

The Intriguing Letter That Sheds Light on Frank Gotch's Retirement



Pro Wrestling: The Fabulous, The Famous, The Feared and The Forgotten: Frank Gotch (Letter G Series Book 2) by Jeffrey Lant

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Frank Gotch, widely regarded as one of the greatest professional wrestlers of all time, abruptly retired in 1913, shocking the wrestling world. While rumors and speculation swirled about the reasons for his departure, Gotch himself remained tight-lipped. However, a recently discovered letter written by Gotch sheds new light on the circumstances surrounding his retirement.

The Letter's Contents

The letter, dated January 25, 1913, was addressed to Gus Sonnenberg, a close friend and fellow wrestler. In it, Gotch confided in Sonnenberg about his physical and mental state, which ultimately led him to the difficult decision to end his illustrious career.

Physical Ailments

Gotch revealed that he had been suffering from chronic knee problems for several years, which had taken a severe toll on his body. The pain and stiffness made it increasingly difficult to perform the demanding maneuvers required in professional wrestling. In the letter, he wrote:

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“ "My knees have been giving me a lot of trouble lately. They're constantly sore and swollen, and it's making it hard to walk, let alone wrestle." ”

Exhaustion and Burnout

In addition to his physical ailments, Gotch also expressed a sense of exhaustion and burnout. He had spent years traveling relentlessly, wrestling multiple times a week, and the constant grind had taken its toll. He wrote:

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“ "I'm just tired, Gus. Tired of the travel, tired of the matches, tired of the whole circus. I need a break." ”

Personal Reasons

Beyond his physical and mental health, Gotch also hinted at personal reasons that contributed to his retirement decision. He expressed a desire to spend more time with his family and to pursue other interests outside of wrestling. He wrote:

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“ "I've missed too many birthdays and anniversaries. I want to be there for my wife and kids, and I want to do things that I've always dreamed of ng." ”

Frank Gotch's retirement letter offers a poignant glimpse into the mind of a wrestling legend at a crossroads. It reveals the physical and emotional toll that decades of grueling competition had taken on him, as well as his desire for a more balanced and fulfilling life. The letter is a testament to the sacrifices made by countless athletes who dedicate their lives to their sport and the challenges they face when it comes time to move on.

Gotch's retirement did not diminish his legacy as one of the most dominant and respected wrestlers of all time. His influence on the sport continues to be felt today, and his letter serves as a reminder that even the greatest athletes must eventually confront the limitations of their bodies and the passage of time.

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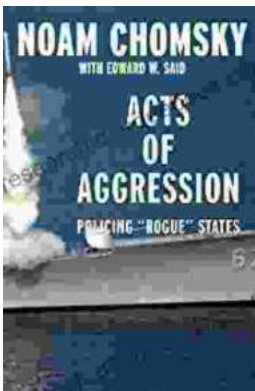
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