

Rademacher would have done better to remain what he used to be : a Great Olympic Boxing Champion

Today what has he got left beyond the 'remembrance' of a gold medal which he won at the Games of the XVIth Olympiad in Melbourne ?

Everybody still remembers the memorable match Patterson - Rademacher, an event which thrilled the boxing world, not only in America but everywhere. This match took place last August at Seattle, U.S.A. — Floyd Patterson (U.S.A.) won his title of Olympic middle-weight champion when, at Helsinki in 1952, he beat in the finals Vasile Tita (Rumania). He then turned professional and has become Heavy-weight World Champion. Peter Rademacher (U.S.A.) won the Heavy-weight Championship in Melbourne when he beat in the finals Lew Muchin (U.S.S.R.)

This sporting event which should have been the boxing match of our times, turned out a sheer piece of bluff, it was got up and backed by Rademacher's dollars (and the financial support of his friends) it turned out a sad failure as the principal victim was the sport concerned namely boxing. The 17,000 spectators who witnessed the match which was to determine the world's title for the professional Heavy-weights did not get a run for their money ! According to Hal Wood of U. P., the challenge, thrust in a

Middle-Age style, by the Olympic Champion against the professional tamer turned out to be a joke ! The Melbourne Gold Medallist was knocked down six times before being called 'out' by K. O. Rademacher evidently believed in a miracle happening ! but in boxing, miracles do not exist. The Melbourne Champion backed everything on his strength and as in a fairy tale, he launched enthusiastically in the big unknown, devoid of real arms beyond the ones rather weak apertaining to an amateur olympic champion. In all fairness, do not let us forget that Rademacher was up against a professional who earns his living by boxing.

If this match turned out to be 'a thrilling experience' for him as he declared after the meeting, the match proved an excellent training experience and a good business proposition for Patterson who pocketed 250,000 dollars. There lies the morale of the story, thereafter, Patterson when leaving the Sicks Stadium of Seattle declared, 'He is a good fellow'. On the morrow of this sad adventure, *l'Equipe* sized up the situation when it stated 'the sad part of this business was that, instead of having served the cause of this noble sport, it will only bring grist to the mill of the people disparaging boxing'. This is very unfortunate for *Olympic Boxing*.