

WRESTLING ON THE AIR AGAIN

First Relay On April 22

A RENEWAL of the agreement about relaying descriptions of matches has just been signed between the National Broadcasting Service and the New Zealand Wrestling Union. The first will take place on April 22, from Auckland and Wellington. Later, the two southern centres will be under way and relays will also be arranged there.

In his Wellington office, A. G. Washer, of the Wrestling Union, is bringing to maturity at this moment big plans for another big wrestling season.

Earl McCready will be back again, and Chief Little Wolf is another wrestler already well known to New Zealand boozers and hooters.

The new names will include Irish Boy Terry McGuinness, 225 pounds of flying tackle specialist from Cleveland, Ohio. He is 27 years of age, and his speed has so far given him wins over Rudy and Ernie Duseks, Rube Wright, Joe Savoldi, Vincent Lopez, Dave Levin (former world champion). He has wrestled Ray Steele to a one-and-a-half hour draw, and has lost to London by one fall after 72 minutes of hard wrestling. With Dean Detton he has drawn, and he's beaten Pat Fraley. McGuinness was a student at Ohio State University and wrestled for four years as an amateur. He played football for his State.

John Katan has a win over McCready to his credit. He's rated among the best in America and Canada. This 235 pounds of first class wrestler will come to New Zealand from Montreal. That weight is stretched over 6 feet 1 inch. He's 30 years of age.

From Boston, where the upper ten come from, also comes Joe Corbett, who supports this good fighting name with 233 pounds, six feet of height, and 28 years of age. He has wins over Joe Savoldi, Ed. Don George, Gus Sonnenberg, Alibaba, and other leading heavyweights. And, ladies, he's handsome, as well as high and wide.

Later in the season will arrive Cowboy Carl Davis, from Texas, with 30 years, 6 feet 2 inches, and 238 pounds of the best Texan beef. Like McGuinness, Davis is a University graduate and has wrestled as an amateur (for four years). For a Texan, Davis is quiet, and has the reputation for clean living. He plays golf when he's not working on the mat, and has won a good many tournaments.

"ANGEL FACE"

Monsieur Maurice Tillet is a Frenchman, and a wrestler. Recently he arrived in U.S.A. and has since been steam-rolling all opposition into the mat. M. Tillet (nicknamed "Angel Face") weighs 276 pounds, although he is only 5 feet 10 inches tall. The photograph shows him being examined by one of a group of anthropologists at Harvard University. They decided that he benefits (as a wrestler) from pituitary over-development. Instead of growing up he has grown out. His face is 7.16 inches wide and 7.05 inches long from the point of his jaw to the bridge of his nose. The examiners found him intelligent, appealing, kindly, and gentle.



THE "GIFT" IS NOT EASY MONEY

*No Sewers In Stawell,
But Rich Foot Race*

FIVE hours by train from Melbourne there is a small Australian farming and farm industrial centre. It is called Stawell. It has a population of 5000, 1300 homes, a good water supply, health services. It has no sewerage system, although the town hall has a clock tower with electric clocks linked through the building. But it has one of the most famous professional flat races in the world: the "Stawell Gift."

The "Gift" offers prize money totalling nearly £1,000. For the winner there is £500. For his backers, a share of a huge betting pool which this year offered to the backers of Alex. Reid about £2,000.

Remarkable Entries

Alex. Reid won the final on March 25 this year after fighting his way through the gruelling heats. The money attracts remarkable entries. Because of the war, this year there were only 115. Last year there were 153. Of the 115, 98 accepted.

Over a week-end this event takes precedence over all others at the Stawell meeting. Heat follows heat into quarter and semi-finals, until at last the betting ring has sorted out all the favourites, comparing yards against split seconds ready for the final.

Before the race Reid was unknown. He carried no money. As he performed in the heats the bettors became more interested in him, but he was still well off being favourite.

Boundary Rider's Son

Son of a boundary rider, he comes from near Fort Augusta, 500 miles north of Adelaide. Alex. found his feet first chasing rabbits. No doubt the rabbits won, but Alex. had to travel, and three years ago, when he decided he'd like to

run in real races, a well known sportsman associated with a big estate nearby decided to take him in hand, and he was eventually handed over to Billy Hill, a trainer of athletes, who worked in the district at an electric power station.

Reid developed well, and a year ago was put into training with the "Gift" in mind. Hill gave him a severe course, ironing out his country bumpkin-ness, getting him faster out of the blocks, speeding him up into evens.

And he had to be fast, for this race attracts such keen competition it has never been won twice by the same man since it started in 1878. It is won, usually, by an "evens" runner who manages to get a good handicap, and half the race is to convince the handicappers that the entrant is worth a yard or two over scratch.

Where money is concerned a certain amount of manoeuvring becomes inevitable. Most notable example was the case of Jack Lindsay, New Zealander, who was entered as "A. Peterson," while he was still Dominion champion and champion of the British Army. As Peterson, Lindsay was given five yards, but inquiries were opened and his associates decided to "stop him," so that he only came second. The deceit was later discovered, Lindsay was disqualified, and his associates warned off indefinitely.

Keeping It Dark

As the race approached Reid was trained in a private camp. He had run in very few public races, and his speed trials were screened from the observations of handicappers' scouts.

In the "Gift" he had 8½ yards. He made good use of it. By inches he defeated Smith, of West Australia (off

9 yards) and Ray Spargo (Melbourne, 8 yards) was only a shade behind. Smith was favourite. Hawkins (11½ yards), who also carried a lot of money, led from Northeast (10½ yards) at 50 yards, but the three placed men came up from there and fought out the finish. The time for the distance, 130 yards, was 12 3-16 seconds.

THEY CAME HOME IN A HURRY

*N.Z.'s Times And The World's
Great Mile Runs*

"MILES of the Century" have been almost as common as butter on biscuits over the last few years. One or two have come close to deserving the title given Lovelock's great run in 1933. Others have served only to rank the boosting of athletics with movie picture advertising. All have indicated the extraordinary place which this distance has in the imaginations of men and women, whether or no they ordinarily follow sport.

Partly, this may be the common sort of wishful thinking that makes us anticipate the almost unattainable. We want to see someone run a mile in four minutes, or less, because not very long ago experts said no human ever would, and now Cunningham, for instance, is only 4.4 seconds off the mark.

Partly it must be genuine admiration for the combination of skill and stamina that takes a man over this gruelling distance at such gruelling speed with such exacting need for such fine judgment.

It is the classic race.

In Almost Any Language

If it were not, the lucky users of the Continental decimal system would not bother with it. Over other distances we must run in their metres. Over this one distance, more than over any other, they agree to abide by our senseless system of measurement. The word "mile" is common property to most modern languages, thanks to Nurmi, to Ladoumegue, to Lovelock, Wooderson, and Cunningham.

The queerest of all outstanding mile races was run this season at the New Zealand championships when Pullar came in first in 4mins. 18.2secs. Pullar had previously featured in a mile race which was notable for the speed of the last 880 yards. In 1937, at Auckland, running against Wilson, he covered the last two laps in a speed faster than any had before, except Lovelock and Cunningham. Once again, this year he came home just ahead of Dickson to make a flashing finish to a race which seemed during the first two laps destined to be more than usually slow.

Fascinating Study

For the sportsman, the mathematician, the physiologist, or the plain man in the street, study of how these races are run is a fascinating business. The table given here will provide some food for thought.

	Year		Laps			Mile
Nurmi	- 1923	58.6	63.2	64.9	63.7	4-10.4
Ladoumegue	- 1931	60.8	63.4	63.8	61.2	4- 9.2
Lovelock	- 1933	61.4	62.2	65.1	58.9	4- 7.6
Cunningham	- 1934	61.8	63.7	61.8	59.4	4- 6.7
Wooderson	- 1937	58.6	64.0	64.6	59.2	4- 6.4
Cunningham	- 1938	58.5	64.0	61.7	60.2	4- 4.4
(This race was run indoors)						
Pullar	- 1937	64.0	66.0	64.0	60.8	4-14.8
Pullar	- 1940	63.6	73.2	62.8	58.6	4-15.2