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FOR CHRISTMAS

MILLBANK
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SPORT-HUNGRY BRITISH FANS SPENT FREELY DURING YEAR

Make 1947 Bonanza Year for Promoters But Home Stars Fail Against Foreign Competition

By JACK SULLIVAN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON (CP)—A few silver clouds managed to pierce an otherwise grey British sports picture during 1947. With only slight alterations—change of names and figures—the story followed the pattern of the previous year when well-fed foreign competitors went home with British titles in their baggage.

British athletes, however, showed signs they were slowly regaining the form that gave pre-war stars the reputation of being anything but pushovers.

But if British victories in international play were few, free-spending fans made 1947 a bonanza year for promoters. Unable to buy all the goods they wanted, they spent their money on sport. Cricket, soccer, boxing, rugby and motorcycle speedway, horse and greyhound racing presented balance sheets in glistening black.

A treacherous winter, accompanied by the fuel crisis, almost wiped out sports early in the year, but it rebounded with the spring. Mid-week greyhound racing meetings were banned to save electricity and reduce labor absenteeism, but many tracks held "double-headers" on Saturday, and the pari-mutuel machines clicked merrily over receipts estimated at £200,000,000 (\$800,000,000).

CRICKET REVIVAL WAS BRIGHT SPOT

One 1947 bright spot was the revival of cricket. First-class county clubs provided sparkling play through the season and 3,000,000 supporters—a record—showed their appreciation of the sudden fighting spirit. England decisively beat South Africa in a five-test series—three victories and two draws—and this

helped tremendously to boost sagging spirits.

A steady stream of Americans, loaded with steaks and well-stocked golf-bags, who toured the country's fairways found the opposition stiffer this year. They won the Walker Cup at St. Andrews, but only after a blistering last-round drive against the British amateurs. Willie Turnesa won the amateur championship and Babe Didrikson Zaharias captured the women's title.

But the golfers of the year were Fred Daly from Belfast and Australia's Norman von Nida. Daly won the British open and professional match-play championship, and von Nida, far and away the outstanding tournament player, won more than £3,000 (\$12,000) in prize money.

It was another disastrous year for British tennis. Wimbledon's famed centre court was bare of British stars in the final rounds, giving way to Americans and Australians with Jack Cramer, California star who now is a professional, taking the men's singles, and fellow-American Margaret Osborne, the women's.

WOODCOCK'S FAILURE DISAPPOINTING

Boxing also presented a gloomy picture. The fortunes of Bruce Woodcock, Britain's heavyweight champion whose star shone bright in 1946, turned a full cycle and the Doncaster railroader now is almost in obscurity.

Placed near the top as a Joe Louis contender, he met ponderous, lightly-regarded Joe Baksi of Pittsburgh in April, took an unmerciful pummeling for seven rounds, and hasn't been fit to enter the ring since.

French-bred racehorses, which

won more than \$10,000 for their owners in 1946 stakes, ended the 1947 season with total earnings of approximately \$275,000, but the year cannot be termed "disastrous" for British owners.

British bloodstock in export markets earned \$12,000,000 in hard-currency areas during the first nine months of this year, compared with 08,000,000 for 1946.

Still, two of the classics were won by "outsiders." Irish-bred Caughoo, a 100-to-1 longshot, won the Grand National; and Pearl Diver, also a 100-to-1 starter, won the Derby for France. British-bred Sayajirao galloped home the winner of the St. Leger classic.

Outstanding sports personality was 43-year-old Jockey Gordon Richards who ended the eight-month flat-racing season with 299 victory—a record which may never be approached by any other rider. Gordon also won the British championship for the 20th time in 23 years.

WORLD'S LONGEST CANAL
The longest canal in the world is in China, completed in 1350 after 600 years spent in its construction. It is 2,100 miles long.

SPAWN ONLY ONCE
Salmon frequenting the waters off the Pacific Coast spawn once, and then die, but those of the Atlantic waters spawn several times.

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TEN FLIES AMPLE FOR TROUT SEASON

TORONTO (CP)—Trout fishermen spending these winter evenings tying flies for next spring's season-opening can cut down sharply on the number of their flies. Art Flick, noted New York and Pennsylvania angler, after three years' research, estimates 10 dry flies on which he has good fishing can be had for the season if they're biting at

flies are Quill Gordon, Hendrickson and Red Quill, March Brown and Grey Fox, Light Cahill, May-fly Midget, Green Drake, Dun Variant and Cream Variant. To these he adds a dry fly tied on a No. 18 hook to imitate the very small May flies.

Almost five centuries ago—in 1496, to be exact—Dame Juliana Berners plumped for only 12 patterns of trout flies. Since then anglers on both sides of the Atlantic have recorded some 680 patterns. Now Flick, after reading streams with a butterfly net catching live flies and examining thousands of trout

at Civic Centre

TUESDAY

Sports

P. M.—
Basketball League Games
6:30—65 Taxi vs Gyro
7:30—Peoples vs Sweet 16
8:30—Fashion vs Merchants
9:30—Co-op vs Brownwoods

Special Events
P. M.—
7:30—Kinsmen Kiddies Christmas Films
8:00—Camera Club General Meeting

Stomachs, comes back to a basic dozen or less.

Let it be Christmas in our hearts

Amid children's bubbling laughter,
lighted trees spread their boughs over many gifts.
Our tables are heavy with good things to eat.
And church bells tell their song of joy in peaceful heavens.
It's a good Christmas, a happy Christmas,
in Canadian homes again this year.

Let it be Christmas in our hearts, too.
Let us be thankful we live in a land of plenty...
glad we can share our many blessings with peoples
in countries less fortunate than ours.

Giving, born of the heart, is the true spirit of Christmas.
Giving is the one way to
"Peace on Earth, Good-will to Men".



THE HOUSE OF SEAGRAM

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OVER THE FENCE



"I think a lot of people don't recognize," said the Old Timer this morning, "that Communism, in the sense of being a political theory, isn't Communism any more. It is Russian Communism, and that is a vast difference.

"I don't think any of our local Communists would deny that. Russia dominates the Communist mind. Every thought, every action, of Communists anywhere in the world meets the question: Is this what Moscow wants?"

"I am old enough to remember when we had what could honestly be described as theoretical Communists. In their minds Communism was an effort at a practical application of Christianity. It was a theory, or dogma, not linked with any one country more than another, though perhaps more identified with France than any other. The influence of France was destroyed to a large extent by the extreme bestiality of the Commune following the revolution.

"I suppose there may be some of those original Communists left, but you can be sure they aren't carrying cards in the Communist party. To be a member of the Communist party today you have to be a loyal servant of Russian Communism, which is the world's finest example of the complete police state.

"That is something to remember when it comes to trade union policies, and political activity. Every Communist today is an agent of Russia."



(The views of the Old Timer are presented weekly in this newspaper under the sponsorship of the British Columbia Federation of Trade and Industry). F-23

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To make a lovely lady even Lovelier!
EXCEPTIONAL SELECTION OF DAINTY WEAR—FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS THIS CHRISTMAS.
• BRIDAL SETS
• LOUNGING PAJAMAS
• SLEEPING PAJAMAS
PLAID JACKETS FOR SPORTSWEAR
New Shipment of
WONDER BRA
INCLUDING BLACK—IN ALL SIZES
ANNETTE MANSELL
UPSTAIRS IN STONE BUILDING

She'd love a...
STERLING SILVER Dresser Set
We have seven different patterns of Comb Brush and Mirror Sets in Sterling silver and each one done up in a handsome silk lined case.
Some are engine turned and most of them are handsomely engraved.
Prices range from \$32.50 to \$60.00 according to the amount of labour needed in the making.
We would like you to come in and look them over anyhow.
We can engrave your initials if desired.
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ADVERTISE IN THE DAILY NEWS FOR BEST RESULTS

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Returns Prepared — See
R. E. MORTIMER
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SLIPPERS
are a Thoughtful Gift

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STONE BUILDING
Now Available!

LOOK FOR THE NEW RED AND WHITE GOLD SEAL LABEL