

Not quite a knockout

'Tunney' has punch but still is lacking

By HUGH A. MULLIGAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The golden age of sports mined a rich vein of glittering heroes.

There was Babe Ruth, the Sultan of Swat; Red Grange, the Galloping Ghost; Bill Tilden in tennis; and Bobby Jones on the links.



CAVANAUGH

And there was Jack Dempsey, the Manassa Mauler, who was beaten in two famous fights by a forgotten hero, Gene Tunney, the Fighting Marine.

In "Tunney," veteran sports writer Jack Cavanaugh digs deep into boxing's colorful and often contemptible past to rescue perhaps the most skilled practitioner of the science, a champ who not only preferred obscurity but actually sought it after retiring as undefeated heavyweight champion.

Cavanaugh reminds us that all too often in the golden age of sports, gold was the goal. This was the age of million-dollar gates, of sports writers on the take and gangsters at ringside with politicians and priests; the age of fixed fights and even a fixed World Series. They also termed it the Roaring '20s, an era of loud suits, silent movies and speakeasies.

The cast of characters includes Jimmy Walker, New York's playboy mayor; bootleg baron Scarface Al Capone; promoter Tex Rickard, who began as a faro dealer in the Alaskan gold rush; and fight manager Doc Kearns, who pocketed half of Dempsey's ring earnings and dubiously claimed to have doused the boxer's hands with plaster of Paris to knock out Jess Willard for the heavyweight title.

Socialites, song writers and chorus girls join the mix.

Clean-living, Shakespeare-loving Tunney managed to rise above all this but somehow lost favor with the public and prominent sports writers by rising from the canvas to retain the heavyweight title after a hovering, glowering Dempsey had decked him with a savage left hook in the famous, still-argued long count second fight.

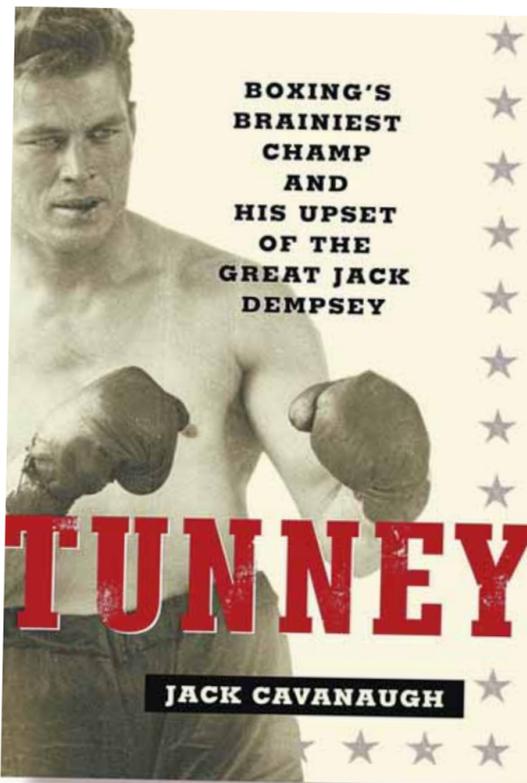
Dempsey's reluctance to obey the neutral corner rule may or may not have cost him the fight, but it did cost Capone \$50,000 on a losing bet.

Cavanaugh brings up the interesting forgotten facts that Tunney had Dempsey on the canvas in the next round and handily won all but one round in their million-dollar gate battles in Philadelphia and Chicago.

It was a battered Dempsey, fearful of going blind, who wanted no part of a third fight, no matter how big the gate. How the two became good friends ever after is among the delights of this book.

Although Cavanaugh diligently stalks the illusive and reclusive Tunney from a tenement in Greenwich Village to the family estate in Greenwich, Conn., through eight decades and 23 anecdote-crowded chapters, he understandably fails to nail him with a knockout biography.

James Joseph Tunney, to give the unsung hero the real name on his modest tombstone, is still shadow boxing in the shadows of sports history, bobbing and weaving and ducking the definitive biography that would never have been important enough anyhow to fit on his bookshelf crowded with Shakespeare.



"Tunney: Boxing's Brainiest Champ and His Upset of the Great Jack Dempsey" by Jack Cavanaugh (Random House)

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY BEST SELLERS

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom (Hyperion)
2. "Next" by Michael Crichton (HarperCollins)
3. "Cross" by James Patterson (Little, Brown)
4. "Shadow Dance" by Julie Garwood (Ballantine Books)
5. "Hannibal Rising" by Thomas Harris (Delacorte)
6. "Dear John" by Nicholas Sparks (Warner)
7. "Treasure of Khan" by Clive Cussler, Dirk Cussler (Putnam)
8. "Brother Odd" by Dean Koontz (Bantam)
9. "The Boleyn Inheritance" by Philippa Gregory (Touchstone)
10. "Wild Fire" by Nelson DeMille (Warner)

NONFICTION/GENERAL

1. "You: On A Diet: The Owner's Manual for Waist Management" by Michael F. Roizen, Mehmet C. Oz (Free Press)
2. "The Audacity of Hope" by Barack Obama (Crown)
3. "The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town" by John Grisham (Doubleday)
4. "Marley & Me" by John Grogan (Morrow)
5. "Culture Warrior" by Bill O'Reilly (Broadway)
6. "The Best Life Diet" by Bob Greene (Simon & Schuster)
7. "The God Delusion" by Richard Dawkins (Houghton Mifflin)
8. "Jim Cramer's Mad Money: Watch TV, Get Rich" by James J. Cramer with Cliff Mason (Simon & Schuster)
9. "Cesar's Way" by Cesar Millan, Melissa Jo Peltier (Harmony)
10. "I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman" by Nora Ephron (Knopf)

MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

1. "Slow Burn" by Julie Garwood (Ballantine Books)
2. "The Last Templar" by Raymond Khoury (Signet)
3. "S is for Silence" by Sue Grafton (Berkley)
4. "Honeymoon" by James Patterson, Howard Roughan (Warner Books)
5. "Gone" by Lisa Gardner (Bantam)
6. "Cell" by Stephen King (Pocket Star)
7. "The Hunt Club" by John Lescroart (Signet)
8. "The Hostage" by W.E.B. Griffin (Jove)
9. "The Cat Who Dropped a Bombshell" by Lilian Jackson Braun (Jove)
10. "Lethal Justice" by Fern Michaels (Zebra)

'Resolute' chronicles search for elusive passage, lost explorers

By NORMAN N. BROWN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europeans' craving for spices from the Far East, which were transported on a long, expensive overland journey, led to Columbus' voyages in search of a better route.

His discovery of the New World provided a western route for sailing to the Spice Islands. But voyages from Europe required a long journey around the southern tip of South America, sparking the quest for a Northwest Passage that would take ships on a shorter route over the top of North America.

Great Britain was not particularly interested in spices, but it did seek to discover faster trade routes for its goods. Such explo-

ration also meant the advancement of scientific knowledge that would help it retain its world prominence.

In the 16th century, British navigators began to probe the Arctic waters and ice barriers, attempting to chart the unknown top of the world and find a path to the Pacific.

In his book "Resolute," Martin W. Sandler provides an enthralling and detailed chronicle of the British Arctic expeditions of the 19th century.

The first of these, led by the renowned naval figure Sir John Franklin, sailed in 1845 and vanished. Franklin, 128 men and two ships were lost somewhere in the ice-clogged waters off northern Canada. Franklin died in 1847 but his

death was not confirmed until many years later. Some shipboard artifacts were found in the possession of local Inuits, but nothing more has been learned about the doomed expedition.

The disappearance inspired 39 rescue efforts, which experienced various fates, including shipwreck, hunger, murder and cannibalism. It's remarkable that there were so many willing men and available resources to challenge the hardships of the Arctic with such little hope of success.

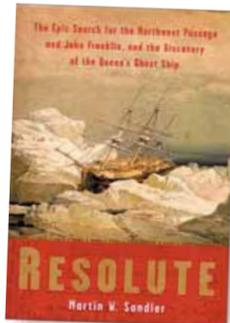
One expedition set out in 1854 to investigate the Franklin disappearance and to search for the Northwest Passage. Among its vessels was HMS Resolute, which was abandoned when it became locked

in and immobilized by Arctic ice.

Imprisoned by the drifting ice pack, the Resolute was discovered a year later, 1,200 miles from where it was abandoned, by George Henry, a whaler from Connecticut. Henry manned the ship with a skeleton crew and sailed it with great difficulty to New London, Conn.

The U.S. government restored the Resolute to its original efficiency and returned it to the British Royal Navy. Queen Victoria was so touched by the gesture that in 1879, when the Resolute was retired and dismantled, she gave President Hayes a desk made from the ship's finest timbers.

The desk is still in the White House.



"Resolute: The Epic Search for the Northwest Passage and John Franklin, and the Discovery of the Queen's Ghost Ship" by Martin W. Sandler

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