



SPORTING GOSSIP.

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CLOSE FOR CHOYNSKI

Narrowly Escapes Knockout Boxing With Jeff.

Ben Lomond, June 12.—With six rounds of fast boxing in the afternoon, Jeffries put in the most satisfactory day from the spectators' viewpoint of any since the beginning of his present training season.

Almost 5,000 persons gathered around the new outdoor ring, and waited several hours under the hot sun for the former champion's appearance.

The crowd gave Corbett and Jeffries a cheering when they donned the gloves. The battle between the two was the best they have yet offered the fanatics. Jeffries had decidedly the best of it all the way through, blocking Corbett's blows easily.

Corbett has copied the black man's favorite blow correctly. Jeff has evolved what appears to be an impregnable defense against it. Corbett shot them in with bewildering swiftness, and Jeff threw the switch on all of them.

BLOW DOESN'T FEAZE JEFF.

The fighter landed one telling left on the end of Jeff's chin without in the least disturbing the peaceful calm of the latter's countenance.

In the third round the boiler-maker swung several hard ones. Had Corbett been there when they ended suddenly, the bout would have ended.

"Gentleman Jim" did not clamor for another round when the bout ended.

Choynski narrowly escaped an accidental knockout in the second round of his bout. Jeffries suddenly fell into his crouch and whipped an overhand left hook and Choynski jumped squarely into it, the glove catching him full in the face and lifting him completely from the floor.

The blow which picked Choynski off his feet did not seem to have any particular force behind it, but had Jeffries hooked it hard it would have done serious damage.

TO BOX FOR NEXT TEN DAYS.

"I'll use the gloves every day for the next ten days," he said. "Speed is about all I need now, and boxing is just what will give it to me. Corbett will be in shape to go more than three rounds with me in a few days, and I'll give the others enough to keep them busy."

During the day Roger Cornell got out his tape and made a set of measurements for the sake of those who are inclined to figure. These measurements are given, as follows: Neck, 18 1/4 inches; chest, normal, 48 inches; chest, expanded, 51 inches; waist, 35 1/2; thigh, 25 1/2; calf, 15 1/2; biceps, 12; forearm, 13; ankle, 12; wrist, 8 1/2; height, 6 feet 1 1/2 inches; reach 75 inches.

These late measurements show a slight trimming down at the waist line over the last set taken and a corresponding increase in the chest and neck.

CROWD SEES JOHNSON WORK.

San Francisco, June 12.—Jack Johnson performed today before the largest crowd since he began training. Many of the spectators came from the interior towns.

JEFFRIES BADLY ADVISED

So Says John L. Sullivan, Roasting Corbett and Joe Choynski.

New York, June 13.—"Is Jeffries all right inside? That's the question," remarked John L. Sullivan to a crowd of listeners today. "He looks fine as silk, trained down to fighting weight, muscles showing, and all that sort of thing, but are his bellows O. K.? If they are, he'll knock the tar out of Johnson as soon as he gets to him, although that may take some time. If Jeff's wind is affected in the slightest degree, he may have trouble with this big negro."

"Jeffries has been badly advised. He's got a gang around him that won't help him any. They mean well, but that's all. Why, this fellow Corbett who, is talking so much, is 44 years old, and couldn't stand up for four rounds with little Ketchel. Neither could Choynski, who is older than Corbett. Of what earthly use are these back numbers to Jeffries? He can't try out his punches on either of them, because he doesn't want to call in the corner, while their punches, delivered as hard as possible, are only love taps. Bob Armstrong is 50 years old. He is willing to take a walloping for his board and lodging, but he could not hurt Jeffries in a year of steady slugging.

CURRENT SPORTING GOSSIP

Glowing Reports of Jeff's Condition Not Convincing.

In spite of the glowing accounts of Jeffries' physical appearance and the remarkable way he has reduced his weight doubt still exists as to his stamina and many experienced ring followers are worrying. Simply because Jeffries has taken off rolls of flabby flesh and is able to show stomach, arm, leg and back muscles to admiring friends it is not conclusive evidence that the boiler-maker can fight for three hours and a quarter if necessary without breaking down. Jeffries' weak point is the breathing apparatus, the "bellows" as the sporting fraternity calls it. Jim Corbett, who is writing columns in praise of Jeff's trim, says the big fellow runs miles on the road or plays handball by the hour without showing signs of distress in lung power. But road runs and handball while inclined to exhaust one's endurance are not nearly so trying as actual fighting in the ring. Fighting brings into play every bit of energy in the human frame. The legs, arms, lungs and brain are put to a severe test, and unless a pugilist possesses perfect health and strength he will find it a difficult matter to go a long distance.

Jeffries persistently refrains from showing how much endurance he possesses in ring work. His boxing is confined to half a dozen light rounds a day, the rounds sometimes lasting only a minute, and there are some days when he doesn't box at all. With such men as Choynski, Berger, Armstrong and Corbett to try him out in these tame affairs Jeffries derives little or no benefit, yet he persistently refuses to indulge in rough slugging bouts with big hitters like Kaufman and Langford. Jeffries hasn't shown anybody yet what he can do at top speed in the ring, and for that reason there is some doubt as to his true condition.

He is surrounded by men who jolly him incessantly and seem ready to misrepresent him rather than have him get out of the match. If Jeffries is as fit as his chroniclers insist he will beat Johnson in three or four rounds, for it is stated gravely that "the big fellow is as powerful as when he knocked Fitzsimmons out at Coney Island." That was eleven years ago this month, when Jeffries weighed 205 pounds, and was a wonderful specimen of physical development. Those who have been in touch with Jeffries' mode of life in recent years cannot believe the stories of his rejuvenation that are coming from the coast. They say Jeffries may "look well," but they doubt very much whether he has the real strength to last through a long fight.

The prevailing odds on the big fight are 10 to 7 in favor of Jeffries, with very little Johnson money in evidence on the Coast. As a matter of fact, the fight looks like an even money chance, on the basis that when two heavy hitters meet it is never a sure thing for either. One punch landed on the point of the jaw or in the pit of the stomach may end the big scrap in a jiffy.

KAUFMAN SAYS NEGRO SHOULD WIN THE MILL

Roughs It With Johnson, Then Gives An Opinion on Way Fight Will Go.

San Francisco, June 11.—At the conclusion of his work today, Jack Johnson went on the scales and showed his present weight to be 214 pounds in ring togs. The weight followed the best workout of his training schedule this afternoon. There were eleven rounds of boxing, of which four were two-minute contests with Al Kaufman. In addition, the champion boxed four rounds with George Cotton and two more with Dave Mills.

It is judged from the line of work Johnson is following that he expects to receive a pummeling in the stomach from Jeffries. To prepare for this Johnson is allowing his sparring partners to hit him in the midriff. Even Kaufman was instructed to play for the champion's stomach. With 200 pounds of good weight to back him up, Kaufman wrestled Johnson around the ring in much better shape than any of the colored man's regular sparring partners, and the work was good for both of them.

PICKED BY WHITE MAN.

"Johnson is a wonderful fighter," Kaufman said. "He has improved since I fought him ten rounds at Colma. Of course, he has gained in weight, and while it is hard to tell about a punch with those gloves, I know that he can hit harder. I expect to see him beat Jeffries. I think the retired champion will not be able to lay a glove on the negro."

There was a spirit of good nature pervading the afternoon's performance, and half the time the crowd was in an uproar. Johnson was in high spirits, and when he tossed the medicine ball around he tried to knock down his helpers, and frequently threw the ball so that it would land in some part of the crowd.

LIKE NEW ORLEANS FIGHT.

Tom Flanagan, trainer-in-chief of Johnson, went on record today as declaring that, in his opinion, the Johnson-Jeffries fight would be a repetition of the Sullivan-Corbett battle in 1892. "I guess," said Flanagan, "that outwardly Jeffries will look good to the eye, but underneath I doubt very much if he will ever gain the splendid vitality that was his. The shadow of Jeffries is here today; the substance is gone. He is not the man he was."

the beach each morning, and he comes back in better condition than many of the marathon runners that I have trained.

REAL WORK NEAR AT HAND.

"What do you think of a man who can work an hour and a half in the gymnasium and show practically no signs of fatigue?" asked Flanagan. "Now I have seen Johnson do this very thing. And let me tell you, Jack really worked. It was not play. He works like a demon."

"I will start Jack on his real work Monday week," continued Flanagan. "Up to date I have not sent him along as hard as I could. I believe that with the tapering he now has had that two weeks of real work will put him in the ring in the very best of form."

The fight itself I do not look to go more than twenty rounds. Johnson is hitting too hard now for any man to go more than twenty rounds with him. When Jack fights Jim it will be a fight from the tap of the going. I know that they have never seen Johnson sail in at top speed, but he will go after Jeffries from the first gong, and he will knock him out in a punch if he can do so."

JEFF IN GREAT SPIRITS NOW

Method of Work Seems to Have Beneficial Effect on Him.

Ben Lomond, Cal., June 11.—Jim Jeffries spent the day in Big Basin, where the trout are larger than those near Ben Lomond. He did not return to camp until after sunset, having left early in the morning.

Trainer Cornell said that Jeffries' alternate days of rest, affording him the best possible training. "When he takes a day off for a fishing trip we know it is doing him more good than harm," Cornell said. "He can rest a week without retrograding physically. Jeffries needs only light work from now on, and the more rest he takes the better chance we have of keeping him on edge."

Guests at the hotel have commented upon Jeffries' improved spirits. He plays with the children when the little folks happen near, and he has the saddest looking mongrel dog does not get by the big fellow without a patting or a friendly call.

This change has come over the fighter only in the last ten days, and is looked upon as an encouraging sign by those who are handling him.

ASKS ABOUT JOHNSON

Jeffries Inquires as to Champion's Condition.

BY C. E. VAN LOAN. Jeffries' Training Camp, Rowardennan, Cal., June 14.—The moods of James J. Jeffries are as changeable as the winds of spring. On that account in the more than two months of his spring training session for the Fourth of July, he has never adhered to any sort of a regular program of daily work. It was officially announced on Monday that Jeffries would box every day for ten days or two weeks, and the big fellow declared himself that he would often box twice a day. The program was carried through with a zip yesterday, but expectations went by the board today, for Jeff never so much as looked at a glove and did not decide to do gymnasium work of any sort until late in the afternoon. Then he changed the punching bag for a quarter of an hour and played handball with Jim Corbett.

Jeffries said this morning that he never felt better in his life, and he seemed to be full of ginger and fire as for the past couple of weeks, but it seems that just when he feels best he decides to lay off for fear of doing too much and losing his fine spirits. This, at least, is the way Trainer Roger Cornell explained today's light schedule of work and lack of work in the sparring ring. And Cornell seems to have hit the nail on the head.

WORKS AS HE FEELS.

"That is the only way I can work," says Jeffries. "I have to go entirely according to the way I feel. If I feel like work in the gymnasium I go to work, but if I don't feel like it I let the work go to thunder and take my trout pole down to the river or loaf around the cottage with my friends. Probably I have offended a good many people because I refused to work when I was not in a mood for it, but, much as I would like to please the public all the time, I have a greater responsibility, and that is to put myself in the best possible shape for the Fourth of July. I must think of that first, last, and all the time, even though I might disappoint half a hundred people when I felt that work was not the best thing for me."

Jeffries displayed almost his first active interest in the progress of Jack Johnson's training today when Dick Adams returned after having taken a critical look at the black fighter in his training quarters. Jeffries had noticed in the papers accounts of Adams' visit and conversational duel with Johnson. After he had greeted his old pal today, Jim inquired:

PLANNING TO TIRE JEFF.

"Yes, I was surprised, Jim," answered Dick, "to find him in such good shape. These stories about his being fat and undertrained are wrong, according to my judgment. Johnson is big and powerful, and will be in wonderful condition for the fight."

heavyweights. "He is a good deal better than I thought. I had been looking for a show fight but not now after seeing Johnson box and noting his style of fighting. I think his drawing out a lead and then rushing into a clinch shows that Johnson is planning to draw the fight out and win it by canny tiring Jeff out, figuring that Jeff's long retirement will tell on him after twenty or more rounds. My opinion of Johnson has been raised, but I am still hunting for a big chunk of Johnson money at 10 to 7."

REAL WORK FOR JOHNSON.

San Francisco, June 14.—After the day's outing Jack Johnson enjoyed yesterday he got down to real work today. He was on the road for the usual 12 miles in the morning, and although it had not been his intention to box in the afternoon, he sparred four rounds with Al Kaufman.

The work was not strenuous, however, as the champion evidently held himself in.

"Why should I box hard?" he said. "I am in condition and practically down to weight. I weigh only 212 pounds, and as I will be boxing every day, I don't want too much exercising just now."

According to Tom Flanagan, Johnson will continue his roadwork to within a week of the fight.

It was learned today that Marty Cutler, one of the sparring partners, had left camp without warning. Ever since Cutler was sent out by Johnson as a matter of discipline he had nursed a grudge, and his departure was no surprise to the camp.

BIG BATTLE WILL NOT BE A PRONY

Tad Says "Frisco Sports Wake Up to the Fact That Fake Would Be Almost Impossible.

San Francisco, Cal., June 14.—"Frisco sports have given up the idea of this big fight being a prony. The great fake, however, was talking like when I left, but our boys have passed that, and are now trying to find the weak spots of both men and talk about them."

Jim Corrota says that the fake idea is the most foolish in the world. "In the first place," says Jim, "think of the money they would have to hand Johnson to do a 'Brodie.' If he wins, his cut is \$75,000, and think of the money he would get out of the pictures and the show business."

IT WOULD LEAK OUT.

"Why they would have to slip him \$200,000, at least, wouldn't they? Now, in the second place, they would have to have a third party to hold this money, wouldn't they? Johnson would be forced to send in \$25,000 as forfeit to fulfill his end of the contract, and there would be a battle deciding who should hold the stakes."

"We will say for the sake of argument that they could decide upon a third party as stakeholder, and give him all this money. It's only natural that he would tell some friend of his that the thing was crooked, isn't it? His friend would tell another friend, and before five hours had passed every sport in 'Frisco would be Jerry Robles to the deal, wouldn't they? Suppose, then, that the stakeholder blew the town with the dough? We would all say that he was as good as the dirty, faking fighters, wouldn't we? And who would be the loser in the end?"

Johnson and Jeff will fight on the level; there's no way out of that. Both have trained hard, and will be right on the 4th of next month, and I really believe that it's going to be a great fight. I don't look for a quick ending.

"I don't know what Jeffries thinks, but I guess that fifteen will be the finish."

BIG ORDERS FOR SEATS.

The orders for seats for the big fight make a hit with Jack Gleason. Not only the run town newspaper demand as many as the big dailies, but the politicians from the sawmills are horning in now with orders, telling of their drag with both the President and the Governor. If all moonchairs were seated there would be no room at all for the regulars who send in with the gilt stuff. An Indianapolis nut wrote in to Gleason and Rickard today saying that if they dared hold the big fight he would be here with a bomb and wreck the place.

The promoters have eight watchmen at the arena now patrolling the block day and night. Rickard figures that it will cost them over \$1,000 for watchmen from now until the Fourth. A certain big ticket speculator offered the promoters \$75,000 for 10,000 of the \$5 seats today, but was turned down cold. It is the intention of Gleason and Rickard to keep the tickets out of the hands of the speculators and none of the cheaper seats will be sold until the day of the contest.

The arena is being built so that within the space of two hours any number of seats can be added. Gleason says that it will be just like a big circus, and that if they see that the crowd is to be over the expectations he can throw up 10,000 more. Attorney General Webb, who will be up for re-election here soon, is to be quizzed by a bunch of anti-fight rooters on Wednesday, and they're sort of up in the air about it here.

Jeff Like Oak Tree.

Rowardennan, Cal., June 14.—Monday's long and fast work with the gloves is only the beginning of a two weeks' term of sparring. Such is the decision reached by Jeffries after long conferences with his manager, Sam Berger, and Jim Corbett. Berger and Corbett have long advised more boxing and less exercise of other sorts.

to do with the slackness of speed. "It is the most discouraging thing in the world to box with Jeff," said Berger. "He always on top of you, and when you hit him, you cannot hurt him. I always feel as though some big weight were hanging over me and I was trying to push it away to save myself and falling. Hitting Jeffries is too much like driving your fist against the trunk of an oak tree."



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