

FLOOEY

He Gives Axel One of Those Turkish Bath Things.

By Vio



Inside the Ring with the Great Fighters by Charley White.

Griffin Won the Worlds Feather-weight Title From Billy Murphy, but Soon Lost It to Solly Smith Through His Own Carelessness.

Johnny Griffin.

opened up a physical culture school in Boston. He had a number of pupils from wealthy families. It was not until Sept. 26, 1902, that Griffin re-entered the ring. This was for a battle with Jimmy Lynch of New York. Lynch was a graduate of the West Side Athletic Club, now the New West Side A. C., where he had made a great record as an amateur bantam. After turning professional he had defeated Eugene Hornsby, Joe Flaherty, Tommy Danforth, Paddy McBride and Joe Halligan. He had been defeated only once, by Cal McCarthy. Lynch claimed the 122-pound championship of America.

Fought at Coney Island.

The fight took place on Sept. 26, 1902, before the Coney Island Athletic Club, which offered a purse of \$2,500. Four-ounce gloves were used. Griffin trained at Bath Beach under Brooklyn Jimmy Carroll and Prof. Robertson and Lynch got into shape down at Atlantic Highlands under the eye of the Scotch light-weight Jack Quinn. Both men were popular and the betting was quite heavy. Lynch and his brothers had been jockeys over at the old Guttenburg track at one time and Jimmy was very popular with the horsemen, who wagered heavily on him. The odds favored Griffin at 2 to 1, but Lynch was the popular favorite.

There was a crowd of 4,500 people in the clubhouse at Coney Island to see these two men battle. Around the ring-side were seated all the prominent New York sports, a number from Boston and Philadelphia and also Col. Pat Duffy and Prof. John Duffy of New Orleans. During the preliminaries there was some excitement when Steve Brodie tried to take a seat in Judge Newton's box and was unceremoniously hustled out of the clubhouse. Lynch was seconded by Joe Claydon, Walter Campbell and Jack Quinn, and Griffin by Jimmy Carroll, Prof. Robertson and Jack Sheehan. Al Smith was the referee.

In the first round Griffin was very slow and was once knocked down. Whereupon Lynch's stock took a big whump. But Griffin evened matters up

before the bell sounded. When the gong rang for the second round Griffin lost no time in going after Lynch. He rained a storm of straight lefts and right swings on the New York boy, knocking him down and rendering him almost helpless before the end of the round. Although Lynch rallied in the third and staled Johnnie off for a little while, the Raintree boy soon got to him and knocked him down three times. All through the fourth Lynch fought gamely and desperately, but was badly outclassed. Twice both men went to the floor in a clinch and the New York boy was knocked down several times. In the fifth and last round Jimmy continued to take the gaff gamely. It was only a question of how long he could stay, and, after being knocked down twice he was clipped on the jaw by a right-hand swing and sent to dream-land.

Griffin now claimed the 122-pound championship of America as the result of his last three battles—the ones with Wedr. Larkins and Lynch—and challenged Australian Billy Murphy, who was out on the Coast, for the featherweight championship of the world at this weight. After much parlaying Murphy agreed. The California, New Orleans and New York clubs bid for the match and it was finally secured by the Coney Island Athletic Club, which offered a purse of \$4,000 for the fight, the largest purse yet offered for a featherweight contest. The contest was scheduled for February 6, 1903. It called for twenty

rounds at 122 pounds, and the feather-weight championship of the world was at stake. Four-ounce gloves were to be used. Griffin trained in Boston and at Brooklyn Jimmy Carroll's roadhouse at Coney Island, and Murphy trained at Nyack.

The night of the fight was a cold, raw one and tended to keep down the size of the crowd. Every man that went through the turnstiles of the Coney Island clubhouse was provided with fluid heating apparatus to be taken internally from a big bottle. There were probably 2,500 to 3,000 persons present. The betting favored Griffin, what there was of it. Billy showed up at the clubhouse in a gorgeous semi-dress suit, explaining that after he had won the fight, he intended to go to the French Ball up in Madison Square Garden. But he never got there. Griffin was seconded by Jimmy Carroll, Jack Magee, Bill Crowley and John Riddihan, while Murphy was attended by Martin Murphy, Howie Hodgkins, Charlie Horan, Alf Murphy and Dolly Lyons. "Snapper" Garrison was timekeeper and Johnnie Eckhardt referee.

Murphy started in like a whirlwind, but was very wild. Griffin took it very coolly and chewed gum. The first round contained lots of swings and comparatively few blows. In the second Griffin landed a blow that nearly put Billy out. A second or two later in a rush Griffin fell through the ropes on to the heads of the reporters. He stayed outside the ring for nearly ten seconds,

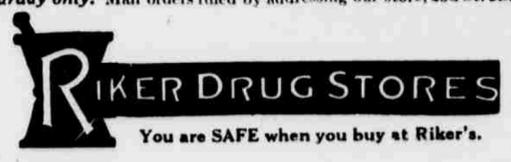


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