

# Whoings in The Sporting World

## Who Will Wear Heavyweight Crown—Jeff or Johnson?

**By TOMMY CLARK.**  
**T**HE all absorbing topic in the sporting world just now is the approaching forty-five round battle between Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries. As was to be expected, Jeffries is the favorite in the betting at odds of 10 to 7, but this in reality is more a question of sentiment than cool, unbiased judgment. Men who make a close study of prizefights and their form are not so prone to risk their dollars on the white man who has been out of the game as long as Jeff. Then, too, they realize that in Johnson he will face a strong, husky, clever and hard hitting man.

While the forthcoming fight is in many respects the most important ring battle that has ever been held in this country, no fight of importance has drawn forth so much unfavorable criticism. From one angle it looks far more like a battle for dollars than a fight for a title. The spirit of commercialism so pervades the whole scheme that many of the more suspicious have cried "Fake!" and go so far as to say that it will be a picture fight and perhaps a prizefight later.

This talk is nearly all rubbish. There is no such thing as "fake" attached to the big mill, nor will it be a fight solely for the pictures. The battle will be fought on its merits, and the best man will win. About the commercial side of the big mill—who can blame the men for trying to get all they can out of the scrap? Perhaps never again will such a large purse be offered for a pugilistic battle. Five years ago were one to suggest that any two pugilists would be fighting for a purse of \$101,000 they would be informed that an insanity expert was needed. Not alone is the purse the highest ever put up for a fight, but it is expected that the gate receipts will be a record breaker, and it is also figured that over a million dollars will be bet on the mill.

**Best Men of Their Races.**  
 The fight promises to be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, in the history of the prize ring. Johnson and Jeffries represent the best fighters of their races, and the result will depend on the matter of condition. If Jeffries could enter the ring with the strength and skill that characterized his fighting before he retired he would lower Johnson's colors beyond any doubt. But the wheels of nature were not made to turn backward, and the man who breaks the laws of nature must pay the penalty.

Jeffries has been in training for many months, and his handlers say he is the Jeffries of old, ready to put up the greatest battle of his career. While the big fellow may appear to be in great physical condition, who can tell whether he can put up the greatest battle of his career? The contest alone will answer that. No doubt Jeff has trained faithfully and worked very hard to attain his present good form, but when he battles with Johnson that vitality which is absolutely necessary for any kind of an athletic contest may be missing. In other words, in my opinion it has been impossible for Jeffries to bring himself to the shape he was in when he gathered in his laurels.

Does any one realize what "coming back" means? It is like trying to regain past years. The prize ring has yet to see the first man "come back." When Corbett beat John L. at New Orleans Sullivan was trying to come back. Corbett led a merry life between this time and his meeting with Fitz in Carson City. He also tried to "come back" and ring history tells you that he lost his title. Is Jeff different from other men? Hardly. It makes no difference whether one leads the swift, merry pace or takes life easy

**JIM JEFFRIES' RECORD.**

Year	Opponent	Result	Rounds
1886	Dan Long, San Francisco	W	2
1887	T. Van Buskirk, San Francisco	W	2
1887	Henry Baker, San Francisco	W	2
1887	Gus Rubin, San Francisco	W	9
1887	Joe Choyanski, San Francisco	W	20
1888	Joe Goddard, Los Angeles	W	4
1888	Pete Jackson, San Francisco	W	4
1888	Pete Everett, San Francisco	W	3
1888	Tom Sharkey, San Francisco	W	3
1888	Bob Armstrong, New York	W	10
1889	Bob Fitzsimmons, Coney Island	W	11
1889	Tom Sharkey, Coney Island	W	25
1890	Jack Finneran, Detroit	W	1
1891	Jim Corbett, Coney Island	W	1
1891	Hank Griffin, Los Angeles	W	4
1891	Joe Kennedy, Oakland	W	2
1892	Gus Rubin, San Francisco	W	2
1892	Bob Fitzsimmons, San Francisco	W	4
1892	Jack Munroe, Butte	W	4
1892	Jim Corbett, San Francisco	W	10
1894	Jack Munroe, San Francisco	W	2
1894	Exhibition, Jeff failed to stop Munroe in four rounds.	W	4

### MEASUREMENTS SHOWING HOW JOHNSON AND JEFFRIES COMPARE.

Jeffries	Johnson
6 ft. 1 1/2 inches	6 ft. 1/2 inch
17 1/2 inches	17 1/2 inches
50 inches	51 1/2 inches
44 1/2 inches	43 inches
42 1/2 inches	42 inches
49 1/2 inches	46 inches
38 inches	37 inches
42 1/2 inches	42 1/2 inches
26 1/2 inches	25 1/2 inches
17 inches	16 1/2 inches
17 1/2 inches	15 inches
10 1/2 inches	11 inches
7 1/2 inches	7 1/2 inches
12 1/2 inches	14 1/2 inches
13 1/2 inches	15 1/2 inches
14 1-16 inches	15 1/2 inches
16 1/2 inches	17 inches
14 1/2 inches	14 inches
15 1/2 inches	16 1/2 inches

for a long time. Either method takes away the strength, vitality and agility needed for a long battle. Jeffries is now in his thirty-sixth year, and as every intelligent chap who follows athletics knows it is impossible for any athlete at thirty-five to be within 25 per cent of his form at twenty-four years of age. For any one to claim that Jeff is as physically fit today as he was ten years ago is rubbish. In other words, Jeff may appear to be in grand shape; but, to be candid, he has passed the zenith of his career.

**Negro at His Zenith.**  
 How about Johnson? The negro is now at the height of his career. He has been fighting steadily ever since he became a pugilist. Between fights he may be a high liver, but he has never been out of condition. Johnson is as perfect a specimen of physical manhood as any one could wish to see. Many fight experts refuse to give Johnson anything but a slim chance with Jeffries through prejudice against the colored man. Some say he can't hit, he always backs up, he has not the punch and is always stalling, and a few more things. The more conservative critics concede that Johnson is one of the greatest pugilists that ever donned a mitt. As clever as Jim Corbett was in his palmy days, Johnson is just a little bit better.

Fitzsimmons was considered the hardest hitter, but the colored man

### HOW JEFFRIES AND JOHNSON PLAN TO FIGHT

**By JACK JOHNSON.**

"I expect to be able to go a long distance to wear Jeffries down without running any dangerous chances and then to go in and win. I am not foolish enough to think that Jeffries will be as easy as Burns or Ketchel. For I know he will prove much harder to beat. He may come back looking fit and strong, but I think you'll find that he will not be able to stand the strain and will not show the old speed.

"I intend to let him do all the fighting at the start, for I want to size him up for a few rounds. I want to be sure about his real condition before I take a chance. If I find I can outbox him and can find the proper opening I think I can hit him harder than Fitzsimmons did, and that means he'll go down."

**By JIM JEFFRIES.**

"I will lick Jack Johnson, and I will lick him quick. I don't intend to stall when I meet the negro in the ring. I don't say this just for the sake of saying something, but because it's the gospel truth. Johnson never saw the day he could beat me. He may be a fairly good fighter. I admit that. He may have been able to beat some good men who were anywhere from twenty to forty pounds lighter than he, but just wait until he gets into the ring with a man who is twenty pounds heavier than he is and a man who has beaten better men than Johnson ever dreamed of being. That's why I say I am going to beat Jack Johnson and going to beat him quick."

latter has naturally lost power. No doubt Jeff has trained hard for the mill and is able to wrestle for an hour with his helper, still he has done very little boxing, one of the most important things for a man like Jeff who has been so long out of the game. He may still have the punch and strength, but his hitting eye, his judgment of distance, may perhaps be lacking. It is too bad that the big fellow did not have an actual ring fight under his belt. One or two contests of the real article would do more to bring these back—his hitting eye and judgment of distance—than months of boxing at the training camp.

Hard fighting round after round is the only way a man can find how much stamina he possesses, whether his hitting eye is good or his judgment of distance poor. Jeffries has not taken part in a real fight since he defeated Jack Munroe Aug. 26, 1904, and there has been no chance for such a struggle at his training quarters, no matter how hard his sparring partners try to hit him. The bitter animosity, the merciless slugging and the test of courage are always lacking in such trials at the training camp. So Jeffries will have to depend largely on his physical condition when he faces the negro.

Jeff's best chance to win is to go after Johnson just as soon as the bell rings and get to the latter's midsection early

and often. By this method he might land one of his terrific rib smashers and put the negro out, but if the battle is prolonged Jeff's chances of winning will go glimmering.

When he runs up against Johnson the white man will find that the negro, heavier and stronger than Corbett, Fitzsimmons or Sharkey, is one of the most scientific men he has ever tackled. If Johnson takes his time he will wear Jeff down, for he possesses a wonderful defense and is never in a hurry. As Johnson is not a rusher and wastes very few punches, how can Jeffries, with the old lack of aggressiveness, stop him quickly? If the fight goes more than twelve rounds Johnson will stand off and cut Jeff to pieces with his long left, and if Jeff comes boring in to close quarters the negro will wallop him with the same terrific blow that put Ketchel out.

Johnson is the biggest man physically Jeffries has ever met and the cleverest. He is not an aggressive slugger who rushes in to finish a man in the first round; but, on the contrary, he is a cool headed, crafty, patient boxer, with a phenomenal defense and a hard wallop in either hand when the proper opening is offered.

Johnson is not a believer in taking chances. He is strictly a waiter. He never hits from the shoulder unless he sees a vulnerable spot unprotected. He knocked out Ketchel with one punch,

**JOHN L. B. \$53 PURSE AND STAKES OF TODAY.**

Sullivan-Donaldson, Cincinnati	\$53
Jeffries-Johnson, Frisco	100,000
Jeffries-Johnson, moving picture (estimated)	300,000
<b>FIVE LARGEST PURSES.</b>	
Nelson-Gans, Golden	\$28,715
Jeffries-Sharkey, Coney Island	67,000
Fitzsimmons-Jeffries, Coney Island	65,000
Corbett-Jeffries, San Francisco	62,000
Corbett-McCoy, New York	57,000

hand to deliver the sleep producing wallop.

Johnson is not a swinger. He believes that swings waste one's energy and are too apparent to a sharp eyed antagonist. Those who have made a study of Johnson in the ring say that while he possesses a knockout blow in his right hand and that he is averse to taking a chance with this punch until he finds the proper opening. He has been known to fight many rounds without using the right hand at all except to block the other man's assaults, and in that way he has completely disarmed his opponents by convincing them that his right hand is a useless weapon. Then gradually forcing a rival to regard his right without apprehension, Johnson has suddenly let fly the punch straight to the vital spot with crushing force.

Jeffries, on the other hand, has a style that is just the opposite. His best blow is a left hook or half swing delivered as an antagonist rushes in, while he has beaten numerous challengers with tremendous body blows driven home with his right hand. Johnson has a good defense, but he is not afraid to take a punch on the head or in the stomach. His one weak point is lack of aggressiveness, for he is not a rusher and is deliberate in his footwork. He prefers to set himself before cutting loose a punch, and in that way he can get all kinds of power into his blows. He likes to have a man come to him and mix it up at close quarters, where his great bulk and stamina count.

Having this line on the respective fighting tactics of Johnson and Jeffries, therefore the ring experts are busily figuring out how the coming battle will be waged. It is generally conceded in the first place that the scrap will not be short and decisive, for Johnson will plan to prolong it as much as he can with the idea of tiring Jeff out. Unless Jeffries revolutionizes his general style he will not adopt rushing tactics, for he is too big and heavy on his feet to hope to land effective blows while under headway. But adopting crafty ring science, always keeping in mind that the ring is twenty-four feet square and that the fight can last forty-five rounds if necessary it is predicted that Johnson will be a hard man to corner and beat down unless he loses his head.

### JACK JOHNSON'S RECORD.

Year	Opponent	Result	Rounds
1901	Joe Choyanski, Galveston	W	3
1901	John Lee, Galveston	W	10
1901	Charlie Brooks, Galveston	W	7
1901	Jack McCormick, Galveston	W	7
1901	Jack McCormick, Galveston	W	3
1901	Horace Miles, Galveston	W	7
1901	George Lawler, Galveston	W	20
1901	Clondyke, Galveston	W	20
1902	Frank Childs, Chicago	W	6
1902	Dan Murphy, Waterbury	W	10
1902	Ed Johnson, Galveston	W	4
1902	Joe Kennedy, Oakland	W	4
1902	Joe Kennedy, San Francisco	W	4
1902	Bob White	W	15
1902	Jim Scanlan	W	17
1902	Jack Jeffries, Los Angeles	W	5
1902	Clondyke, Memphis	W	13
1902	Billy Stitt, Denver	W	10
1902	Hank Griffin, Los Angeles	W	20
1902	Hank Griffin, Los Angeles	W	15
1902	Pete Everett, Victor, Colo.	W	20
1902	Frank Childs, Los Angeles	W	12
1902	George Gardner, San Francisco	W	20
1902	Hank Griffin, Los Angeles	W	20
1902	Fred Russell, Los Angeles	W	8
1903	Dan E. Martin, Los Angeles	W	20
1903	Sam McVey, Boston	W	20
1903	Sandy Ferguson, Boston	W	10
1903	Joe Butler, Philadelphia	W	3
1903	Sandy Ferguson, Philadelphia	W	3
1903	Sandy Ferguson, Philadelphia	W	3
1903	Sam McVey, Los Angeles	W	20
1903	Sandy Ferguson, Colma, Cal.	W	20
1904	Black Bill, Philadelphia	W	6
1904	Sam McVey, San Francisco	W	20
1904	Sam McVey, Chicago	W	6
1904	Den. Ed Martin, Los Angeles	W	2
1905	Marvin Hart, San Francisco	W	20
1905	Jim Jeffords, Philadelphia	W	4
1905	Black Bill, Philadelphia	W	3
1905	Walter Johnson, Philadelphia	W	3
1905	Joe Jeannette, Philadelphia	W	6
1905	Joe Jeannette, Philadelphia	W	6
1905	Black Bill, Philadelphia	W	6
1905	Morris Harris, Philadelphia	W	3
1905	Black Bill, Philadelphia	W	3
1905	Sandy Ferguson, Chelsea, sea	W	7
1905	Joe Grim, Philadelphia	W	6
1905	F. Joe Jeannette, Philadelphia	W	11
1905	Young Pete Jackson, Baltimore	W	12
1905	Joe Jeannette, Philadelphia	W	12
1905	Joe Jeannette, Philadelphia	W	6
1905	Joe Jeannette, New York	W	6
1905	Bob Kerns, Topeka, Kan.	W	1
1905	Joe Jeannette, Baltimore	W	1
1905	Black Bill, Philadelphia	W	1
1905	Sam Langford, Chelsea	W	1
1905	Charlie Haghey, Gloucester	W	1
1905	Joe Jeannette, Philadelphia	W	1
1905	Joe Jeannette, Philadelphia	W	1
1905	Joe Jeannette, Lancaster, Pa.	W	6
1905	Joe Jeannette, Portland, Me.	W	10
1907	Peter Felix, Sydney	W	1
1907	Bill Lang, Melbourne	W	1
1907	Fitzsimmons, Philadelphia	W	2
1907	Sailor Burke, Bridgeport	W	5
1907	Jim Flynn, San Francisco	W	1
1908	Ben Taylor, England	W	8
1908	Tommy Burns, Sydney	W	11
1908	Jack O'Brien, Philadelphia	W	1
1908	Tony Ross, Pittsburg	W	6
1908	Al Kaufman, San Francisco	W	10
1908	Stanley Ketchel, Colma	W	12

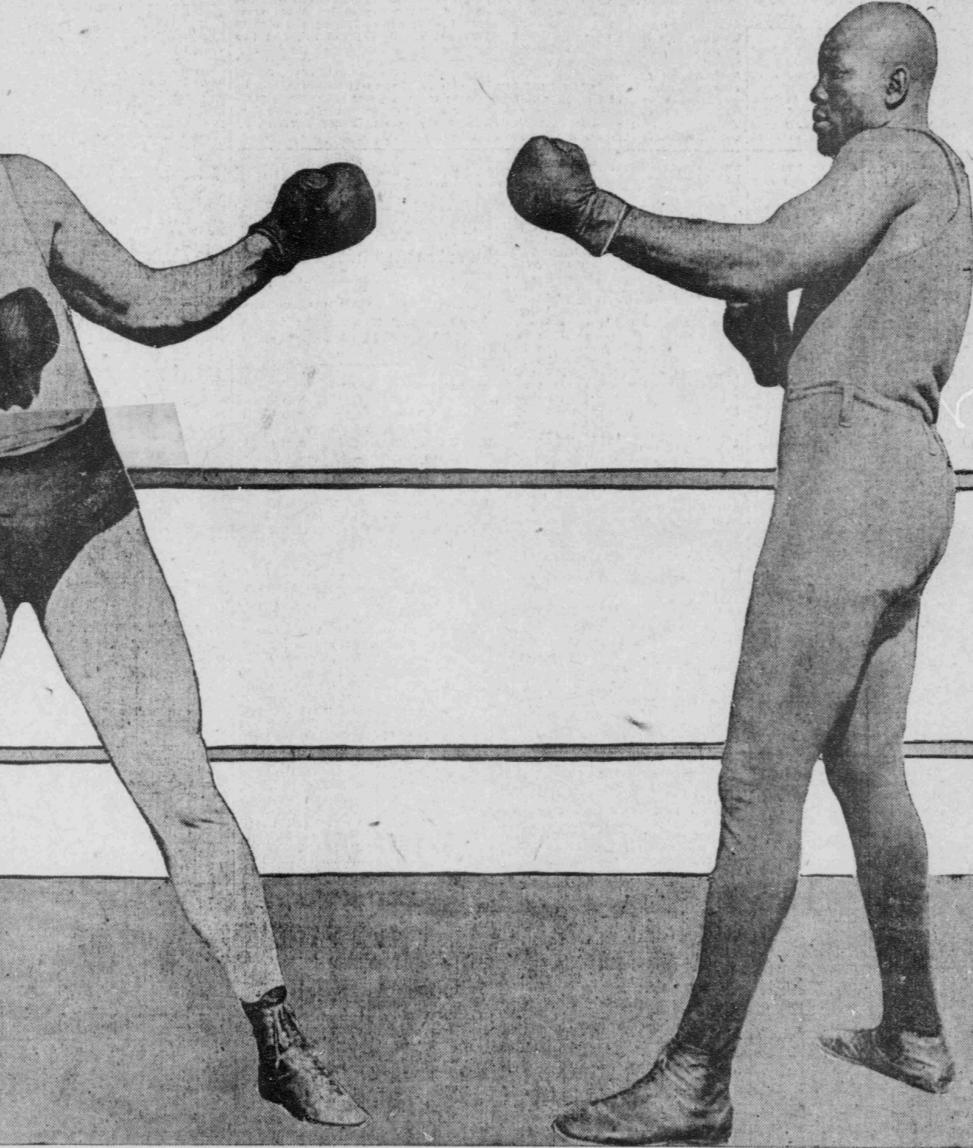


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### HOW JEFFRIES AND JOHNSON WILL APPEAR WHEN IN THE RING

#### COMPARATIVE RECORDS OF THE BIG ONES

Johnson	Jeffries
Number of fights..... 71	Number of fights..... 20
Rounds fought..... 622	Rounds fought..... 184
Won decisions..... 15	Won decisions..... 3
Knockouts or stopped..... 31	Knockout or stopped..... 15
Won on a foul..... 2	Draws..... 2
Draws..... 6	Won in 1 round..... 1
Lost decision..... 1	Won in 2 rounds..... 1
Knocked out or stopped..... 2	Won in 3 rounds..... 4
Lost on a foul..... 1	Won in 4 rounds..... 2
No decisions..... 13	Won in 5 rounds..... 2
Won in 1 round..... 8	Won in 8 rounds..... 1
Won in 2 rounds..... 2	Won in 9 rounds..... 1
Won in 3 rounds..... 4	Won in 10 rounds..... 1
Won in 4 rounds..... 1	Won in 11 rounds..... 1
Won in 5 rounds..... 1	Won in 20 rounds..... 1
Won in 6 rounds..... 8	Won in 23 rounds..... 1
Won in 7 rounds..... 5	Won in 25 rounds..... 1
Won in 8 rounds..... 1	Draw in 20 rounds..... 2
Won in 9 rounds..... 1	Not counting first bout with Jack Munroe at Butte, an exhibition.
Won in 10 rounds..... 3	Average length of fights in rounds, 9 1-5.
Won in 11 rounds..... 3	Average knockouts or stopped, 5 14-15.
Won in 12 rounds..... 1	
Won in 13 rounds..... 1	
Won in 14 rounds..... 1	
Won in 15 rounds..... 7	
Lost in 2 rounds..... 1	
Lost in 3 rounds..... 1	
Lost in 4 rounds..... 1	
Lost in 5 rounds..... 1	
Lost in 6 rounds..... 1	
Lost in 20 rounds..... 1	
Average length of fights in rounds, 8 5-7.	
Average knockouts or stopped, 6 1-3.	

a terrific right hander to the jaw, although he had not tried such a blow in any of the preceding rounds. In meeting Jeffries it is figured that Johnson, taking into consideration the white man's possible lack of wind, will plan long fight by blocking and clinching incessantly round after round until Jeffries becomes tired. Then the negro may begin to cut the boiler-maker to pieces, just as Wolgast trimmed Battling Nelson. In fact, the Johnson believers say the fight with Jeffries will simply be a repetition of the Wolgast-Nelson affair, with the negro playing the part of the new lightweight champion. They declare, in short, that if Johnson wins it will be after twenty-five or thirty rounds and that Jeffries will be gradually worn down to a helpless condition.

Few experts believe the fight will go the limit. None of them can see the struggle in that light. As there is much ill feeling between the principals it is the prevailing opinion that Jeffries will try to bring about the negro's defeat as soon as possible, realizing that the longer the fight goes the worse it will be for the white race. It is admitted that three hours in the ring would be a terrible undertaking for Jeffries and that because of his present condition such a lapse of time would seriously handicap him.

The right hand uppercut is Jack Johnson's best punch. The negro has scored all of his knockouts with this kind of a wallop and has seldom failed to reach the point of the jaw when cutting loose. Johnson has a sturdy left which is of value in attack and defense, but he never depends on that

can wallop every bit as hard. As a ring general Johnson classes with the best in the game. It has been claimed that he has a yellow streak, but no one has ever been able to prove it.

Johnson has never defeated a first class man. In Burns and Ketchel he beat a pair of midgets who are just good middleweights, and Kaufman was never a first class heavyweight." say a number of fight experts. These same fellows point with pride at the class of men that Jeffries met—Cor-

bett, Sharkey, Ruhlin and Fitzsimmons. Now, the trouble with these fellows is that they underestimate the ability of Burns, Langford, Ketchel and Kaufman in attributing superiority to Corbett, Sharkey, Ruhlin and Fitzsimmons.

Langford is a better man today than Sharkey ever was. He can punch harder and is a better boxer. Burns at his best would defeat Sharkey. Kaufman is the equal of Ruhlin, and the chances are that he could beat Gus with the latter at his best. Johnson has a more effective defense than Corbett, has the strength that none of Jeff's victims possessed and can hit harder than any of them.

Johnson will enter the ring confident of winning. When they start you can go broke that the negro will use all his cleverness to prevent Jeff from landing the terrible right that has wrecked so many men. That means that Johnson will keep on the defensive until he thinks Jeff has lost a lot of his strength and is having trouble with his wind. When Jack is satisfied that he holds the upper hand he will change his tactics and try to beat Jeff down with those sharp uppercuts and stinging jabs that will take the big fellow's energy away and leave him an easy mark for his colored rival. For comparison the coming fight might be called a long distance horse against a big draft horse.

Johnson has been steadily fighting for the past few years, while Jeff has been taking it easy. There is little doubt that the negro has gained considerably by his experience in the many battles since Jeff retired, and the