Frank Alvin Gotch

Facts about the World Champ

Frank Alvin Gotch was born on April 27, 1877 on a farm three miles south of Humboldt in Beaver Township.

The Gotch family farm is located by the fork of the east & west branches of the Des Moines River.

United in marriage to Gladys Oestrich on January 11, 1911 in Humboldt.

Frank & Gladys made their home at 110 6th Street North in Humboldt.

Robert Frederick Gotch (Frank Jr.), the only child of Frank & Gladys was born on February 24, 1914.

Frank Gotch died on December 16, 1917 of uremic poisoning and is buried in Humboldt's Union Cemetery.

Frank A. Gotch State Park was established in April of 1949, located at the junction of the east and west forks of the Des Moines River.

Was one of the first athletes to appear on a sports trading card.

Became the first athlete to be used in commercial endorsements.

Frank Gotch was the easy winner of a 1924 Des Moines Register poll to find out what Iowan was most admired in the state, in any field of endeavor.

In the fall and winter of 1908-09 Gotch toured the United States and England with his own theatrical company, starring in a three-act comedy play entitled "All About a Bout".

Was the first person inducted into the Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame in Waterloo, and in The Writers Wrestling Hall of Fame of New York.

Has a featured spot in the Iowa Hall of Pride in Des Moines.