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page 15

Take a Quote, Please

SPORTS

By Sgt. DAN POLIER

D ID I ever tell you . . . what Jack Kearns, Dempsey's old manager, said about Billy Conn?

"This Conn is a desperado at heart. An alley fighter. And I like those alley fighters—tough kids who come up the tough way. Conn already has Louis beat upstairs. Nobody has to sell Conn on the idea he can whip Louis, a very important point."

... or what Ty Cobb said about Babe Didrikson, the great woman athlete?

"I once shook hands with Miss Didrikson. A minute or so later I looked at my hand to see if it was still hanging on. It was, but I don't think it has ever been the same."

... or what Harry Eidmark, Sweden's outstanding track expert, said about Gunder Haegg?

"Haegg can beat Arne Andersson any time, but if he doesn't think there's a possibility of a new record he doesn't give a damn. I don't think Haegg expected a new record when Andersson ran the 4:01.6 mile. The pace had been too fast on the first lap and the record seemed impossible. So he let Andersson take a long lead. And Andersson just kept going. Andersson is a runner like your man Gil Dodds. No kick."

... or what Mrs. Woolf said about her husband George, the famous jockey?

"There's no way to stop George from buying cowboy shirts and fancy western saddles. At heart, he is more cowboy than jockey. I think he dreams about Indians and cowboys whooping and hollering."

... or what Connie Mack said about George Kell, his own third baseman?

"You know, I think I'd be safe in saying that George is as good as any third baseman in the American League. And I'm not overlooking Keltner, Higgins or Tabor, either. George could very easily be compared with Jimmy Dykes in his first season for us. George is a better hitter and just as tough with men on bases. Of course, George hasn't the throw to first that Jimmy had—that Dykes arm was the best in baseball."

... or what Coach Fritz Crisler of Michigan said about Tommy Harmon?

"Harmon wasn't the best football player I ever coached. He was the best I ever had. I didn't have to coach him."

... or what Frank Turnesa of the Turnesa golfing clan said about Byron Nelson?

"Nelson's golf swing is something I wouldn't attempt to teach anyone. Even most professionals would be hitting the ball all

over the lot if they attempted to imitate him. He's practiced his particular type of swing for so many years that he has perfected it. Harry Vardon did the same thing with his swing, but nobody ever saw Vardon hit a ball like Nelson."

... or what Willie Pep, the world's featherweight champion, said about Chalky Wright?

"I never take chances with Chalky. He can knock your head off with his right hand. I just paint him and leave him alone. I want to keep my title."

... or what Dixie Walker, Brooklyn's favorite Dodger, said about Marty Marion?

"I never saw Hans Wagner, but if Ol' Honus was any better than Marion he must have been a marvel. Now take this guy Eddie Miller of the Reds, who you hear so much about. He's a capable shortstop, but, shucks, he isn't half as good as Marion. I've hit balls past Miller, but when we play the Cardinals, I won't attempt to get a ball by Marion. The defense he throws up against hitters is amazing. He isn't just good in spots. He's good all the time."

... or what Bill Tilden said about little Bill Johnston, his old tennis partner?

"I don't think I'll ever forget Bill. He weighed only 118 pounds, but he fought his soul out against us bigger fellows. Hell, Bill used to have fun out there while hating the guts of the guy he was playing. Including mine, too, I guess."

... or what Coach Steve Owen of the New York Pro Giants said about Harry Gilmer, Alabama's sensational 18-year-old halfback.

"I'll have to admit Gilmer is one of the greatest passers I've seen—probably the best. He is the only passer I've seen who could throw both long and short passes and throw them completely off balance. I'd hate to think what would happen if this kid was ever teamed with Don Hutson. You'd need a double-barrel shotgun to stop them."

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... or what Casey Stengel said about Frenchy Bordagaray of the Dodgers?

"Every time I think of that Bordagaray I could tear out my hair. Several years ago we (the Dodgers) were playing the Giants and Frenchy was on second base. There was a lull in the game and Frenchy stood there on the base just tapping it with his left foot and gazing around at everybody in the stands. Suddenly the ball was whipped to the shortstop and Frenchy was called out. 'What happened,' I asked Frenchy. 'Oh nothing,' he said. 'They must have caught me between taps.'"



Babe Didrikson: She once shook hands with Ty Cobb.

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