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CANADA'S · STRONGEST · ATHLETE

HOLDER of NUMEROUS DIPLOMAS and GOLD
MEDALS for ACTUAL MERIT

AUTHOR, LECTURER AND RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY ON PHYSICAL EDUCATION

INKERMAN,
ONTARIO, CANADA

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Dear Pal.

I have just got your letter & I thought that I had better answer some things in it.

I am pleased to hear your friend is interested enough to help get me a job, which makes things easier.

I am not troubling about a job, for I feel that we will surmount that O.K. Earle said he would be in New York this week. I never heard from him with regards to his mailing list, I did not expect he would answer this till he got back to N.Y., & he will not be going over to England till spring there is lots of time for our photos to send to him to have placed in the series.

I saw McMahon's ad: but not his booklet, & I would not doubt that Milo is running it, as it appears nowhere else, yet, it is strange they would pick him as his name is not very formidable, tho perhaps he intended running one & they made him a proposition. I am suspicious of these propositions, from what I learnt from Earle. You know Hyson started on his own, & Earle found out, & confidentially he told me, that he made him a partnership proposition & took him in, & he said he fixed the ad, so that it was the Liederman course that got the draw, & not Hyson. You see he politically is killing Hyson, who works for a wage, & I surmise, if he thought I would go ahead with the same, he might take me in, & try & kill me likewise. I know of different experts who bought others out, or went in partnership, & killed them on purpose to have the field. I heard Earle boast that he would yet control the whole P.C. field, & was working to that end, & I was with him when he laid his snares for Matysek, & others, tho I do not know wether it is that that put Matysek out or not. Yet I believe we can beat him.

I believe just as Frenz told me, that the less that was said about that contest the better. Too much criticism might be aroused which might prove detrimental to "Physical Culture".

Matysek told me he was going into some health food business, & didn't care for his course anymore. That might have been talk.

I am sure I wrote Gay of the change, & will write again to be real sure. I think that Matysek is like Gay. He just wanted an asso for his benefit. As you speak of the asso records I have written all the state reps of them on the lines you speak, & also Bernard, but he never got real busy, anyway as you say, it gives you a field to work in. By the way, it was agreed that all records done under official ruling under various asso: are accepted.

The reason for this. Willoughby wrote me that unless we co-operated with the A.A.U. out there we would get no Cal: members, as he said they always promoted the tourneys out there, & asked how I would accept them. He said that they lifted exactly as the B.A.W.L.A. ruling called for. I answered that under these conditions we accepted them, but gave no certificate until they were duplicated before our rept & the breaker was a member. That is they would be accepted by us as A.A.U. records tho not applied officially on our lists. We would not suspend a member for lifting in thier contests, or with one of thier members. The records that were made in the presence of responsible bodies previous to our inception, would be accepted as A.C.W.L.A. un-official records, but accepted as records for the state or as they represented. We could not do otherwise, for all unions work together. For instance the British accept ours same as we accept records etc created by the European Federation of Lifters & wrestlers.. Take for instance records performed before Calvert. I beleive he would wish them done same as the recognised ruling called for, & thus they could be accepted as records officially done previous to our inception, providing they can give us certificates etc to that effect.

My previous records done here were all done under B.A.W.L. ruling in Canada. Any other records should be named under whose ruling performed, for instance the French Canadians have a different ruling & when we know a feat was done under them we know just how it was done. Tho they are begining to accept our ruling as I have dinned it into thier thick heads that whilst they are accepted in Quebec they are not throuth the world & they might as well do it right whilst they are doing it, & the fact that they always send for me proves thier interest in this case.

You ask about my shoulder. I was to four specialists. You see it is the end of the shoulder that is broke off where the arm fits in, & it was never set. My strong muscular ligaments & bone detachments made it so that I could move my arm which deceived me, till it was too late. The nerve is held fast between the break, which dropped my deltoid & the bone grew crooked. When it began to pain I went to get it fixed, as I got a form a paralasis in my arm & by times could not use it at all. They said that they could saw my shoulder apart & reset it, but the end was smashed so that very little could be done. to give my arm the same connection with the shoulder. They could release the nerve, but they forbid me to lift or wrestle again. Of course I quit Wrestling completely, active work, for they told me another fall on my shoulder would imperil my arm as the nerves were badly damaged by my neglect as it was. I know this, but worked away massaging the arm etc, but not lifting a weight for near 18 months, then I gradually began to use weights, & could not M.P. 60 lbs one hand when I recommenced but got up to 100 & 105 on one accassion, but could not stand continual strain. Bent pressing & jerking from the shoulder hurts me yet, & I have not the money to spare for the operation, which was a specialists job, & in the end would not give me much results, a chum of mine who is greatly interested in me, & one of our greatest specialists told me so, & I know he would not tell me so if there was a chance, as he was always proud of my achievements.

That was what made me make up my mind to either break into the P.C. mail

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field or run a Healthatorium, or else quit the game altogether. The feats I wrote you of are they that I can do with ease, in my condition. I used to do some good ones before, & I found that these were great feats for grandstand work as you could use a good weight which would impress the people, whereas with the other stuff you could not get away with it, where people could feel your weights. I always liked to be safe, & they liked me for it.

So that is as it stands. I do not expect I will ever bother with my shoulder now under the consequences. I feel that my knowledge of the game is worth something, & I can prove my ability by teaching others, & my medals & records diplomas are sufficient. I am not really interested how much more than you I can do, as I do not intend to burst myself going after things, you can get two or three records, & your past publicity as a competent critic is a bigger boost than if you could raise 300 one hand. What do the public think of Nordquist. No one thinks of him as a teacher, or a benefit to the enthusiasts. They look upon him as a powerful man, who just had strength & no brain.

You say you never did the Continental work I always did, as I was not a great clean lifter, & anyway when I was starting in the game it was all Continental, & being on the continent, it was nothing else, & I worked the other out to apply the science of it, & that is all. I always was a student & suppose always will be, I studied three years on ancient history & ethnology before I ran away to sea, & have taken a journalist university course, extra mural, I love to study & my education along these lines gave me great help in observation of other races, as I know them from history. We will pass on. Sure we can run our acts as you say with a mixture of balancing & lifting, & that stunt of climbing a pole with a horse. That can only be pulled off in vaudeville, but is a real good one, & when I come I will explain a better way it can be done than I have seen it done. As regards Marx. He was good Ottley. I knew him. Inck had great faith in him, & believed him one of the strongest men he ever saw. Of course they all do fake stuff on the stage. but if we do any novelty work we will register no poundage, & this extricates us. Tho we want to get away from using bells, the public are too suspicious of them & by using each other & some novelty stuff we go further, & have less poundage to cart around. I note what you say at beating other lifters on certain lifts. I never saw a man yet that was master of all. I did two

feats that Saxon would not try. Not that he could not handle the weight but he was afraid of the stunt.

I think if we can get a bunch of fellows together in your city for our in between time, we can make anothe Camberwell club of it, & I can teach wrestling also. I know what you told me about your previous gym experience, but I think I have some other plans. I am all out for getting all we possibly can, & we will do not a thing for nothing. With the exception of your friend who is willing to get me a job. I will give him more attention at the same club fee, & coach him all I can. You know what I mean. I will show him anything he wants.

Certainly we shall need evenings etc for our letterheads, & we will work something sensational, & a plan I worked was always to give a show to fill everymans requirements. If they could pay big I would give them something big, just according to what they could pay, & this often gave me good receipts

We want to be original, & that posing in a picture representing art, & not sculpture is original, & I think we can work it good with spotlight, using colored canvas for background, & posing not painted white.

I think we should easily make acts that would draw us good turns. I will bring Pullums book for you as you require.

Gee, I'll have to do some work for with doing nothing. I have got heavy, altho it is all on my waist, but it makes the wind short.

A good stunt to work is to touch the various health societies, or societies & deliver lectures etc, on a percentage basis, which takes good. I'll talk & you demonstrate, & we get in with the elite.

It is money we want, & lots of it, & we will do our best to get it on the level, I am out for it, as I am not satisfied with a bare living. Well I will close for now, & hope all goes O.K. till we meet.

As ever your pal.

George.

I got a letter from Bernard last night & he must have got a sassy letter from Gay, for he told me he wrote Gay that if he would do more & talk less the asso: would be better helped.

P.S.

It would take a little too long to explain how that stunt lifting a horse & climbing a pole, so will leave it till I see you. If you have a book on mechanical leverage, study it, & perhaps we can get some ideas out of it.

I have just finished writing an article on Quebec. The Cradle of Strong Men", for "Strength". I do not expect there will be much in it for me as I had to go to Montreal & stay two days in order to get new material, but it keeps me before the public eye. It just came to my mind, but Earle was very empathetic that I should do nothing else but write articles, as that was my calling he said. I very meager living a guy would get. eh? I understand why. When I write articles as long as I let him feature me as a pupil he is gaining lots of pupils by my articles as they see the value of my knowledge, & many may think I got it from him I never got one cent out of his advertising at any time. I answered hundreds of letters for him for nothing, so I guess what with this, & the publicity my articles draw to him, that he has been well recompensed. Yet if I remained just a writer, it would mean that I would be kept out of the field, & anytime I spoke of a good job, when I was there, he just brought up the writing. You would be amazed to know just how little Earle knows about physique building.

That article by Calvert about me was a great appreciation of my worth & surprized me, to think he would place me as a greater expert on scientific knowledge than he. Tho he admitted that to me when I was there.

He made a mistake when he said I just came to Canada at the close of the war. I remembering him asking me when I was last over. I was there during the war, as I enlisted here, but I left England 12 years ago. I wandered the world for years, & tho I was an extremely clean liver yet I did not escape. I got the tropical ague, & had it for years, which nearly ruined my nervous system, & I think it has something to do with shoulder. I am very alert for a heavy man, & it is only the tense nervous force that does it. I have been rid of the ague now for eight years, but I have seen that I shook so bad I could not feed myself, at periods. It is a shivering trouble, which you could not stop, & every body who goes to the tropics get it, & if they get over it, they never have it again. It is the climatic conditions on an unclimated body. I have been very unfortunate, as I broke my knee, & then my ankle, & hurt my spine, all thru the gentle game of wrestling, & then broke my

shoulder that nearly ruined me altogether. I could not hold my cup at arms length, the nerve would short circuit, & anything at arms length would fall from my hand like a stone, so you will have an idea what I put up with, tho I never had any suffering, it would just go to that angle & drop. With patience I have brought it back in such a way that amazed the specialists, who knew how I was, but I have not a lot of faith in them guys. They like your money too well.

I have some points in the asso: rules that we shall amend when I come as I believe they are wrong in Britian & here on the Jerk from shoulder, push & press, same with one hand. It is evolution, but that draws the eye, & I have a scheme now you & I can write articles on this that will give us some publicity.

I guess we will be a busy pair for a while, & it is the only way.

By the way. Plourde who was our Quebec rep I threw him down, as I found out that he is only a four flusher. He used to manage Marineau, & they broke & he lied to me about it. I investigated it when I was down, & the whole thing was that Plourde was fixing up some fake stuff on an apparatus that they were building for some feat of Marineau's I & he never told Oscar, & he found it out & was wild, & said he would have nothing to do with a faker like him. I saw the whole thing, & the blacksmith who was doing the work told me also.

Bernard wrote approving greatly of the change
& instilling you