

HANK LUISETTI  
By Will Connolly

THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE:

Among the blessings of the restoration of Henry Luisetti to amateur status after three years of exile is his easy availability to all to see.

We have no doubt Henry is the greatest basketball player ever developed on this Coast and, for all we know, the greatest in the U.S.A., which means the world. But for an athlete of his stature he has been seen by fewer citizens than any other prodigy of comparable skill.

Luisetti's performances with the Stanford quintet were virtually private showings, the seating capacities of the Berkeley and Palo Alto gyms being limited. A few thousand outlanders at Los Angeles also saw him upon the occasions of the USC and UCLA games, but in general Angelo Henry is a sort of a storied myth to San Franciscans, although the boy was born here and learned his art on public playgrounds.

Whenever Luisetti took the floor in Conference games, the students packed the joint to the exclusion of outside citizens, which is as it should be, and we have no quarrel with that. However, it is a fact, Luisetti is blindly accepted by San Francisco people as the best gol darned cager that ever swished a basket, sight unseen. His local reputation is based solely upon faith and the trustworthiness of those previous few adults who managed to elbow their way into the barns at Stanford and Cal.

We believe Luisetti is as untouchable in his sport as Helen Wills Moody Roark was in feminine tennis; Jack Dempsey or Jim Jeffries or Joe Louis was (or is) in boxing or Bobby Jones in golf. Yet 100 times the number of spectators who watched Luisetti watched Moody-Roark, the prize fighters, and Jones at one time or another. There are some same citizens who don't believe there is such a person as Luisetti and they are not to be ridiculed for their skepticism.

Luisetti will be available to the masses now that he is eligible to work for the Olympic Club. His first appearance will be tomorrow night at Civic Auditorium against Stanford. There are ample seats up to 10,000 in the Auditorium, so there is no excuse henceforth for doubting Luisetti exists in the flesh.

No kidding, he does.

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By Bill Leiser

THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE:

Can you imagine the greatest basketball player in the world knocking on the door of a prep school gym and asking to practice fundamentals with the high school youngsters? Let Bobby Stevens tell it, in the note he leaves on my desk:

"Hank Luisetti, whom I rate as the greatest athlete I've ever seen (have not seen very many but he's still the greatest) makes his re-debut into the amateur basketball ranks tonight at the Civic Auditorium.