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GUEST EDITORIAL

GLYNN LEYSHON

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With an estimated fifteen percent of teens overweight, representing some 7.5 million young bodies (the number has tripled since 1980), it is time to look at the problem of the flesh in a new light. The present recommendation for calorie burning to offset this plague of obesity is that each child should get a minimum one hour of exercise each day. There was a time when, without school buses, computers, television, or any of the myriad labor saving devices with which we are blessed, a person could easily accumulate one hour of exercise each day just going about his business—walking to school or job, shoveling snow, climbing stairs etc. Those times are gone forever. A recent survey showed that a mere eighteen percent of children managed to reach the hour-a-day target. My bet is that most of those were

athletes participating in interscholastic sports.

Are physical health and weight control the only contribution sport makes? No, there is a dimension that is more subtle but equally as important – the element of moral and ethical behavior. Moral and ethical behavior is fostered in the playing fields at the same time that the physical contribution to health is bolstered. The concepts are easy to discuss but difficult to adopt. Nonetheless, what better time and place to acquire these concepts than in a school setting?

In the heyday of the British Empire the colonies were all influenced by the British school system. Every student (white male that is) was required to participate in a sport and to put into practice, moral, and ethical values that were discussed in the classroom. These included concepts such as bravery, courage, loyalty, and fair play. The concept of “no blood; no foul,” meaning anything the referee does not stop is legal, was diametrically opposed to the teaching of bravery, loyalty, etc. Thus, it used to be said that the Battle of Waterloo (1815) was won on the playing fields of Eton. Although the statement is an invention, the entrenched idea of bravery, courage etc. was an overriding, ever present influence in the lives of Britain’s ruling classes before World War I.

One need not go that far back, or to British imperialists, to find examples of the educative value of sport and athletics. In 1950, in Vanves, France, a radically different approach to the school curriculum was advanced. Children spent mornings in regular class but devoted their afternoons to sport and exercise. The results were astonishingly positive. Marks went up, absences went down, deportment and attitude all improved. The experiment lasted until 1960 and then “quelle surprise!” the innovative program was scrapped. The entrenched attitudes were too strong to sway (Shephard, 1984; see also Sallis, 1999).

The potential for change is still there. A professor confrere of mine decided to

duplicate the Vanves experience and convinced a local school board to devote one class for six months to the experiment. The general approach was as with the original. That is, students would spend the morning at regular curriculum and afternoons in supervised activities monitored and instructed by university students from the professor's class. It was a huge success. As happened at Vanves, marks went up, absences went down; attitudes and deportment improved etc. Nonetheless, after six months, the program was dropped. The staid and conservative prevailed. The children were healthier, more cooperative, had better grades and enjoyed school. Maybe it was unnatural. Whoever heard of kids enjoying school and getting good grades at the same time?

As for the absorption of moral and ethical values, it seems that school boards are by and large happy to leave those attributes to be assimilated by osmosis. Certainly one would have great difficulty in finding ethics as an objective in a modern school curriculum. Instead, the objective is to teach the children the three R's and hope for the best with all the rest.

Yet, ideally, a formal education should prepare students for life in our society. Does our current system do that? High unemployment, obese children and youth, and the dearth of ethics in public life and entertainment suggest it currently does not.

To correct the situation would require a tidal wave of change. It would include a revision of the subject matter taught and a realignment of the time spent on that subject matter. It would take a lot of convincing, too, to get school administrators to understand that physical activities are as important to a rounded education as history and mathematics—and probably even harder to get parents to accept that all of the above topics, athletics, history, and mathematics, are things that a society needs its citizens to learn and appreciate from very young ages.

Although we still have school teams, physical activity is not just for the athletically gifted. Just as talented athletes should be made to master their math facts and write a coherent essay, so should artistically gifted children be made to experience their physical selves.

Alas, the contribution of sport to health typically does not extend to musicians, artists, or video game players. It would take a well-spoken, highly-regarded educator and an open-minded school board and parent group to take the big step and include a daily hour of activity as a requirement for every grade. Perhaps a scare tactic would work. The medical evidence we have projects that the next generation will be the first in centuries that will not have a longer lifespan than its predecessor. The cost to our already staggering health care system will be enormous.

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BOXING AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY (1929-1956)

THE DEVELOPMENT AND FALL OF THE SOUTH'S PREMIER BOXING PROGRAM

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Abstract: This paper provides a brief history of the varsity boxing program at Louisiana State University, which is a major regional university located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Keywords: Amateur boxing at Louisiana State University; NCAA boxing; Coaches Francis Brink, Ed Khoury, James T. Owen, and Edsel Thrash

Images courtesy Chad Seifried

At the summit of its popularity, college boxing crowds exceeded those for major professional prizefighting events. As an example, on March 24, 1939, University of Wisconsin (UW) hosted



LSU at Wisconsin's Field House, 1930s

Louisiana State University (LSU) to the delight of 15,000 enthusiastic fans (Badger Boxers Win, 1939; Moe, 2004).

Such enormous crowds were the norm for powerhouse college boxing programs like the South's LSU and the Midwest's eight-time national champion Wisconsin. In fact, these teams frequently met each other in the

squared-circle to massive crowds in both Madison and Louisiana to see the two fierce rivals battle between the ropes (Table 1).

TABLE 1: LSU AND WISCONSIN DUAL MEET ATTENDANCE 1937-1956

<u>Year</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Away</u>	<u>Crowd</u>
1937	UW	LSU	9,000
1938	UW	LSU	7,367
1939	UW	LSU	15,000
1940	LSU	UW	8,500
1952	LSU	UW	5,500
1953	UW	LSU	11,200
1954	LSU	UW	7,500
1955	UW	LSU	6,500
1956	LSU	UW	4,000

College boxing attracted the attention of spectators because its rules and etiquette were quite different from the professional version. College boxers fought furiously for three rounds because they lasted only two minutes each. As a consequence, college men were less likely to clinch or stall to extend the length of the fight, punch wildly in search of a knockout, or boringly pace their effort. Instead, points were awarded in the college version for displays of good defense and ring generalship. Boxing at the college level was a game to be won with strategy and not simple brute force.

College boxers also wore protective head gear and thicker gloves than professional boxers, and referees were trained to stop fights if one boxer was clearly outclassing another. Nick Virgets (1902-1974), a legendary boxing referee from the Baton Rouge area, provided support for this point with his suggestion that "we stop the fights early to prevent the loser from taking unnecessary punishment... because the health of the boys is always foremost in my mind" (Graham, 1949, p.5).

This concern for safety clearly separated the college game from the professional boxing of the era. Thus, although the ring action was commercially exciting, college crowds were reassured that the thrills were

not coming at the expense of a participant's health.

Appropriately, crowds in collegiate boxing, although enthusiastic, were not usually discourteous or ill-mannered like those that sometimes characterized the professional event. In fact, college bouts would be stopped if the crowd became too crude and boorish. College participants and officials also acted the part by dressing up for the events. Generally, college boxers and officials wore jackets and ties. Furthermore, socials with ladies in evening dresses followed many boxing events, and these gave boxers the opportunity to mingle socially with the opposing team (Kane, 1959; Moe, 2004). Moe (2004) presented further support for this point as he recognized females generally made-up more than one-third of boxing crowds. In short, collegiate boxing matches were major social events to be celebrated, and sportsmanship was a major component of that creation.

Boxing also served another function on college campuses. According to the 1935 Boxing Guide published by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Boxing Rules Committee, "The sport [boxing] gained much impetus from World War I" (Moe, 2004, p. 23). Following World War I, the "American people were shocked to learn of the high percentage of young men who failed to qualify physically as good soldiers" (Portal, 1941, p.3). Portal (1941) suggested physical combat has been "born and bred in the human animal for generations" and that asset has been "lying dormant now because of present-day conventions" (p. 3). As a response to this condition, educational programs all over the United States implemented physical education requirements to build up the physical capability of America's "soft" youth (Portal, 1941; Riley, 1941).

Princeton Professor and U.S. War Department Army Training Activities Director Joseph E. Raycroft (1888-1955) frequently credited for popularizing boxing on college

campuses, convinced university and college academic administrators that boxing was a great activity for improving the conditioning and sportsmanship of college men during and following World War I (Moe, 2004; Riley, 1941).¹ Specifically, Raycroft advocated boxing as a great educational pursuit to teach the preparation and execution of tactical game planning. Portal (1941) further advocated that boxing would be useful to help "retain our way of living, our freedom of thought, and our cherished democracy" and he further presented boxing as capable of helping to "develop confidence, courage, and determination" which were also offered as important qualities demonstrated by good men (p. 4). The training involved with boxing was also offered as useful toward "rapidly develop[ing] the soft white-collared boy into a hard, physically fit, aggressive, courageous, determined soldier" that "Uncle Sam needs" (p. 4). These personal qualities were considered to be in short supply but needed for U.S. citizens to build, improve, and protect the nation's increasing global interests. Appropriately, the first rules of collegiate boxing were established and sanctioned in 1921 based on the rules created by the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities (Riley, 1941).

As boxing emerged as an important participant and then spectator sport during the 1930s and 1940s, it began to be incorporated into institutional curriculum requirements (Kane, 1959; Moe, 2004; Riley, 1941; Wallenfeldt, 1994). Western boxing powers San Jose State College (SJSC) and Washington State College (WSC) serve as excellent examples of this phenomenon because they required boxing instruction for

¹ Riley (1941) identified boxing as first appearing on U.S. college campuses during the late nineteenth century. For example, Harvard University supported an intramural boxing program in 1880. Thus, amateur gloved boxing was not new, but instead newly re-emphasized on college campuses.

students on their respective campuses. Specifically, at San Jose State roughly 500-600 students a year received training in boxing, and at Washington State each male student was required to take part in a “combative sport” before graduation. Boxing, wrestling, and fencing were offered as the three combative sports options at these institutions (Kane, 1959).

The LSU-Baton Rouge was no exception, and by 1900, almost all male students were required to take military training courses. During the early years of the century, the sport of boxing was embraced with help from the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). The ROTC Cadet Training Corps was mandatory for all freshman and sophomore males attending LSU during the height of boxing at college campuses (West, 1990). This mandate positioned LSU as one of the top four institutions (the others being Texas A&M, the US Military Academy at West Point, and the US Naval Academy at Annapolis) for producing military officers for the U.S. Armed Forces, and also positioned it to become a potential regional and national power for the sport of boxing.¹ Appropriately, the attractiveness of boxing was promoted and supported on LSU’s campus by the U.S. military and the LSU faculty/community. The ROTC was identified as a quality system to discover boxers for the program and promote further service in the LSU ROTC. Thus, during his tenure as Assistant Professor of Military Science and tactics at LSU (1928-1934), First Lieutenant (later Brigadier General) Francis G. Brink (1893-1958) was chosen as the individual to create the boxing program LSU would host for many years to come.

¹ During World War II, LSU produced about 5,000 officers for the U.S. Armed Forces. Of these, sixteen eventually achieved the rank of brigadier general or higher (Department of Military Science and Leadership at LSU, 2010).

TIGER BOXING WITH FRANCIS G. BRINK (1929-1934)

Francis Brink fielded his first LSU Tigers boxing team during the winter of 1928 and spring of 1929. With previous experience as an amateur and professional fighter, Brink was well established with the U.S. Olympic coaching staff and encouraged to promote the sport of boxing at LSU.



LSU boxing team of early 1930s; Francis Brink is in military uniform at center.

The 1929 season started and ended with two matches against Tulane University. Although Brink’s young team lost both of its non-varsity contests (3-2-1 and 5-1), Brink seasoned the team with weekly tournaments and participation in the first American Legion Amateur Boxing Night in Baton Rouge. Brink anticipated these experiences would toughen and improve the young fighters for the 1930 season.

The 1930 varsity season started with LSU naming its first team captain, lightweight Alston “Monkey” Barrow (1908-1993). Seven dual meet matches with the likes of Mississippi State, Southwestern Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, and Tulane produced a 5-2 record under the tutelage of Brink. With the foundation set, the 1931 season produced a dual meet record of 6-1 against a schedule which included Mississippi State, Tulane, Clemson, Duke, and Southwestern Louisiana.

Captained by bantamweight Paul “Spider” Marx (1905-2000), the LSU varsity fighters established the institution as a regional power in the growing sport of U.S. collegiate boxing.¹

Following the 1931 season, Paul Marx was hired by Lieutenant Brink to serve as a new assistant coach for LSU boxing and assigned the task of taking over the freshmen developmental team in 1932. The freshman team played their own schedule and served as a unit which Brink hoped he could use to build the future of LSU boxing. With the addition of Marx as an assistant coach, the Tigers looked strong as LSU finished with a 4-2 dual meet record against regional rivals Mississippi State, Florida, and Alabama in 1932. The Naval Academy also accepted a match against LSU marking the first time the boxing program fought a national power from the East. The meet with Navy is important because it suggested the LSU boxing program was not only competitive but popularly accepted by the university and campus community (Navy Boxers, 1932). The Tulane match further supports this notion as 8,000 attended the event against the Green Wave that season. Of course, NCAA officials also “realized the necessity of conducting a tournament for college students so that they could choose a select group for the final Olympic trials” in 1932 (Riley, 1941, p. 7). Accordingly, the NCAA organized the first national amateur tournament to help with this selection. Although LSU boxers did not participate in the first NCAA boxing tournament, they were recognized as a growing power and as one of the “pioneers” capable of popularizing boxing in their section of the country (Riley, 1941, p. 7).

The local popularity of LSU boxing was a result of the highly skilled boxers Brink started to produce. Team captain William

“Bunk” Andrews (dates unknown) led the 1932 squad as a ferocious welterweight while other notables like Robert May (middleweight, dates unknown), football captain Ed Khoury (heavyweight, 1905-1987), and Woodrow Zachariah (bantamweight, 1913-1988) also contributed to the team’s success (Khoury to Spur, 1932). Henry Glaze (lightweight, 1910-1982) also deserves some special recognition from this unit as a highly popular fighter on the team. For example, referee Nick Virgets recounted that he believed Glaze was the “hardest hitting lightweight that I ever saw in a college ring. He was both a great fighter and a boxer and was one of the most popular men ever to fight at LSU” (Graham, 1949, p.5).

The 1933 season produced a 3-2 dual meet record against solid competition. Again Mississippi State, Florida, Navy, and Tulane were on the schedule but South Carolina was also added to give the Tigers a new rival. The hard work from 1933 regular season paid off for the Tigers as they earned a second place finish in the inaugural Southeastern Conference (SEC) boxing tournament and two individual championships: Woodrow Zachariah at bantamweight and Henry Glaze at lightweight. The momentum from 1933 carried over to 1934 as LSU finished with a dual meet record of 5-1 and the opportunity for the Tigers to win their first Southeastern Conference (SEC) team championship. Led by senior team captain Henry Glaze (lightweight), Earl “Choo-Choo” Dugas (welterweight, dates unknown), Charles D. “Big Boy” Blaylock (heavyweight, 1911-1989), William T. Robinson (junior middleweight, dates unknown), and others, the Tigers overpowered all other SEC opponents that season to capture their first championship. This first championship was especially sweet for the Tigers because it was realized by beating arch rival and defending champion Tulane in front of a crowd of 5,500 spectators.

Following the 1934 season, Brink left his position as boxing coach and assistant

¹ All varsity records, attendance, and accomplishments were provided by the Louisiana State University student newspaper *The Daily Reveille* and yearbook *The Gumbo*.

professor at LSU to attend Command and General Staff School. Following graduation in 1936, Brink was assigned to the 31st Regiment (Philippines) as Commanding Officer from 1938 until 1941. In 1941, Brink accepted a position on the staff of General (later Field Marshal) Archibald Wavell (1883-1950), the Allied commander of British forces in Burma. Upon completion of his duties as a staff officer in the Chinese-Burma-India Theater of Operations (1942-1944), Brink was promoted to brigadier general in November 1944. Brink served as the Chief Operations Chief for the entire South-East Asia Command until 1945, when he was assigned as commander of U.S. Army forces in China, a post he held until 1946. General Brink's last assignment, until his death in 1952, was in Saigon as the Chief of Operations and Military Advisor in French Indochina (Vietnam).

Brink supported the sport of boxing at the interscholastic level throughout the State of Louisiana by organizing, directing, and managing the earliest boxing tournaments. As an example, the first Louisiana state high school boxing championships were held in 1931 at the Louisiana State University's Baton Rouge campus. There were nine weight classes. In those days, the weights were: a) 105lbs; b) 112lbs; c) 118lbs; d) 126lbs; e) 135lbs; f) 147lbs; g) 160lbs; h) 175lbs; and i) heavyweight.

The tremendous contribution Brink made toward the growth of boxing in Louisiana and the quality of his character led to the establishment of the Brink Sportsmanship Trophy in 1933. This was awarded to the most outstanding fighter and sportsman in the state tournament, and was awarded annually from 1933 to 1940 and again from 1948 to 1958.

TIGER BOXING WITH COACH ED KHOURY (1934-1942)

Following the resignation of Lieutenant Brink as Tiger boxing coach, LSU hired former heavyweight boxer and then team football trainer Ed Khoury to coach the boxing squad. The 1935 through 1937 seasons did not yield many dual meet opportunities for the Tigers, but it did produce a respectable 9-2-1 record for Coach Khoury during his first three seasons, both against



Coach Ed Khoury

regional opponents (i.e. Mississippi, Mississippi State, Tulane, and Florida) and also Midwestern power Wisconsin. The LSU boxers fared well both as a team and as individuals during this time in the SEC boxing tournament. Specifically, LSU won the 1935 Team Title and finished runner-up during the 1936 season. The 1935-1937 seasons produced several individual champions (Table 2). However, this success did not carry over to the NCAA boxing tournament during the 1936 and 1937 seasons, mostly because a combination of injuries and travel restrictions prevented the Tigers from attending.

In 1938, the LSU Tigers finished with a dual meet record of 5-2 against Mississippi, Mississippi State, Tulane, and Wisconsin. They

also captured their third SEC Team Championship with a bevy of boxing talent, which included Rene Trochesset (heavyweight, 1914-1985), Joseph L. Golsan (light heavyweight, 1918-?), Joe Fields (middleweight, dates unknown), and Heston Daniel (welterweight, 1916-1998). Again, LSU did not send a full team to the NCAA boxing tournament. Nonetheless, Trochesset and Daniel represented the LSU program well by securing second-place finishes in the national tournament (Bernstein Victor in College Boxing, 1938).

TABLE 2: LSU TIGER SEC INDIVIDUAL BOXING CHAMPIONS 1933-1940

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Weight</u>
1933	Woodrow Zachariah	Bantamweight
1933	Henry Glaze	Lightweight
1935	Harry McCall	Bantamweight
1935	Eddie Ketchum	Lightweight
1935	W.T. Robinson	Junior Middleweight
1935	Jim Blakeman	Light Heavyweight
1936	Fred O'Bannion	Welterweight
1937	J.L. Golsan	Middleweight
1938	Heston Daniel	Welterweight
1938	Joe Fields	Middleweight
1938	J.L. Golsan	Light Heavyweight
1939	Al Michael	Bantam-weight
1939	Heston Daniel	Junior Middleweight
1939	J.L. Golsan	Middleweight
1939	Rene Trochesset	Heavyweight
1940	Al Michael	Bantam-weight
1940	Snyder Parham	Welterweight
1940	Heston Daniel	Junior Middleweight
1940	Rodney Belaire	Middleweight
1940	Herbert Kendrick	Heavyweight

The 1939 season produced similar results for the nationally respected LSU Boxing program that was attracting large crowds both at home and on the road. A 7-1 dual meet record against Mississippi State, Mississippi (5,835 home attendance), Southwestern Louisiana (5,000 road attendance), Tulane (6,000 home attendance), and Wisconsin (15,000 road attendance) positioned the Tigers well again for postseason tournament action. As in 1938, the Tigers won the 1939 SEC Championship behind the strength of a veteran crew led by team captain Joseph L. Golsan (middleweight). Golsan was a truly legendary fighter in the history of LSU boxing. First, he was a multi-sport athlete, as he was also member of the LSU swim team. Next, he achieved great recognition as the first person to win three consecutive SEC boxing titles. Finally, he accomplished this feat remarkably in two different weight divisions during the course of his career (1937- middleweight; 1938- light heavyweight; 1939- middleweight). Overall, referee Nick Virgets called Golsan a “good boxer, rugged fighter” and “very popular with the fans” (Graham, 1949, p.6).

Al Michael (bantamweight, dates unknown), Heston Daniel (junior middleweight), and Rene Trochesset (heavyweight) also added individual SEC titles to help LSU secure its repeat championship in 1938. These Tigers carried this success into their first full squad NCAA boxing tournament appearance to an impressive second place overall finish with Trochesset capturing the first individual national title for the LSU Tigers and Michael scoring a runner-up trophy. Trochesset’s victory may well have been the biggest upset of the 1939 NCAA tournament because he avenged a defeat he suffered to Nick Lee (Wisconsin, 1915-2005) just one week before during a scheduled dual meet with Wisconsin. The 1939 final started out much like the previous dual meet between Trochesset and Lee with Lee dominating the “Big Cajun” using tremendous blows to the

head. Still, despite receiving a cut during the first round, the bloody Trochesset rallied to knock down Lee in the second round and outbox him in the third for a victory by decision (Wallenfeldt, 1994; Wisconsin Boxers, 1939; Wisconsin State Journal, 1939).

In 1940, LSU flawlessly reloaded to produce a 7-1 dual meet record against a solid schedule which included the team's first victory over Wisconsin (8,500 home attendance) and other victories against Florida (4,500 attendance), Mississippi, Mississippi State (4,500 attendance), Tulane (4,000 attendance), and Loyola. The only blemish on the Tigers' 1940 record came from a hotly-contested event with growing national power and in-state rival Southwestern Louisiana (4,000 road attendance). Team captain Heston Daniel led Tiger fighters to their third straight SEC team title in the final season of SEC tournament action. However, the SEC stopped supporting boxing following the 1940 season because it was not a paying proposition outside of Louisiana.

LSU's 1939 NCAA runner-up, Al Michael, reigned as the South's premier bantamweight during 1939 and 1940, and secured SEC championships both years. He was viewed as a heavy-handed fighter. Newcomers William Snyder Parham (welterweight, d. 1964), Rodney Belaire (middleweight, dates unknown), and Herbert "Peg" Kendrick (heavyweight, 1923-2002) also contributed to the 1940 SEC team title by capturing individual titles in their respective weight divisions. Daniel, Kendrick, and Putnam carried this momentum into the 1940 NCAA boxing tournament to help LSU achieve another top finish (third place). Peg Kendrick achieved great individual and team recognition for LSU by reaching the Heavyweight divisional finals. In the finals, Kendrick lost to Nick Lee (Wisconsin), who was the previous year's runner-up (Ring Laurels to Idaho, 1940).

The greatest achievement recognized by the media and coaching fraternity present at



J.L. Golsan (L) and Rene Trochesset,
1939

the 1940 NCAA boxing tournament resulted from Snyder Parham's upset of the previously undefeated three-year starter Omar Crocker (Wisconsin, 1916-1956) during the event's semi-finals (Wallenfeldt, 1994; Moe, 2004; Woodward, 1940). Amassing a record of 25-0-1 during that time, the Wisconsin captain was considered a lock for the NCAA title at the 145lbs (welterweight) limit and was without doubt one of the greatest college fighters of all time. Nonetheless, the aggressive and technically sound Parham won a split-decision over Crocker. Later in the finals, Parham defeated Clarence Esterl (Superior State, now University of Wisconsin-Superior, 1917-1943) to win recognition as the welterweight champion and notice as "one of the most improved boxers among the collegians" (Ring Laurels to Idaho, 1940). Heston Daniel continued his dominance of the SEC's junior middleweight division by capturing his third straight individual title in as many season, but he could only achieve a semi-finalist appearance during the 1940 NCAA boxing tournament.

The 1941 boxing season captained by junior middleweight Rodney Belaire was a comparatively uneventful one in the history of the program. The dropping of boxing as a SEC sponsored sport limited the Tigers to four dual meets against Idaho, Miami

(Florida), Southwestern Louisiana, and Florida. Still, the Tigers showed great resolve finishing 2-2-1 in the dual meets and securing a fifth place standing in the 1941 NCAA boxing tournament. Rodney Belaire emerged as the lone bright highlight for the LSU program that year when he won the 155lbs (junior middleweight) championship by beating Billy Roth (Wisconsin, dates unknown) in a decision (Wallenfeldt, 1994; Wisconsin State Journal, 1941). Nonetheless, collegiate boxing remained relatively healthy in other regions of the United States; as Riley (1941) mentioned, there were at least a hundred intercollegiate boxing programs with another fifty institutions hosting intramural boxing.

The 1942 boxing season was supposed to be a special year for LSU, because the NCAA Boxing Association had selected LSU and Baton Rouge to host the 1942 NCAA boxing championships. This was the first time the NCAA boxing tournament had been held in the “Deep South.” The selection of Baton Rouge as the host site suggested the NCAA Boxing Association held the Tiger boxing program in high esteem and highly respected the support the region would likely provide to the tournament. Unfortunately, the 1942 boxing season and the NCAA boxing tournament were hurt by the U.S. entry into World War II in December 1941 (Moe, 2004; Wallenfeldt, 1994). Thus, due to fuel rationing and other concerns associated with mobilization for global warfare, LSU could only schedule three dual meets against two regional opponents (Texas and Southwestern Louisiana). The LSU squad along with Wisconsin entered the most fighters (7 each) into the tournament, but only about forty boxers from just fourteen schools fought in the tournament. LSU finished a respectable third, behind Wisconsin (first place) and Southwestern Louisiana (second place).

Many US universities suspended intercollegiate boxing at the start of World War II, and during the war years, there were few opportunities to compete. LSU was no exception, and Athletic Director Thomas P.

“Skipper”. Heard announced varsity boxing at LSU would be “out for duration” but “intramural boxing will be continued” (Daily Reveille, 1943, p. 6). Heard said the “reason for not having varsity boxing is because we have been unable to get any matches.” In the same article, Ed Khoury added, “We don’t have fighters anyway” as a result of the war.

Following the conclusion of World War II, Loyola (Louisiana), Tulane, Florida, Ole Miss (University of Mississippi), Mississippi State, and Tennessee permanently eliminated boxing as varsity sports (Cooke, 1959; Moe, 2004; Wallenfeldt, 1994). The reason was that their teams failed to attract the attention LSU gathered as the premier boxing institution in the region (Wallenfeldt, 1994). No doubt much of this resulted from their programs’ lack of financial success, which was in turn probably related to the general poverty and unemployment endemic in the South during the mid-twentieth century (Moe, 2004; Wallenfeldt, 1994).

At the same time, the beginning of World War II started a new initiative to help use sport to raise morale (and money) for the war effort. During this process, basketball, boxing, and other team sports were encouraged, and this in turn appears to have contributed to the discontinuation of U.S. collegiate boxing programs after the war. John L. Griffith (1877-1944), commissioner of the Big Ten Conference and member of the Joint Army-Navy Committee on Welfare and Recreation (JANC), suggested in a letter to the JANC Executive Director that the United States Armed Services use American interests in sport to develop American troops.¹ President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945) supported military training initiatives which focused on maximizing rigorous sport participation to build “toughness, leadership, teamwork, and camaraderie” (Jones, 2009, p.

¹ John Griffith. “Letter to Francis Keppel,” 16 October 1941. Joint Army-Navy Committee for Welfare and Recreation, Record Group 225, File 171, National Archives, Washington, DC.

15). Following this recommendation from Griffith, President Roosevelt, and a nine-man advisory group established to study this problem, team sports were identified as preferred training tools because they offered examples of controlled conflict and established important traits such as respect for authority and loyalty which were important for a successful war effort (Rominger, 1985).¹ Team sports were also said to improve the collective morale of participants by concentrating their collective power and courage, and encouraging them to focus on achieving group rather than individual objectives. Essentially, the new focus trained American youth to value not only determination in the face of opposition but also the use of innovation to achieve collective group goals (Hamilton, 1942; U.S. Navy, 1944).

TIGER BOXING WITH COACH JAMES T. OWEN (1946-1955)

Following World War II, LSU's mandatory ROTC requirements left the institution as the one remaining school in the South capable of recapturing the success in boxing that it had enjoyed before the war. However, new leadership would be needed to guide the effort. Lieutenant (U.S. Navy Reserves) James T. "Jim" Owen reopened boxing at LSU in 1946, but LSU did not field a varsity team until 1948.

LSU's return to the NCAA boxing tournament began in 1948 with a dual meet schedule that featured Iowa, Maryland,

¹ Navy Department Press Release, 19 April 1942, Physical Fitness Correspondence, Record Group 24, Command File, BuAero Folder, NA. Other members of the committee included athletic directors William Bingham (Harvard), Ray Eckmann (Washington), Jack Meagher (Auburn), and L.W. St. John (Ohio State); faculty members Joseph Raycroft (Princeton), Elmer Mitchell (Michigan), and Dean Carl Schott (Penn State), and Minnesota coach Bernie Bierman.

Georgia, Miami (Florida), Michigan State, McNeese Junior College (now McNeese State, in Lake Charles, Louisiana), and South Carolina. With a 5-1 record, LSU met South Carolina in front of approximately 9,000 people to solidify the institution's return as a Southern power and boxing as a popular attraction. Following their win against South Carolina, the 6-1 LSU Tigers entered the NCAA tournament as a prospective national championship team. The Tigers did not disappoint as they finished fourth in that tournament behind the accomplishments of Wilbert "Pee Wee" Moss (bantamweight runner-up, dates unknown) and Doug Elwood (featherweight champion, dates unknown). Elwood won the featherweight division against James Sreenan (Wisconsin, 1923-1998) in the final, thereby securing recognition as the fourth individual champion produced by LSU (Rieder, of MD., Takes



James T. Owen, 1953

Battle, 1948; Wallenfeldt, 1994; Wisconsin State Journal, 1948). Referee Nick Virgets called Elwood the "classiest 130 pounder [featherweight]" that he ever saw (Graham, 1949, p.6).

The following year Jim Owen put together his finest squad. He had a solid group of returning lettermen, and a tough dual meet schedule which included the likes of national powers Michigan State (1948 NCAA Team Runner-up), Maryland, and Virginia (1938

NCAA Team Champion). Regional competitors Miami (Florida) and South Carolina also emerged with strong boxers on the schedule. For example, Jack Dyer (dates unknown) defeated Art Saey (dates unknown) the defending NCAA heavyweight champion from the University of Miami (Florida) during the Tigers dual meet with that school. The finale for the Tigers matched them up against South Carolina. The undefeated Tigers attracted roughly 11,000 people to the Parker Coliseum to watch the Tigers win that night and preserve their undefeated record.

Following the conclusion of the dual meet season, Wilbert “Pee Wee” Moss (featherweight), Edsel “Tad” Thrash (junior lightweight) and Lloyd Jones (middleweight) each won an individual title at the first Southern Intercollegiate boxing tournament, which supplanted the SEC as the major championship site in the South. The momentum created by this successful regular season and Southern Invitational Tournament Team Title propelled the LSU Boxing Team to additional success in the 1949 NCAA boxing tournament. Pee Wee Moss won the 125lbs (featherweight) title over Marc Martinez (San Jose State) and finished his career with a stunning record of 14-1 in NCAA boxing competitions. Tad Thrash followed Moss’ lead by defeating Norm Walker (Idaho, 1928-2011) for the 130lbs (junior lightweight) crown (L.S.U. Takes Boxing Crown, 1949; Wisconsin State Journal, 1949). With these two individual titles, LSU emerged as the likely champion, but LSU had to wait for the outcome of the heavyweight final before they could claim the 1949 NCAA boxing tournament title.

The heavyweight final pitted Marty Crandell (Syracuse, 1929-1978) against Don Schaeffer (San Jose State, dates unknown). Crandell’s win against Schaffer prevented San Jose State from winning the team title because his runner-up points were not enough to give the Spartans the extra points they needed to jump LSU in the team

standings. Following the result of this contest, Lynch (1950) amusingly recognized LSU’s appreciation for Marty Crandell’s effort in the 1950 *NCAA Boxing Tournament Official Program* by pointing out LSU officials granted



LSU championship boxing team, 1949

Crandell an honorary membership in the “L” Club as a result of his contribution to their team title. In the end, Graham (1949) described the 1949 squad as balanced and deep with very few breaks in the lineup. Pee Wee Moss added, “We worked hard all week and fought as hard as we could on the weekends. We wanted to win our fights and go to the national tournament. We were able to meet our goal” (Marse, 2009).

The 1950 season continued the legacy of LSU boxing as the preeminent program offered in the South. The defending national champions completed another undefeated dual meet season against the likes of Syracuse, the Citadel, Miami (Florida), South Carolina, Maryland, and Minnesota in front of packed crowds at the Coliseum. The second Southern Intercollegiate boxing tournament made LSU a pre-NCAA favorite because the Tigers won their second consecutive team title with three boxers earning individual honors as champions. Specifically, Tad Thrash (junior lightweight), Lloyd Jones (super middleweight), and Evans Howell (heavyweight) won their respective weight divisions (Southern Ring Tourney, 1950).

The 1950 NCAA boxing tournament also produced an opportunity for Tad Thrash to become LSU’s first repeat national champion. Thrash did not disappoint as he won convincingly in each round preceding the



Calvin Clary, 1954

final. The lightweight championship contest matched Thrash against Andy Quattrocchi (Maryland, dates unknown), but it ended soon after it started due to an accidental head butt. The judges, left with only the first round to score, favored the performance by the defending champion and awarded him the decision (Drazenovkh Wins Heavyweight Title, 1950; Wallenfeldt, 1994). Other performances by LSU boxers were also solid and LSU earned a fourth place team finish during the 1950 event.

In 1951, LSU continued its dominance of dual meet opponents by achieving a 4-1 record against Iowa, Maryland, South Carolina, Miami (Florida), and the Citadel. LSU achieved additional recognition by winning the Southern Intercollegiate Boxing Conference for the third straight year. Jack Dyer (light heavyweight) and Evans Howell (heavyweight) deserve special mention as champions of their respective weight divisions. However, those were the only highlights for the season as the team did not send enough boxers to participate in the NCAA boxing tournament to qualify for a recorded team standing.

The 1952 season brought a renewed effort and experienced roster to that season. As expected, LSU achieved a solid 5-1 dual meet

record with a formidable schedule which included rivals Wisconsin, Miami (Florida), Army, South Carolina, Maryland, and the Citadel.

At the end of the 1952 season, in what would be the final Southern Intercollegiate boxing tournament (Table 3), LSU won the team title again with the help of Bobby Jackson (junior lightweight, dates unknown), Calvin Clary (lightweight, 1932-2010), and Evans Howell (heavyweight) (L.S.U. Boxers, 1952), and the January 17, 1952 edition of *Sports Illustrated* (a publication unrelated to the eponymous magazine established in 1954) recognized LSU's boxing program as a perennial favorite for national honors. Nonetheless, despite solid individual performances, none of the LSU boxers achieved championships at the 1952 NCAA boxing tournament.

TABLE 3: SOUTHERN INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Weight</u>
1949	Wilbert Moss	Featherweight
1949	Lloyd Jones	Super Middleweight
1949	Edsel Thrash	Lightweight
1949	Lloyd Jones	Super Middleweight
1950	Edsel Thrash	Junior Lightweight
1950	Lloyd Jones	Super Middleweight
1950	Evans Howell	Heavyweight
1951	Jack Dyer	Light Heavyweight
1951	Evans Howell	Heavyweight
1952	Bobby Jackson	Junior Lightweight
1952	Calvin Clary	Lightweight
1952	Evans Howell	Heavyweight

In 1952, Bobby Jackson and Evans Howell reached the finals, but they lost to Archie Slaten (University of Miami- Florida, 1930-2007) and Bob Ranck (Wisconsin) in the junior lightweight and heavyweight classes (Corbett, 1952). Nonetheless, this effort brought LSU a third place finish at the national tournament. The sustained success of LSU's boxing teams provided head coach Jim Owen with the opportunity to achieve recognition as one of the country's outstanding teachers/coaches of boxing. Coach Owen parlayed the notoriety into an invitation to join the 1952 United States Olympic Boxing Team as a coach (Wallenfeldt, 1994). That team, headlined by future world heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson (1935-2006), won a record five gold medals in Helsinki, Finland.

A dual meet record of 2-2-1 against Minnesota, Miami (Florida), South Carolina, Wisconsin, and Maryland prepared the Tigers well for the 1953 postseason. However, this did not include the Southern Invitational Tournament because it was discontinued after 1952. Calvin Clary (junior welterweight) won another individual national title for LSU at the 1953 NCAA boxing tournament when he defeated Anthony Flore (Penn State). George Peyton (heavyweight) also provided a great performance throughout the tournament before losing to Art Statum (North Carolina A&T, the first historically black university to participate in NCAA boxing tournaments; dates unknown). The championship and runner-up performances by Clary and Peyton helped LSU achieve a third place finish in the team standings (Tony Flore, 1953).

The veteran Tiger squad of 1954 had some of the best individual boxers LSU ever produced, but this was not reflected in the results of the 1954 NCAA boxing tournament. In fact, LSU could not send a team to the NCAA boxing tournament in 1954 due to new NCAA rules established in 1953-1954 which allowed boxers only three years of postseason eligibility and prohibited

freshman participation. Thus, undefeated seniors Calvin Clary and Bobby Jackson were unable to enter the NCAA tournament because they had participated in the boxing championships as freshmen. Other undefeated freshmen at LSU, to include Crowe Peele (heavyweight, 1934-) and Art Collins (super-middleweight, dates unknown) also could not compete.



Bobby Freeman scores, 1953

Only the talents of Bobby Freeman (featherweight, 1934-, a future lieutenant governor of Louisiana) and John Stiglets (lightweight, dates unknown) were on display at 1954 NCAA boxing tournament which saw their runs end as NCAA runner-ups at the hands of Seiji Naya (University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 1932-) and Vince Palumbo (Maryland, dates unknown). Nonetheless, media and noted boxing commentators unofficially recognized the 1954 LSU boxing team as the national champions based on their regular season dual meet record (6-0) which included victories over national powers Idaho State (1953 NCAA Team Champion), Maryland (1954 NCAA Team Runner-up), Idaho (1940, 1941, 1950 NCAA Team Champion and 1938, 1947 NCAA Team Runner-up), Wisconsin (1939, 1942, 1943, 1947, 1948, 1952, 1954 NCAA Team Champion and 1940, 1951, 1953 NCAA Team Runner-up), and Penn State (1932 NCAA Team Champion and 1936 NCAA Team Runner-up). The overall 38-13-5 dual meet record of the individual boxers impressed many fans throughout Louisiana as

the Tigers continued to fight home matches in front of a packed Parker Coliseum. The ring, situated in middle of the dirt arena, had folding chairs around the immediate vicinity of the ring and small portable/temporary bleachers to the edge of the stands, and matches drew thousands of spectators (West, 1990). Bobby Freeman said he was always excited to fight in front of the home crowd because he knew they would show up for such an outstanding team (Bobby Freeman, personal communication, October 7, 2010).

The 1955 boxing year generated better team and individual results for LSU, which sent a full squad to that year's NCAA boxing tournament. Crowe Peele (heavyweight) won an individual NCAA championship by defeating defending 1954 heavyweight champion Mike McMurty (Idaho, 1932-), the 1954 light heavyweight champion Gordon Gladson (Washington State, 1932-1993), and the 1953 heavyweight champion Ray Zale (Wisconsin, dates unknown) to put his stamp on what was considered one of the greatest assemblies of heavyweight talent in the history of the NCAA boxing tournament (Moe, 2005; Wallenfeldt, 1994). Other solid performances by the Tiger boxing line-up such as Bobby Freeman's runner up finish in the featherweight division helped LSU gain a second place finish in the team standings.

It should be noted that LSU was lucky to get Crowe Peele because he originally committed to the University of South Carolina. However, upon South Carolina dropping its boxing program in 1953, Peele followed the advice of South Carolina coaches and went to LSU (West, 1990). West (1990) described Peele as possessing knockout power in both hands and as a "stalking-type fighter whose aim was to wipe out a foe in the shortest time possible" (p. D5). His own coach, Jim Owen, described Peele as a ready slugger who will "throw punches until something gives" and as an elusive target who possesses "every punch in the book" along with "something extra"

(Boxing Safe and Sane, 1955). Teammate Bobby Freeman said Peele was a fighter with power in both hands and extremely sophisticated for such a young fighter (Bobby Freeman, personal communication, October 7, 2010).

THE 1956 SEASON: THE END OF LSU'S GREAT BOXING LEGACY

Before assuming his duties as the LSU Director of Alumni Affairs and Executive Secretary and Director of the Board of Trustees of the State Institutions of Higher Learning for the State of Mississippi, Edsel "Tad" Thrash was at LSU



Coach Edsel "Tad" Thrash, 1956

working toward his PhD in economics. He also served as an assistant boxing coach (Marse, 2009). Thus, Thrash, a two-time NCAA champion and assistant coach, was the sensible replacement for Jim Owen for the Tigers' final season of varsity competition.

The 1956 season ended with a spectacular dual meet record of 7-1-1 and wins over Syracuse, Nevada, Oklahoma, Houston, and archrival Wisconsin (1956 NCAA Team Champion). The crowds were numbered in the thousands, and the only blemish on the Tigers' record occurred against Idaho State (1956 NCAA Team Runner-up).

Like many other U.S. universities, LSU announced it would not support varsity boxing in the future and as a result, it did not send a full team of boxers to the 1956 NCAA boxing tournament. Still, the Tigers' George W. "Bobby" Soileau (featherweight, dates unknown) and Gilliam McLane (welterweight, dates unknown) won individual titles for LSU to help the historically powerful program bow out in style (Wisconsin Wins, 1956). Moe (2004) suggests that many schools dropped boxing as a varsity sponsored sport because of questions posed by professors and administrators about whether or not academia should "sanction hand-to-hand combat" (p. 10). For example, Arthur H. Steinhaus (1897-1970), dean of George Williams College in Chicago and professor of physiology, said that if college boxing was say "only one-tenth as dangerous as professional boxing. It's still too much of a risk on the top brains of our country" (Kane, 1959). Former LSU boxer Bobby Freeman recalled there was some discussion about risk at LSU during those days but primarily the switch had to do the reduced number of boxing institutions in the South and the travel costs to support a team (Bobby Freeman, personal communication, October 7, 2010). This was verified by the other information which identified the LSU Board of Supervisors as the group ultimately responsible for ordering the termination of varsity boxing at LSU (Louisiana State Drops Boxing, 1956).

Bobby Freeman said that LSU likely stopped boxing because of the agenda set by the United States military, which was to emphasize team sports as a tool for engineering soldiers capable of a great collective effort to achieve national and

global objectives (Bobby Freeman, personal communication, October 7, 2010). Primarily, team sports were believed to better teach an appreciation or respect for authority and the deference of individual glory for group success (Rominger, 1985). Wallenfeldt's (1994) seminal "The Six-Minute Fraternity: The rise and fall of NCAA tournament boxing 1932-1960" presented similar arguments.

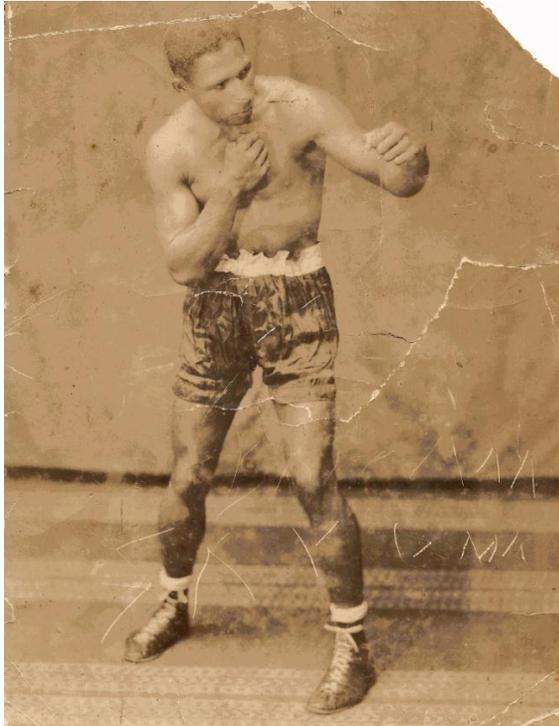
In any case, the tremendous performance by the Fighting Tigers in the arena of NCAA boxing is a credit to the athletes, coaches, and the strategic plan initiated by the United States military. Their initiative fashioned an important history within the State of Louisiana and one that deserves celebrating. Louisiana State University was in its time one of the great powers in the history of NCAA intercollegiate boxing, with a dual meet record of 100-22-5, one national championship (1949), and 31 conference champions, eleven NCAA champions, and twelve NCAA runners-up. This legacy should live forever even if the sport has not because the athletes did it with great displays of character and sportsmanship. Furthermore, boxing at LSU emerged as a ruggedly beautiful activity capable of testing the mental and physical courage, character, and athleticism its young participants, thus fulfilling; the original argument for accepting the activity into school to help produce and train future military officers.

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STORIES FROM THE MANUEL VELAZQUEZ BOXING FATALITY COLLECTION



NAME: SETAREKI BERANAIVALU

DATE OF FATAL BOUT: JUNE 26, 1941

DATE OF DEATH: JUNE 27, 1941

OPPONENT: DOCK CLARK

This fatal professional boxing match took place in Sydney, Australia, at the old Leichhardt Stadium on Balmain Road.

Beranaivalu, generally known as Bera, was aged 23 years (the newspapers said 21). He came from Fiji. He was in Sydney because he was a member of the crew of a visiting ship.

Although Beranaivalu was a welterweight, his opponent was a middleweight, and in the first round, Beranaivalu was knocked out. He stood up, and then collapsed. He was taken to hospital, where he died the following morning. At the inquest, medical opinion was divided over whether it was the heavy right to the jaw or the fall that caused the fatal

injury. Autopsy found that his brain had been injured before the fight.

In February 2010, Jackson Jang contacted me (Joseph Svinth). Jackson's mother, Beranaivalu's sister, had never known where her brother was buried. All she knew was that he had died while boxing in Australia during the early 1940s. I sent Jackson the information I had. Jackson then contacted the cemetery where Sydney currently buries indigent people. It was not the correct cemetery, but the staff knew which database to check for 1941 burials. On June 27, 1941, "Setabithi Bera" was buried in Section 5B, grave number 0000175, Rookwood Independent Cemetery in Sydney. Jackson arranged for a grave marker, and on June 13, 2010, a small service was held. Two weeks short of 69 years from date of death, the family had achieved closure.



Left to right: Mary Jang (Jackson's wife), Rev. Fr. Paul Hopper, Jackson Jang, June 13, 2010

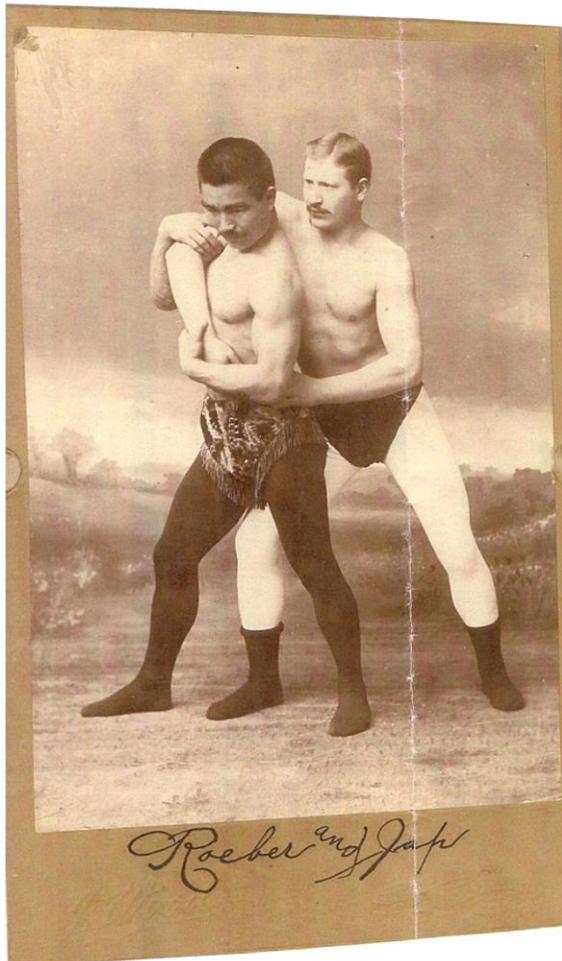
JOSEPH SVINTH

Sources: *Death under the Spotlight: The Manuel Velazquez Collection*, 2011, <http://ejmas.com/jcs/velazquez/index.htm>; *Melbourne Argus*, June 28, 1941; *Canberra Times*, June 28, 1941, retrieved from National Library of Australia's digital archive, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>, February 10, 2010; Rookwood Independent Cemetery, <http://www.rookwoodindependent.com.au/>; email exchanges with Jackson Jang, February 2010 and July 2011. Photos: Jackson Jang.

JUDO ENTERS THE USA

JOSEPH SVINTH

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING



This photograph dates to about 1888, and shows the New York-based professional wrestlers Kojiro “Sorakichi” Matsuda (1859-1891) and Ernest Roeber (1861-1944).

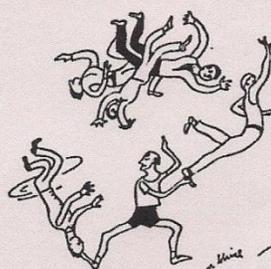
The following year, judo founder Jigoro Kano (1860-1938) presented his English-language paper, “Jiu-jitsu: The Old Samurai Art of Fighting without Weapons,” *Transactions of Asiatic Society of Japan* XVI:11 (reprinted 1915), 202-217.

VAUDEVILLE AND THE CIRCUS

Vaudeville refers to a kind of variety entertainment that flourished in North America from the 1870s to the 1920s. Vaudeville acts frequently featured Japanese wrestling and sword acts. The newspaper article here describes Kitose Nakae (1883-1962), a New York City jujutsu practitioner who worked for Keith’s vaudeville circuit and Ringling’s circus during the 1910s and 1920s. Clipping: John Wilcock, “The Village Square,” *The Village Voice* (New York, New York), January 25, 1956, page 2.

The Juggling Judoist

Kiyose Nakae will be 73 this year but he is still teaching jiu-jitsu. I called on him at his Sixth Avenue studio last week, carefully avoided shaking his hand, skirted the edges of his practise mat, and sat gingerly on a divan in his living room.



I asked him how long he’d been interested in jiu-jitsu. “Sixty years,” he said, “but I’ve been in the Village for only a year or two. I used to tour with Ringling’s circus demonstrating how to handle five men at once.”

“Five?” I asked.

“Well, yes,” he said, “but they didn’t all tackle me at the same time or they would have got in each other’s way. I’d duck from one to another like in juggling.”

He ducked from one side of the room to another, his gray head bobbing like a ping-pong ball in a shooting gallery. “The main thing is to keep moving,” he explained, “and to be ready with everything . . . an arm, an elbow, a leg.”

Has he ever had to use his skill to defend himself in a dark alley at night? “Unfortunately, no,” he said. “But I think I’ll be ready if the time comes.”

A delicatessen at 556 Hudson Street displays a montage of four bum checks. “NO CHECKS CASHED,” reads the sign, and then: “In memory of the dogs that left these.”

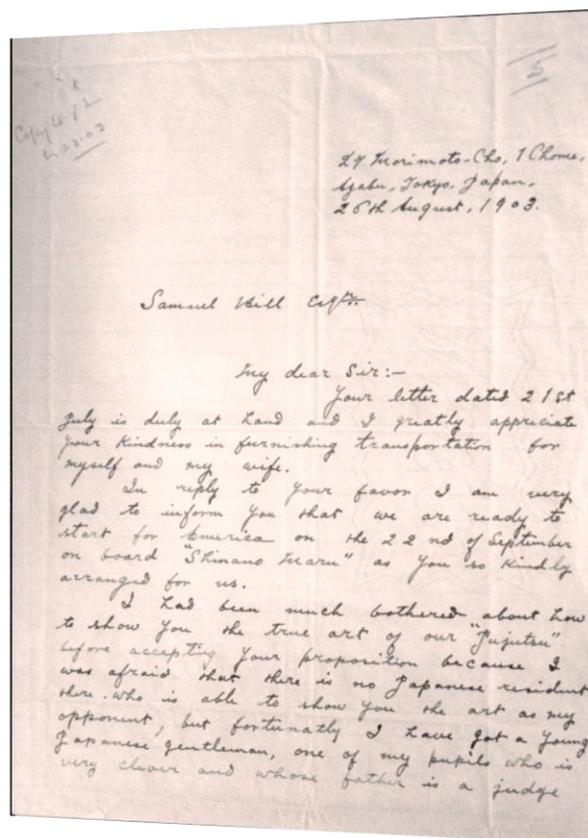
ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF UNARMED SELF-DEFENSE

During the late 1890s, John J. O'Brien (the shorter man on the left) was a foreign community constable in Nagasaki, Japan, and upon returning to USA, he began promoting self-defense classes based on jujutsu principles. US President Theodore Roosevelt was among those interested in the validity of O'Brien's claims, and he and many other Americans began thinking of ways to put those claims to the test. Clipping: *The World* (New York, New York), January 9, 1901.



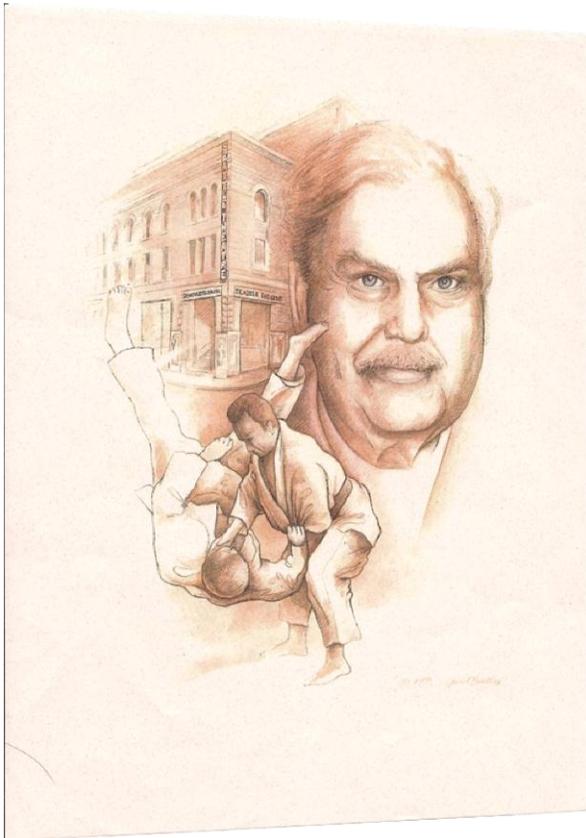
AND INTEREST IN BUILDING CHARACTER IN BOYS

Around 1902, Seattle attorney Sam Hill (1857-1931) heard from his Japanese business acquaintances that judo training built character in boy, and so, in February 1903, he sent to Japan for a judo teacher for his son. This is the first page of a two-page letter sent to Hill by Kodokan judo teacher Yoshitsugu Yamashita (1865-1935), and the document is in many ways the birth certificate of Kodokan judo in the USA. The date on the letter is August 25, 1903. Letter: Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldendale, Washington.



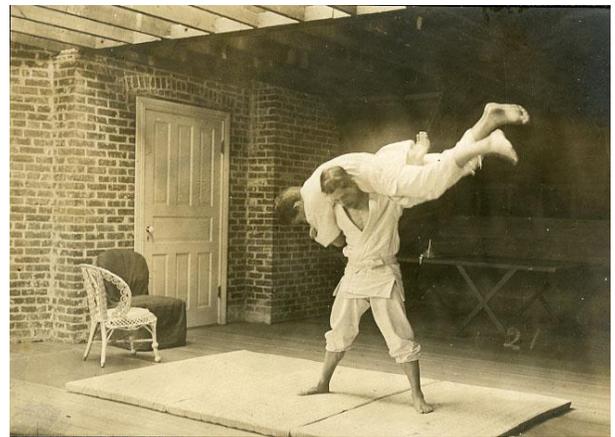
SAM HILL, PROFESSOR YAMASHITA, AND THE SEATTLE THEATRE, 1903

On October 17, 1903, Hill hired the Seattle Theatre for a private exhibition of Yamashita's judo. The demonstration was a combination of lecture and forms, and as far as sportswriter Ed Hughes of the *Seattle Times* was concerned, it was purely exhibition wrestling. Illustration: Janet Bradley, 1998.



YAMASHITA'S "EXHIBITION" WRESTLING CA. 1904

What Ed Hughes witnessed was *kata*, or forms. The throwing technique that Yamashita is demonstrating in this photograph, which was taken in the Washington, DC, area circa 1904, is *kata guruma*, or shoulder wheel. Photograph: Yoshiaki Yamashita Photograph Album (PH 006). Special Collections and University Archives, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst.



**LT. COMMANDER ISAMU TAKESHITA,
1904**

From October 1902 until January 1906, Lt. Commander (later Admiral) Isamu Takeshita (1869-1949) was Japan's naval attaché to the United States. During early 1904, Takeshita introduced Yoshitsugu Yamashita, who was then living in Washington, DC (which is where Sam Hill's son lived) to President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919). Later that year, Takeshita also helped Yamashita get a job teaching judo at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis. The photograph shown below was taken in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1905. Photograph: Library of Congress.



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT TO Y. YAMASHITA,
APRIL 13, 1904**

Although Roosevelt was US president in 1904, he preferred to be called "Colonel." He was also gaining weight as he aged, and so, during March and April 1904, he underwent judo training in the White House basement.



FUDE YAMASHITA, 1904-1905

Yamashita's wife Fude (dates unknown) taught judo in Washington, DC and its suburbs. Her students were mostly wealthy socialites and their children. Photograph: Yoshiaki Yamashita Photograph Album (PH 006). Special Collections and University Archives, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst.



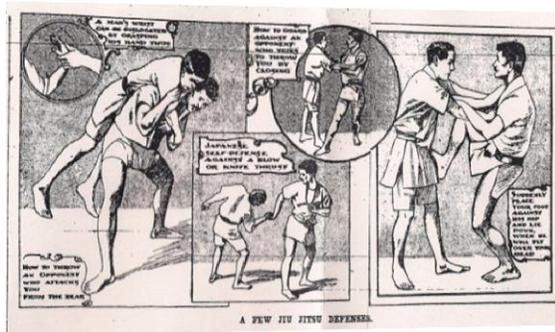
KATHERINE HALLIE ELKINS, 1904-1905

Katherine Elkins (1886-1936) was one of the women who trained with Fude Yamashita. The daughter of Senator Stephen Benton Elkins (1841-1911) of West Virginia, Elkins' theory seems to have been that anything Theodore Roosevelt could do, a woman could do better. Shortly after this photo was taken, she entered into a five-year relationship with Prince Luigi Amedeo, Duke of Abruzzi, son of the king of Spain and cousin of the King of Italy (1873-1933). The equestrian attire is not an affectation; Elkins raised and raced thoroughbreds.



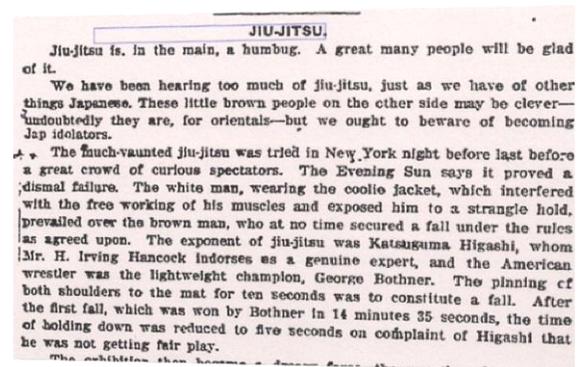
“JIU JITSU, THE JAPANESE METHOD OF SELF DEFENSE; AN ART THAT SEEMS LIKE MAGIC TO THE WESTERN WORLD”

Jiu-jitsu, as the system was generally known outside Japan, was frequently presented in the US newspapers of the day as having almost magical powers. And, in line with the Japanese propaganda surrounding the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, jiu-jitsu was also said to be a method by which the small or weak could defeat the large and powerful. Clipping: *Deseret Evening News* (Salt Lake City, Utah), March 2, 1905.



**JIU -JITSU BECOMES A HUMBUG
APRIL 8, 1905**

On April 7, 1905, a highly touted (non-Kodokan) jujutsu practitioner named Katsuguma Higashi (dates unknown) lost a heavily promoted wrestling match against an American lightweight wrestler named George Bothner (1867-1954). And, far from showing jiu-jitsu’s deadly techniques, Higashi was left to complain of the rough and unfair tactics of his American opponent. Therefore, the following day, most Americans relegated jiu-jitsu to vaudeville acts and self-defense classes. Clipping: *Pittsburgh Press* (Pennsylvania), April 8, 1905, page 6.



FOR FURTHER READING

Svinth, Joseph R. 2010. “Asian Martial Arts in the United States and Canada,” in T.A. Green and J.R. Svinth (eds.), *Martial Arts of the World: An Encyclopedia of History and Innovation*, 2:442-451. Santa Barbara, CA, Denver, and Oxford, UK: ABC-CLIO.

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- Keywords
- A list of works cited. Whenever possible, please refer to online versions.

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