

How Karel Miljon lost to the jury

By Jan Luitzen

Karel Miljon, seconds before an Olympic match in 1928.

Photo: Private collection Karel Miljon, Jr.



Unfairness? The loss Karel Miljon suffered in the semi-finals against Ernst Pistulla of Germany at the 1928 Olympics was the epitome of unfairness. His disillusioned German opponent had already gone to the locker room when the jury came to its decision. It puzzled everyone: Pistulla had won after all, in a victory on points.

Juicy detail: during the match, Prince Hendrik, the German-born Prince of the Netherlands, made his appearance. This distracted Pistulla, and a ruthless Miljon took advantage of it.

The descendents of Karel Miljon are slowly getting over the 'stolen' match, but it is not easy. What follows is a reconstruction of a boxing match that can still make your blood boil today.'

Amsterdam Bans Boxing

'Gentlemen with flattened noses, chewing gum', 'covered in blood and sweat', sit and after their revolting fight still embrace and kiss each other.² Spectators whistle, shout, and jeer without restraint in perfect harmony in 'this primitive environment where Neanderthals' manners are written in the book of etiquette'³ ...

This is how Dutch newspapers portrayed boxing during the 1928 Olympics (28th July to 12th August in Amsterdam). General revulsion. Disdain. In his report of the first days

Pia Abrahamsen-Miljon: 'It did not upend his life, but that match did have a tremendous impact on my father.'

of the Olympic tournament, the reporter on duty of *De Volkskrant* even called boxing too ridiculous for words. That's why he announced that he would not include the results in the paper, but 'only mood pieces to launch our thinking about this sport'.⁴ Indeed, a few days later he filled half a page with a 'boxing impression' – entitled: 'The Olympic butcher' – which did not hide his contempt for that 'stupid sport' in which 'anhedonia leads to a fistfight'.⁵

The Mayor of Amsterdam at the time, Willem De Vlucht, had been rather blunt, saying those sport fans that wanted to see bloodletting should go to the slaughterhouse. Since late 1922 public boxing matches had been banned in Amsterdam following a dramatic, fatal boxing incident. De Vlucht was dead-set against lifting the ban considering the approaching Olympic Games. But he changed his mind when he was subtly told that boxing had been a full-fledged Olympic sport since the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis. Barely hiding his reluctance, he allowed a temporary lift of the boxing ban, so that competitive boxing was allowed during the two weeks of the Games in Amsterdam. On a side note: De Vlucht grew so enthusiastic about the Olympics that he turned devout Christians against him by attending several games on Sunday.⁶

In this tendentious atmosphere, the Dutch boxing team moved into the Dam Hotel in Edam a month before the start of the Olympics. Sam Olij (heavyweight, over 79,378 kg), Karel Miljon (light heavyweight, up to 79,378 kg), Cor Blommers (welter weight, up to 66,678 kg), Daaf Baan (light weight, up to 61,237 kg), Bep Van Klaveren (feather weight, up to 57,152 kg), and Ben Brill (fly weight, tot 50,802 kg) were the boxers representing the Netherlands. It was the first time since its inception in 1911 that the Nederlandsche Boks Bond [the Dutch boxing federation] (NBB) set up a training camp, American style, Van Opzeeland writes in his biography of Ben Brill.⁷



Jan Luitzen | *1960, he studied Dutch Linguistics and Literature at VU University in Amsterdam. He is a lecturer and graduation project coordinator for SM&O, a bachelor programme at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, and is (external) PhD candidate at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. In 2014–2015 Luitzen published three articles in *The International Journal of the History of Sport*. For more information, check: https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Luitzen



The Olympic boxing team in traditional Volendam costumes in 1928: Bep Van Klaveren (standing, third from the left), Karel Miljon (standing, third from the right), Sam Olij (standing, far right), Daaf Baan, Cor Blommers and Ben Brill (seated, far right). Also in the picture: trainer Jan Ploeger, sparring partners Sytze Jansma and Nol Steenhorst, and Th. C.P.M. Van Kolfsochten, Mayor of Edam. Adjacent: The backside of the postcard Jacobus Braat received 31st July 1928, reads, 'As a nice souvenir of the cheerful sport life in the "Dam Hotel" in Edam'. Only Mayor Van Kolfsochten did not sign the card.

Hotelier Jacobus Braat showed his great talent for improvisation by turning his yard into a temporary fitness center. He furnished a full-scale boxing ring, punching balls, punching bags, and dumbbells. 'Jump ropes and shadow boxing were part of the daily ritual. Two sparring partners hired by the NBB helped the boxers develop a competition rhythm: Nol Steenhorst of Rotterdam, an uncle of Bep Van Klaveren, and Sytze Jansma, who had won Olympic silver in Antwerp in 1920 with the Dutch tug-of-war team were strict teachers who did not pamper their students. Nephew Bep also got to know Uncle Nol's fists like he never had before.'

Ex-top boxer Ben Brill remembers the Edam training camp more like a chastisement than a relaxed preparation: 'In order to stay below my competition weight, I had to follow a strict diet, and because of the extremely heavy training, that often meant going to bed hungry. It was sheer torment, for Mr. Braat could cook. His homemade bread with thick slices of Edam cheese had me salivating many a time. But, most of the time, our trainer, Jan Ploeger would not let us have any. That's when you could see that he had been a sport teacher for the police and the marines. I can still hear him saying: "Guys, think about your weight."'⁸

"The Sprig"

For Bep Van Klaveren a different aspect of the training camp was punishment. Not only was he 'bored to tears there in Edam' for weeks, but 'the town hall had a chiming glockenspiel, you know, and every 15 minutes it played the same idiotic tune. Day in, day out. I thought I was going to go crazy because of that bloody thing. I didn't sleep a wink. Our room was right next door to it. Christ! What a scourge, those darn bells! Every 15 minutes that same stupid song ... At some point I had had enough. I thought: I am going to stop those bells ... I tried, but I couldn't get in. Everything was locked. Not one single door could I open. I even looked to see if I could climb onto the roof to stop them from the outside, those bells, but not a chance.'⁹

In the previews only one Dutchman was given a big chance to win Olympic gold: Karel Leendert Miljon

(1903-1984) – after all, he was runner-up at the 1927 European championship – and at some point his father had said about him: 'When he was fourteen, in 1917, we called him "De Spriet ["The Sprig"]'. Man, o, man, was he skinny. It looked as if some of his bones went straight through the skin and you could easily count his ribs.' *De Ring*, the magazine of the boxing federation, contains a retrospective of Miljon's career published in 1948. It describes how 'The Sprig,' at 14 years old barely weighing 100 pounds – this was called extra light weight back then – entered the competitive ring for the first time. It was a disaster. His opponent, Nico Deul, a 'well-known young Amsterdam boxer', soon gave Karel a right-hand jab that dizzied him. 'He resorted to a double cover, which he kept up. In the second round he gave up and the people kind of laughed at him. After all, the spectators are cruel. Won't ever see him back in the ring, they said to each other. He has had his fill.'¹⁰

At that moment, nobody had any idea that Karel Miljon would become one of the best amateur boxers in the Netherlands. Karel joined the Amsterdam boxing club J.J. Corbett, whose founder, ex-top boxer Nelis Bisschop, was the instructor. Under his tutelage Miljon improved rapidly, but he learned even more from the 'famous negro' Battling Siki, who lived in Rotterdam, where he competed most often.¹¹ 'Karel trained with Siki in a room upstairs somewhere on Rapenburg Island in Amsterdam, and he really showed Karel how the left uppercut was delivered. That pure, straight punch would become Karel Miljon's most feared weapon. Thanks to his height and his large wingspan, he used it effectively.'¹²

In 1922, Miljon won the Dutch championship for the first time, and he held on to it, uninterrupted, for over a decade. Later he also became heavyweight champion. He could have made a lot of money, but he never went pro. Throughout Europe he competed 224 times and lost only seven matches. In 1924 he participated in the Paris Olympics, where he lost in the first round to the eventual champion, Harry Mitchell of England.

And then the drama of the Olympic Games unfolded for Miljon in Amsterdam.

Ben Brill, Cor Blommers, Sam Olij and Daaf Baan had fairly good results on those warm days in August 1928, as

Photo: Private collection Karel Miljon, Jr.

Karel Miljon (left) and Alf Jackson of England.

Photo: Private collection Anthony Th. Bijkerk.



expected, really. They made it to the quarterfinals, but then they lost those matches, which meant the end of their Olympic tournament.

Bep Van Klaveren beat Juan Muñoz Panadez of Spain in the first round of the featherweight class. On Friday, 10th August, he had to compete twice. First he beat Frederick Perry of Great Britain. Then, in a tough and aggressive fight, Van Klaveren swept American Harold Devine off the canvas. Hiddema wrote about this fight: 'Van Klaveren may have put in his best performance of the tournament, but Devine is better and Van Klaveren's victory is undeserved.'¹³

It was a legit interpretation which did not jibe with the reviews in the papers because both *Het Vaderland* and *Sportrevue 't Stadion* agreed in their reports on 11th August that Van Klaveren had won all three rounds on points, by placing 'several hard and straight hooks.'¹⁴ *Het Vaderland* was the most explicit: 'The Dutchman wins the first round by a narrow margin. (...) The second round is still for our vegetarian [nickname of Van Klaveren, JL], though he went down for a moment on a short left. He sees every chance and early on he places a few punches around Devine's defense. The third round of this match, the best one thus far today, is also narrowly won by Van Klaveren, who, toward the end, hits his opponent's right side and deservedly wins the match.'¹⁵

In light heavyweight, Karel Miljon beat Emil Johansson of Sweden and Alfred Jackson of England.

Miljon Versus Pistulla

That same Friday 10th August – later than the Van Klaveren–Devine match – he faces Ernst Pistulla of Germany in the semifinals. The crowd is excited because of the prospect of two Dutchmen in Olympic boxing finals, with a chance to win two gold medals.

In the first round, Miljon outdoes his German opponent with technique. His larger reach gives Miljon an advantage, but the German has a sturdier build. *Het Vaderland* notes: 'Both gentlemen do not waste any time. Both sides hit their opponent several times. Miljon loses control for a moment in the heat of the battle and hits Pistulla in the neck, for which he is reprimanded. Miljon's heavy blows make their mark on the German, who is falling behind.'¹⁶ *Voorwaarts* concludes: 'Pistulla's attacks are mainly aimed at Miljon's jaws. Miljon responds in equal measure. (...) The Dutchman has a slight advantage in this round.'¹⁷

After the short break Miljon is still the best boxer in the ring and 'the brave German scores fewer points, although he does once hit Miljon full on the chin. (...) In our opinion, the second round is for the Dutchman.'¹⁸ It is also interesting to read the observations from the opponent's side. The German *Box-Sport* notes that during this second round Prince Hendrik, 'der Holländische Kronrepräsentant' [the Dutch representative of the Crown], enters the hall, or rather, makes his appearance. Pistulla, distracted, turns around, curious to see what is causing the commotion behind him. The Dutchman, Miljon, can see the prince straight ahead and must have seen him before, so he takes advantage of the situation by delivering a full punch to his sidetracked opponent. After this blow, the shaken German boxer stumbles into his corner for the rest period.¹⁹

Then comes the third and final round. Pistulla starts an attack with a left hook toward Miljon's jaw, 'which is taken well by the Dutchman', writes *Voorwaarts*.²⁰ This seamlessly complements the German report in *Box-Sport*, about the way in which Pistulla recovered after the bell for the final round. Pistulla's helper is Ludwig Neecke, the top trainer from Cologne. When Pistulla still looks completely apathetic shortly before the start of the third round, the famous trainer takes out a darning needle and sticks it an inch into Pistulla's behind ['deep into Pistulla's butt cheek']. The Berliner jumps up as though he has been given an electric shock and begins to fight doggedly.²¹ It is not that odd then that *Het Vaderland* notes that the third round opens with two 'good left hooks to the jaw by the German boxer'.²²

But the newspapers agree that Miljon is clearly better than Pistulla in this third round. *Voorwaarts*: 'Miljon too, delivers hooks to the German boxer, full on the jaw, which leaves him in a stupor; he is hopelessly beaten.'

Then the Berliner goes down for a second due to an entirely correct and legitimate blow to the stomach, but he acts as though Miljon hit him much lower. The referee buys it and gives Miljon an official warning for hitting below the belt. An enormous uproar emanates from the crowd because it disagrees completely with this decision. When Pistulla gets back up, Miljon is right back on him again, determined to knock his opponent to the ground as yet. But Pistulla is saved by the bell.²³

A “Moral” Winner

Everyone expects Miljon to be pronounced the winner in spite of the warning. After all, he was ‘faster, more agile and technically more skilled than his opponent, and with his rattling left jab he had unmistakably scored the most hits.’²⁴ In anticipation of the jury’s decision, Pistulla pulls off his gloves and steps through the ring ropes. He goes to the locker room before the decision has been announced, counting on a loss. Miljon stays, sure of his victory. In the sports magazine *Sportief* – almost twenty years later – Karel Miljon says: ‘Then the scoring notes were collected: Pistulla was the winner! I could not believe it. I was beside myself. Once Pistulla had been called back from the locker room, I refused to shake his hand, but ... it was over. Two Dutch officials submitted an official protest, but it didn’t make a difference: it was a losing battle. I was the “moral winner”, they said, but that doesn’t get you an Olympic title if you have officially lost the semifinals ... The party was over for me.’²⁵ Three years later he added, almost doggedly: ‘I got bronze in the category light heavyweight, but I am certain that I was entitled to silver instead of Pistulla, who turned professional and immediately was one of the best pro boxers in Europe.’²⁶

The crowd is furious too. A thunderous hurricane erupts in Amsterdam when it is announced that Pistulla is awarded the win on points. The (both Dutch and foreign) spectators unite in protest. The outrage over the unjust decision and the ensuing uproar that last the entire afternoon is best expressed by *Voorwaarts*: ‘Imagine our surprise when the jury declared the German boxer the winner. These gentlemen have already repeatedly given proof of their incompetence, but this must be the worst decision yet. Miljon had the upper hand during the entire match. The crowd greeted this absurdity with a tremendous series of boos and hisses, and for good reason. It is very sad that our Dutch representative was eliminated this way.’²⁷

No matter what: if a boxer leaves his opponent and the referee in the ring without acknowledging their presence, then that snub most likely has to do with the loser’s sense of being wronged by a so-called “fabricated” decision.’ In a German reflection, later, it was shamelessly stated that Pistulla’s victory –

retroactive justice – was payback for earlier wrong jury decisions in which other German boxers had been the victims.²⁸ In the Netherlands, Miljon’s sobering defeat is seen in light of the win by Bep Van Klaveren over Harold Devine earlier that day: ‘Two Dutchmen in an Olympic final, “they” thought that would be a bit much. Karel Miljon had to pay for Van Klaveren’s win.’²⁹

The following day, Bep Van Klaveren won against Peralta of Argentina, about whom he later says: ‘He could hammer really hard, but he missed so often. He also stumbled over his own legs. And over his own arms when he was boxing. Well, I beat him on points, and then I was Olympic champion. Yes.’³⁰

A gold medal, which Van Klaveren won, would certainly have been within reach for Karel Miljon. ‘In 1932 I will repeat my performance’, was Karel Miljon’s firm resolve, but in the run-up to those Olympics, a broken right hand – thanks to Harry Staal, ‘a piece of granite’, ‘a prehistoric man’ – kept him from the Dutch championship for the first time since 1922.³¹ Miljon’s son Karel (1943) adds in 2009 that the Dutch Olympic Committee (NOC) may have been happy to have had an excuse for not sending any boxers to the 1932 Olympics. ‘Ben Bril and my dad would have gone, but the NOC was wary of the cost. For this, also think about the operational costs, for example. Actually, in this way Ben Bril was also a victim of that broken hand. When my father would have participated in America, his hand had fully recovered and he was training again at full force.’³²

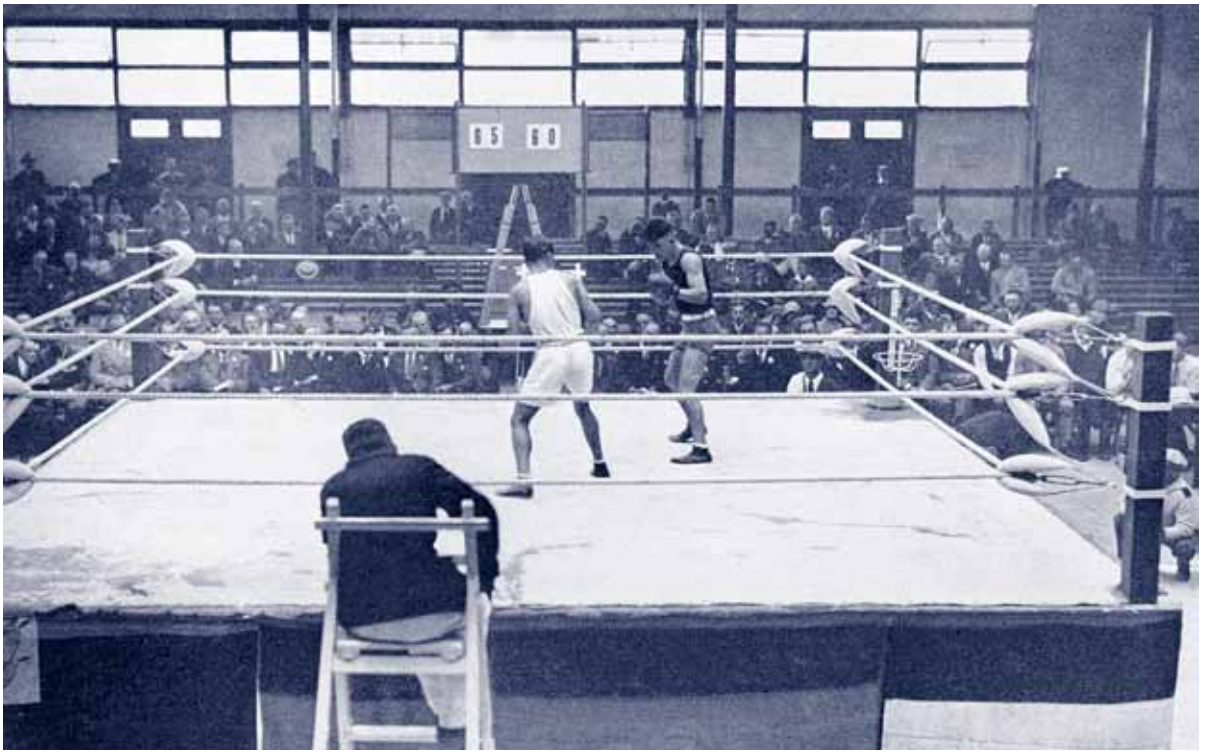


Karel Miljon lost on points to Ernst Pistulla (right in his fight against the Irishman Murphy). In the final Pistulla was beaten by the Argentinian Victorio Avendaño. The German fell in September 1944 at the Eastern Front.

Photo: Volker Kluge Archive

Bep Van Klaveren (right against the American Devine) is the only Dutch Olympic boxing champion to date.

Photo: Volker Kluge Archive



“The Gentleman Boxer”

Was the injustice Karel Miljon suffered an experience that haunted him all his life? He did win the fight for third place against McCorkindale from South Africa, but bronze was of course a paltry consolation prize.

Son Karel – together with his sister Pia Abrahamsen-Miljon (1948) – puts that ‘traumatic aspect’ in a somewhat more nuanced perspective: ‘Of course my dad was very upset with that loss, and as I reread all the reports of those days, I am gradually starting to feel the anger my dad must have felt at the time. He was a very quiet man, so whenever the Olympics were brought up in conversation, he preferred to quote external, “objective” sources on his behalf. He would prove his case by showing a German book, no less, that stated that Miljon was clearly the winner because he hit Pistulla anywhere he wanted to in the third round.’³³

‘Missing out on Olympic gold did not really negatively impact his life. On the contrary: many good things came to him from boxing, so my dad said he could not complain. When his small contractor business collapsed due to the economic crisis, the Bloemendaal police hired him to teach boxing to their staff. He got that job through then-mayor Den Tex, whom he had been teaching for a while. In 1949 he started working for the Ford Motor plant in Amsterdam, where he was chief of the company police, with a company car, and with his family he lived comfortably in an affluent suburb outside of Amsterdam. In his circles, people knew what he had achieved, and he felt sufficiently respected. Ben Brill, especially, thought a lot of him. We noticed that after my father died. Brill was the only one from the boxing world who was present at my father’s funeral in 1984. We wrote to the NBB of his passing, but they never responded.’³⁴

Karel Miljon’s daughter Pia is just as clear: ‘It did not upend his life, but that match did have a tremendous impact on my father.’³⁵

That is logical because in 1927 Karel ‘The Gentleman Boxer’³⁶ Miljon lost the European championship in a dramatic fashion, due to the unsportsman-like behavior of his German opponent Hein Müller. The latter had taken quite a few blows in the final’s first round, but was less than courtly when Miljon slipped and fell. Normally, in amateur boxing, you help the other boxer get back on his feet, and after a handshake you will resume the fight. But the moment Miljon got back up, Müller lunged forward and hit him square on the chin. Although formally condoned, it was considered ‘unfair’. ‘But what

To the far left, in the boxing club: Karel Miljon.

Photo: Private collection Karel Miljon, Jr.



did the German guy care? His blind ambition only knew one goal: win! And for this, the end justifies all means ...'³⁷

Moreover, Müller repeated his action when Miljon had gone 'down' for a few seconds and was trying to get up. Müller immediately dealt him another blow. Miljon hit the canvas again, and this exchange caused him to eventually lose on points. His unfair German opponent was so exhausted toward the end of the third round that Miljon managed to beat him till he saw stars. But still: both the Dutch and German press concluded that Miljon was 'robbed of the European championship due to the "unfairness" of his opponent.'³⁸

In 1928 Karel Miljon must have had a strong *déjà vu* feeling, although losing because of unsportsmanlike behavior does not rank as high as being humiliated by a jury. Well, let's face it: it must have an impact when, for such an important match, the wrong decision by the jury sends you to the third-and-fourth place final instead of competing for Olympic gold, the highest honour there is for an amateur sportsman. If you lose an Olympic fight that you have actually won, you're going to end up talking about it for the rest of your life. ■

- 1 A Dutch first version of this story – without footnotes – appeared in: Ad van Liempt and Jan Luitzen (eds.), *Achilles 06. Sportverhalen van Toen en Nu*, L.J. Veen, Amsterdam 2009, pp. 67–80.
- 2 *Leeuwarder Nieuwsblad. Goedkoop Dagblad*, 14th August 1928, p. 6.
- 3 *Algemeen Dagblad*, 11th August 1928, p. 10.
- 4 *De Volkskrant*, 8th August 1928, p. 6.
- 5 *Ibid.*, 10th August 1928, p. 6.
- 6 Bert Hiddema, *De Olympische Spelen Amsterdam 1928*, Spaarnestad Photo / AMSTELSPORT, Haarlem / Amsterdam 2008, pp. 109, 14–15.
- 7 Ed Van Opzeeland, *Ben Bril. Davidster als Ereteken*, De Buitenspelers, Kats 2006, pp. 14–15.
- 8 *Ibid.*
- 9 Jan Oudenaerden, *De Rotterdamse Geschiedenis in Meer dan 100 Verhalen*, Van Gennep, Amsterdam 2005, p. 179.
- 10 *De Ring*, October 1948, p. 12
- 11 Battling Siki = Louis M'barick Fall (1897–1925), a Senegalese boxer who lived in the Netherlands for a long time and was married to a woman from Rotterdam; in 1992 Niek Koppen made the documentary 'Siki' about him.
- 12 *De Ring*, October 1948, p. 12.
- 13 *De Olympische Spelen Amsterdam 1928*, 115.
- 14 *Sportrevue 't Stadion*, 14th August 1928, p. 2.
- 15 *Het Vaderland. Staat- en Letterkundig Nieuwsblad*, 11th August 1928, p. 2.
- 16 *Ibid.*
- 17 *Voorwaarts. Sociaal-Democratisch Dagblad*, 11th August 1928, p. 7.
- 18 *Het Vaderland. Staat- en Letterkundig Nieuwsblad*, 11th August 1928, p. 2.
- 19 *Box-Sport*, 15th August 1960, p. 11.
- 20 *Voorwaarts. Sociaal-Democratisch Dagblad*, 11th August 1928, p. 7.
- 21 *Box-Sport*, 15th August 1960, p. 11.
- 22 *Het Vaderland. Staat- en Letterkundig Nieuwsblad*, 11th August 1928, p. 2.
- 23 *Voorwaarts. Sociaal-Democratisch Dagblad*, 11th August 1928, p. 7.
- 24 Anton Witkamp and Leo van de Ruit (eds.), *De Top 500. De Beste Nederlandse Sporters van de 20ste Eeuw*, Premium Press, Maarssen 1999, p. 331.
- 25 Klaas Peereboom, 'Waar Zijn Ze Gebleven?: Karel Miljon', *Sportief. Weekblad voor Alle Sporten* 2, No. 6, 7th February 1947, p. 6.
- 26 *De Revue der Sporten* 24, No. 26, 2nd February 1931, p. 15.
- 27 *Voorwaarts. Sociaal-Democratisch Dagblad*, 11th August 1928, p. 7.
- 28 Walter Richter (ed.), *Die Olympischen Spiele in Amsterdam 1928*, Verlag für Industrie-Kultur, Leipzig [1928], p. 162. Verbatim it says: 'Diesmal war die zweite Pistullas beste Runde, doch zum Schluß war er so vollständig fertig, dass ihn Miljon traf wie er wollte. Die

- Punktrichter gaben Pistulla den Sieg, eine wenig ausgleichende Ungerechtigkeit für frühere, falsche Beurteilung mancher unserer Boxer.' [This time the second round was Pistulla's best, but in the end he was so totally done that Miljon had him where he wanted him. The jury awarded Pistulla the victory, a somewhat equalizing injustice for the earlier, wrongful scoring of many of our boxers.']
- 29 *De Top 500*, p. 331.
 - 30 Ardie den Hoed, *Hollands Greatest, Made in Rotterdam*. Rotterdam 2003, p. 21.
 - 31 *De Ring*, October 1948, p. 13.
 - 32 Statements from e-mail communication with Karel Miljon, Jr., 4th–7th, 21st, 25th and 26th August 2009. In his biography of Ben Bril, Ed Van Opzeeland claims that the role the NOC played in the 'elimination on paper' of Bril, who is Jewish, for the 1932 Olympics has never been fully clarified, whereas Bril, who was in great shape, must have been seen as a potential candidate for a medal. The main suspect, certainly in the eyes of Bril, was Wilmsen, then secretary-treasurer of the federation (1931–1936 and 1939–1941), who did not hide his anti-semitic feelings, as a member of the Dutch Nazi sympathizers' party, NSB, which was established in 1931. *Ben Bril*, p. 20: 'Was it a one-man move by Wilmsen? Did he hide Ben Bril's candidacy until it was too late to apply? Or had the Dutch boxing federation been purposefully negligent and therefore complicit? (...) Bril was seething but powerless. And people didn't sue sport federations back then.'
 - 33 *Die Olympischen Spiele in Amsterdam 1928*, p. 162.
 - 34 Statements from e-mail communication with Karel Miljon, Jr.
 - 35 Quoted from a telephone interview with Pia Abrahamsen-Miljon, 24th August 2009.
 - 36 During a personal conversation Ben Bril told Olympic Historian Tony Bijkerk that 'The Gentleman Boxer' was a nickname of Karel Miljon.
 - 37 *Algemeen Handelsblad*, 24th May 1927, p. 13.
 - 38 *Ibid.*

News

The Italian NOC (CONI) has suspended Rome's bid for the 2024 Olympic Games, after Rome's City Council in September on the recommendation of Mayor Virginia Raggi had refused support. Instead Rome intends to carry out four games of the Football European Championship, which will take place in 2020 in 13 different towns. Rome had applied in 1997 in vain to hold the Olympic Games of 2004. The city lost to Athens in the 5th round by 41–66 votes.

Previously Boston and Hamburg had already withdrawn, there remained with Budapest, Paris and Los Angeles only a trio which would be decided on in September 2017 at the 130th IOC Session in Lima. After Rome's withdrawal Milan's mayor Beppe Sala announced that his city would like to apply for the Games of 2028.

Seven year old Cloe Smith found on a rubbish heap in her home city of Atlanta, Georgia an Olympic gold medal from 1992. It turned out that the medal had been stolen in June 2016 from the boot of the car belonging to Joseph Jacobi. The American who got the medal back, had won it in Barcelona in the C–2 canoe slalom.