

## SPORT

### *Boxing*

Boxing, the noble art of self-defense, does not seem to be facing a decline even in these difficult times. On the contrary, in Tokyo the weekly fights of the professional boxing clubs regularly attract large crowds amounting to thousands, in spite of their taking place on weekdays and sometimes beginning at noon. In fact the crowds reach tens of thousands when the Japanese boxing idol, "Piston" Horiguchi, climbs into the ring. On such occasions the "leather pushers" have to use the Kokugigan, the National Sports Hall, which usually accommodates the fat-bellied Sumo wrestlers.

In the USA the boxing industry—and it can rightly be called so—is booming too. Promoters and trainers, without much regard for national defense and such things, are looking for new talent in the military training camps. Their main idea is to find a "white hope" to overthrow the present colored heavy-weight king, Joe Louis, who still seems to be pretty safe on his throne. He proved this when he recently knocked out Buddy Baer in the first round of their return fight. In their first encounter Baer had lasted six rounds, and his supporters even claimed that it was only a heavy blow delivered by Louis after the bell had rung which had defeated their man, who had created a sensation by knocking the champ through the ropes in an earlier round.

On March 27 the Brown Bomber blasted the hopes of another would-be world champion, this time giant Abe Simon, standing six feet four and weighing 235 pounds. Although Joe was heavier than ever before, weighing 197½ pounds, he had lost none of his terrible punching power. Simon stood up gallantly to some fearful punishment in the fifth round, when he was saved by the gong. Louis finished matters in the sixth with a hard right to the jaw.

The ring career of Lew Jenkins, former world lightweight champion, was virtually ended in Philadelphia on February 19, when he suffered one of his worst beatings at the hands of Marty Servo, young coastguardsman from Schenectady, New York, in a ten-round bout. Servo, who barely managed to make the lightweight limit, will probably challenge Cochrane for the welterweight title.

After a postponement caused by the outbreak of the German-Soviet war, the FIBA (Fédération Internationale des Boxeurs Amateurs) held the European championships in Breslau, Germany. 95 boxers representing 11 nations participated and drew huge crowds. Italy took first honors in the classification of nations when her representatives Paesani, Paoletti, and Bianchini won the flyweight, bantamweight, and lightweight titles respectively, while the newly crowned welterweight champion Raeschke and the heavyweight king Grupe, who emerged victorious in an All-German Final, brought second-place honors to Germany. The heavyweight class has always

been the domain of the strong fellows from beyond the Rhine, ever since the inauguration of the Amateur Championships in 1922. Hungary, Denmark, and Sweden split honors for third place by winning a title each in the featherweight, middleweight, and light-heavyweight classes.

### *Rowing*

War has even affected that hoary a tradition as the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. It had to be replaced this year by a "sprint" race between a Cambridge war-time crew and London University's Imperial College eight. Cambridge won while numerous cyclists followed cheering along the towpath, recalling some of the old-time glamour of Boat Race Day.

### *Pan-Asiatic Meets*

One of the foremost aims of the Olympic Games is to create friendship between nations. This was symbolized in the inscription on the Olympic Bell, first sounded at the Berlin Olympiade in 1936, which runs: "I call the youth of the world." Now the peoples of the East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere are to be brought together by means of sports and games. The second anniversary of the return of the National Chinese Government to Nanking will be marked by a National Athletic Meet, at which China's representatives for the Pan-Asia Games are to be selected. These latter are scheduled to take place in Hsinking this autumn. Their having been allotted to Manchukuo is also due to a national celebration, for this year Manchukuo is celebrating her tenth anniversary.

### *Tennis and Skiing*

Japan is contemplating a big tennis tournament to which the players of Manchukuo, China, French Indo-China, Thailand, Malaya, and the Philippines are to be invited. The only reason that the Dutch East Indies are not included is that they have not yet produced any players of international caliber. The people of that country, and those others who are unable to travel to Nippon as athletic representatives, are to be consoled with a sports motion picture on skiing. This ought to be a novel experience to most of them. More than 30 students from these countries are busy in Akakura, famous ski resort in Japan, producing this picture for their fellow-countrymen in the snowless south.

While there are many indications here to show that daily life is returning to normal, the tennis players of South America are going to feel the effects of the war. The United States can no longer export tennis balls because of the rubber shortage, and the Latin America championships scheduled for the summer have had to be canceled for this reason. Will American netmen have to learn from the wise old East again? In Japan soft-ball tennis was invented at the beginning of this century when the proper hard tennis balls could not be manufactured. Perhaps we shall see this Japanese sport taken up in America now.—H.