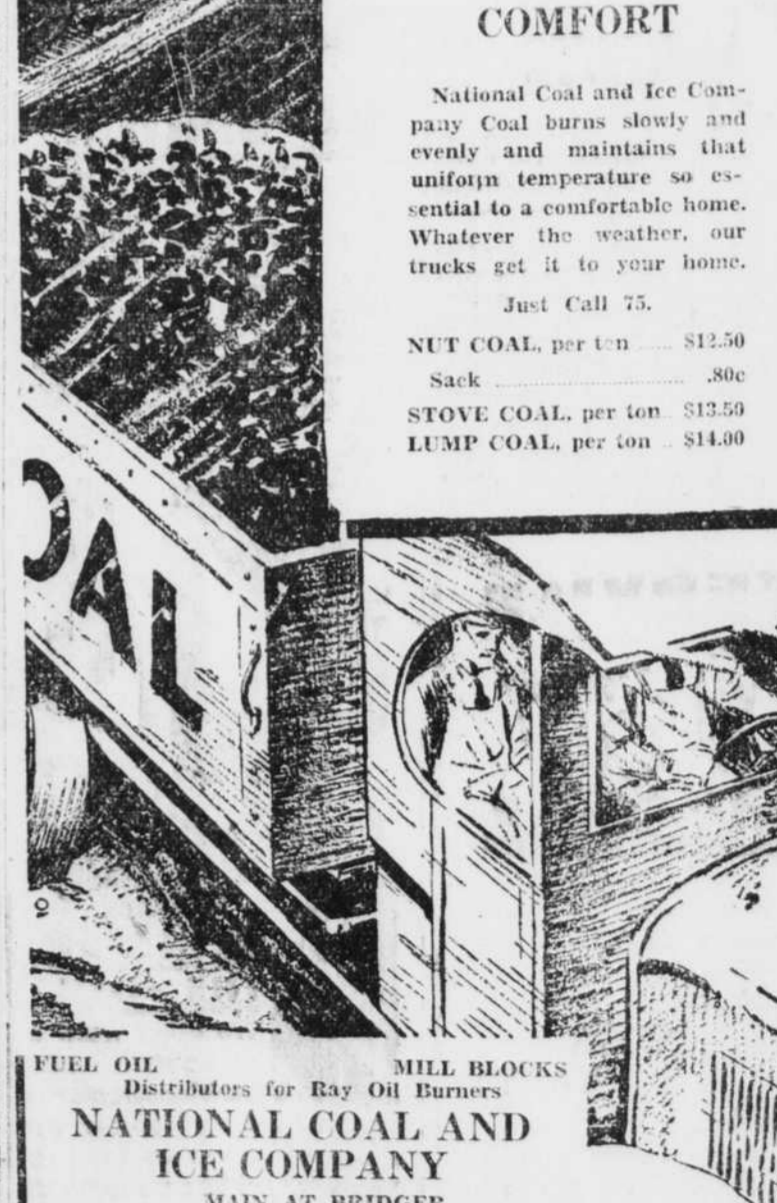
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