



The Stroller...

Their Handicaps Just Spurred Them On

By W. W. EDGAR

When Tom Dempsey kicked his record breaking 63-yard field goal to conquer the Detroit Lions in the most spectacular climax to a football game this season, he not only lifted the New Orleans Saints to victory — but he boosted the hopes of every handicapped person in the land.

You see, Tom has only one hand and only one half of his right foot. He wears a special shoe that contains a wooden form of the missing half

foot and the rugged competition of the National Football League is the last place you'd expect to find him.

It may be a long time before his record ever is broken, for it is unlikely that the same conditions will come to pass to set the stage for his record breaking feat — three seconds to play and more than half the length of the field away from the goal posts.

Thus, his name will live on with fellows like the late Harry Greb, one time middleweight boxing champion of the world; Robert Cannefax, one of the best three cushion billiard players of all time; Pete Gray, one-armed outfielder who once played for the St. Louis Browns in the American League, and "Lefty" Harrison, a Detroit golfer of no mean ability a score of years ago.

Then there were such fellows as Charlie Boswell, former All-America football star at the University of Alabama who became a great golfer after losing his eyesight.

And not ever give too many strokes to Budd Lynch, popular one-armed radio personality, in a golf match. How he can whack that ball!

One Swing Does It

Until Dempsey kicked the amazing field goal last Sunday, little attention had been paid to the fact that he was handicapped. He was another name in the line-up. Then, with one swing of that crippled right foot, his name has been on the tongue of every sports minded person in the land.

Just as amazing was the fact uncovered when Harry Greb died that he had pushed his way to the middleweight championship despite the handicap of having a glass eye.

Imagine that — a boxing champion with only one eye.

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It was this handicap that helped to carry Greb to the heights. To offset it, he became a boxing master, weaving, ducking, and "slipping" punches in a manner that earned him the reputa-

tion of being the only man Jack Dempsey refused to fight.

You won't find it in the record books, but Robert Cannefax, one time three cushion billiard champion, had only one leg. And therein lies one of the most humorous tales in all of sportsdom.

Cannefax, a tall, iron gray-haired southerner from the hills of Kentucky, represented Detroit in the long defunct billiard league. And it was in the old Recreation Building that he gained the title in as spectacular a finish as one could imagine.

Needing one point to win his match and title, Cannefax stroked the ball carefully, but in giving it the "body English" used by billiard players he spun right off his wooden leg and fell to the floor. He scrambled to his good foot, just as the shot was successfully completed and beat the referee to the announcement — "One for Mr. Cannefax — and the title."



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