

# SPORT

## Rolling Rock Row

One of the oldest quarrels between Labor and Capital is the one between sporting country squires and the farmers over whose fields they ride to hounds. Farmers perennially growl that the squires break down their fences, trample their crops. Squires perennially reply that privileges and increased property values pay for the damage they do. Last week this dispute—in England as old as the Norman Conquest—became part of the current U. S. strike rash.

Fifty miles outside of Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania's Ligonier Valley, are Rolling Rock Farm and Rolling Rock Country Club. Rolling Rock was originally 12,000 acres of land owned by Judge Thomas Mellon, who left it to his son Richard Beatty Mellon, brother of Andrew Mellon and onetime president of the \$140,000,000 Mellon National Bank. Richard Beatty Mellon turned Rolling Rock into a loosely organized country club, whose members share the expenses of keeping up one of the best U. S. packs of English fox hounds, raising pheasants, and running the Gold Cup Steeplechase. He left it to his son, Richard King Mellon, when he died in 1933. Rolling Rock Country Club hunts over 75,000 acres, mostly owned by 240 farmers whose acres surround the Mellon 12,000. To pay them for the privilege of hunting their land, Rolling Rock has guaranteed the farmers extra work at \$3 a day. Last week, 49 of the farmers doing extra work at Rolling Rock left their plows in their first spring furrows, went on strike. Into the Pittsburgh office of Rolling Rock's Master of Fox Hounds "Dick" Mellon went four farmers' representatives to present their demands: an hour more pay, wider privileges.

Possibly the most decisive answer ever attained in the long history of Squire v. Farmer bickering was the result of their trip: a Mellon decision to close \$2,500,000 Rolling Rock entirely, ship its horses elsewhere, sell its machinery, deprive Ligonier Valley of its \$120,000 annual revenue. Said M. F. H. Mellon: "We have

to purchase their toothbrushes and shotgun shells locally. There has been an unfriendly feeling by the farmers toward us for years. We never ran the farm for profit—just for fun. Now there will be no more hunts. My decision is unequivocal. . . ."

Next day, the Ligonier Board of Trade circulated a petition pledging farmers to



D. A. Feigley

M. F. H. "DICK" MELLON

"Why, once we were selling eggs . . ."

permit Rolling Rock fox-hunters to ride over their land, got all but six of the 240 farmers to sign it. Said the Board of Trade Secretary Edward Grombach, who owns a harness and auto supply store: "We can't help what the strikers have done and we'd be mighty sorry to see Mr. Mellon go."

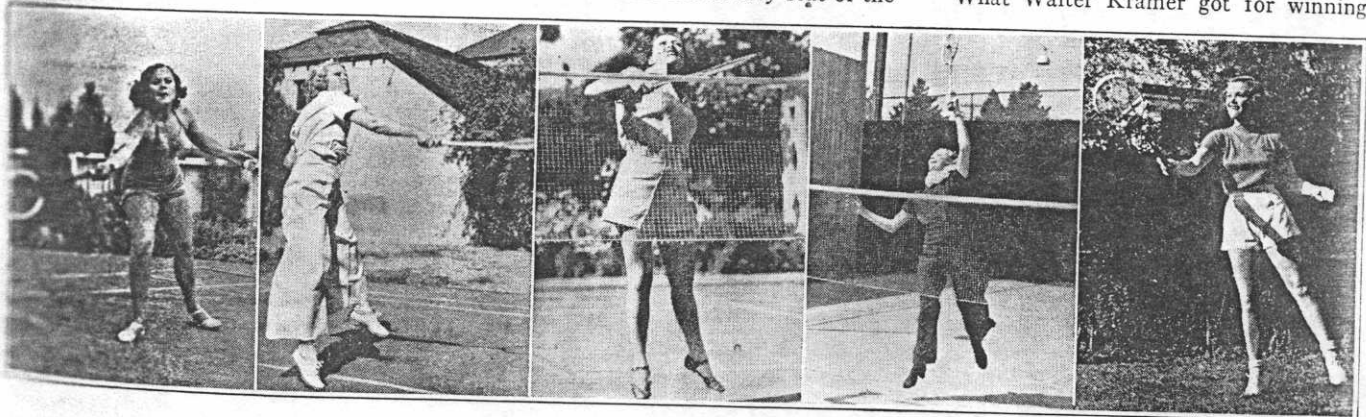
## Badminton's Rebirth

Badminton, modern version of the ancient game of battledore & shuttlecock, takes its name from the county seat of the

For the next 25 years, badminton led a double life. In England it enjoyed a mild vogue as a socialite amusement for which the proper uniform was evening dress. In garrisons and officers' clubs in India where it was called *poona*, badminton was played more violently, took firmer root. Badminton's renaissance in England started soon after the War. In the U. S., where socialites had been playing dignified badminton for years, strenuous badminton did not put in an appearance until about ten years ago. About 1931, badminton began to boom. Currently it is the fastest growing game in the U. S. Last week in Chicago, the cream of the U. S. crop of 40,000 badminton addicts played the first national championship tournament.

Tradition, and the fact that the only requirements for a court are a flat surface and plenty of headroom, make armories the appropriate place for badminton. Last week's tournament was held in that of the Naval Reserve. Before the tournament started, officials debated whether or not to accept the entry of Hock Sim Ong, Malay post-graduate student at the University of California who learned badminton when he went to Cambridge on a British Government scholarship. Before it was over, four other contestants had good cause to wish the officials had rejected it because Hock Sim Ong had beaten them with discouraging ease. In the final, with a socialite crowd of 5,000 seated around the court, Hock Sim Ong's opponent was tall, 24-year-old Walter Kramer of the Detroit Badminton Club, rated by professionals as the ablest U. S. amateur for the last two years. The first game went to Kramer, 15-10. In the second Sim Ong got a lead of 4-1, then apparently forgot all he knew about the game while his opponent ran out 14 points in a row for match & title. Prettiest girl player in the tournament, slim, brunette Mrs. Del Barkhuff of Seattle, was also the most proficient. Using a skyrocket serve that sometimes nearly hit the roof, she won the women's singles championship, 11-4, 11-1, against Mrs. Ray Bergman, then paired with Hamilton Law and with Zoe Smith to share both doubles titles. Men's doubles winners were Chester Goss & Don Eversoll of Los Angeles.

What Walter Kramer got for winning



HENIE, FARRELL, CRAWFORD, LOUISE & SIMON AT BADMINTON

Paul Dorsey, International, Rex Hardy Jr.

It is difficult to display bad form.

... everything we possibly could do. . . . once we were selling eggs. The strikers complained and we stopped. I even gone so far as to ask my friends

Duke of Beaufort. Legend says it started there in 1873 when the guests at a dinner party stuck goose quills in champagne corks, began batting them across the table.

the men's badminton championship last week was a silver cup, named for New York socialites Bayard Clarke and E. Langdon Wilks who were the original



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U. S. badminton pioneers in 1878. Unlike England's "Grand Old Man" of badminton, Sir George Thomas, whose achievement of winning 78 national badminton titles in the British Isles from 1903 to 1928 is rivaled only by his position as England's best chess player, they did not contribute much to the game's later triumph. Badminton's current status on the U. S. scene is largely a tribute to the power of the cinema.

About four years ago, a Boston badminton professional named George F. ("Jess") Willard visited Hollywood. Cinemagnates, always on the lookout for new fads, showed only less enthusiasm for learning the game than for telling the rest of the world all about what they had learned. Three years ago, Warner Brothers released a one-reel short called *Good Badminton*. Last year the firm of Fanchon & Marco hired Jess Willard to play exhibition matches in movie houses. Current rumor is that Walt Disney will produce a badminton cartoon in which Mickey Mouse will oppose Donald Duck. In Hollywood, badminton is not only handy as a sport and reducing exercise but also as an excuse for new poses by actresses like Sonja Henie, Glenda Farrell, Joan Crawford, Anita Louise, Simone Simon (see cuts, p. 35). In addition to novelty, badminton has over tennis the advantage that, since the game consists largely of scrambling, the posture of the subject does not, like that of almost any actress photographed with a tennis racquet, reveal that she does not know much about the game. Able male Hollywood badminton addicts are Pat O'Brien, Warren William, Lyle Talbot, Robert Montgomery. In Hollywood, the virtues of badminton, like many other things, have been exaggerated.

Most Hollywood badminton photographs exhibit it as an outdoor game. Actually, Hollywood is one of the few places where the vogue of badminton has taken root outdoors. Even there it belongs under cover, since the slightest breeze makes a badminton "bird" behave unpredictably. To offset this defect, Douglas Fairbanks has invented his own form of the game, with heavier bats and birds. Fairbanks badminton is named "Doug."

Once launched by Hollywood, badminton broke out all over the U. S. in patches. From Canada, which currently has about 25 of the world's best 30 singles players including Professional Jack Purcell who two years ago beat Hollywood's Willard for the "world's championship," the game spread quickly to Detroit, Chicago, Seattle. Badminton literature began when *Squash-Badminton* appeared in 1934, grew when *American Lawn Tennis* added a badminton section last autumn, came of age last week when the national championships made badminton in daily paper jump from the society to the sports page.

Average badminton bat weighs 5 oz. t a tennis racquet's 13½ oz. Birds, still patented after the Duke of Beaufort's champagne corks, weigh 80 grains. Best birds and bats are imported. Birds are made of fine-grained Spanish cork, covered with French kid, dressed in feathers from Czechoslovakian geese, whose high grease content makes their quills less breakable. Three birds, four bats, tapes, a net, and place to put them are full badminton equipment. With the net stretched 5 ft





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high, across a court 44 by 20 ft., procedure and purposes are similar to tennis except that every shot must be a volley. Scoring is like squash. When the momentum given it by the racquet is spent the bird does not drop like a ball but parachutes to the floor. Hence, retrieving is the most important part of the game and badminton, much easier to learn than tennis, is more taxing to play.

### The Masters

When, in the last round of an important medal tournament which he has had a good chance to win, a young golfer gets to the tenth tee and learns that he is four strokes behind the leader, two things can happen. The news can disrupt his game completely or it can make him play superlatively well. This was the alternative which, last week at Augusta, Ga., faced 25-year-old Byron Nelson, whose most noteworthy previous achievement as a golf professional was winning New York's Metropolitan Open Championship last summer.

A lean, crinkle-eyed onetime Texas railroad clerk, Nelson had set the pace in the first round of the Augusta National Masters' Tournament with a record-breaking 66. His second round 72 left him in front, but after his third, a 75, ponderous Ralph Guldahl, whose third round was a 68, was four strokes ahead of him. Now, with nine holes left to play, Guldahl, just ahead of Nelson on the course, still had the same advantage.

Two years ago, Gene Sarazen won the Masters' Tournament by virtue of what is probably golf's most historic single stroke—a 220-yd. spoon shot that finished in the hole for a double-eagle 2 on the Augusta National's 485-yd. 15th hole. What Nelson did last week was not quite so spectacular but it was equally effective. He got a birdie 3 at the tenth hole, a par 4 at the 11th, a birdie 2 at the 12th, an eagle 3 at the 13th. On the 12th, where his ball had failed by inches to carry a water hazard, Guldahl had taken 5. On the 13th, where his iron shot had gone into the water, he had had a 6. Consequently, on the 14th tee, instead of being four strokes behind, Nelson was two strokes ahead.

When, in the last holes of an important tournament, an able young golfer needs to do no more than equal par, he often blows up. Nelson came closest to doing that last week when he took three putts at the 15th, where two would have given him a birdie. The next three holes he played without a slip. On the 18th, a crowd of 5,000 packed around the green held its breath until he sank his putt, then roared its applause. An amiable, quiet young man who looks faintly like Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Nelson took his ball out of the cup and went indoors to get first prize—a check for \$1,500.

The Masters' Tournament is not a national championship. Its cachet, greater than any other U. S. tournament except the championships, comes from three facts: 1) to be invited to enter, a golfer must have won or come close to winning a national championship; 2) its date, in early April, makes it the climax of golf's winter tournament season; 3) it is the only tournament in which Bobby Jones

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