

Johnson Gaining in Favor Among Fight Followers as Time for Gong at Reno Draws Near

RECORDS IN THE RING OF BOTH BIG FIGHTERS

Son of Preacher Starts Out as Boilermaker in Ohio.

James Jeffries was born in 1875, in Carroll, Ohio, the son of an impecunious preacher. At an early age he removed to Los Angeles, Cal., where he received some schooling before he started out to make his living as a boiler maker. The strenuous work required by his trade developed his physical strength to an unusual degree and thus prepared him for his later career in the prize ring. His first pugilistic experience was not obtained in the ring, however, but on the public street. It was an unscientific flat fight between Jeffries and the colored ward bully, who had made himself obnoxious and the battle ended with Jeffries victorious.

Jeffries' first regular ring fight was against Tim Van Buskirk, whom he finished by a knockout in the second round. The result of the fight was particularly pleasing to Jeffries, as Van Buskirk was considered the heavy-weight champion of the Pacific Coast. The young boiler maker's next experience in the ring was a little harder. His opponent was Henry Baker, of Chicago, who kept Jeffries hustling for nine rounds, but finally succumbed to the giant Californian. These experiences convinced Jeffries that he could fight and he determined to go into the game for all it was worth.

He tackled Gus Ruhlin, the fight ending in a draw. Soon afterward he went after Joe Choynski, then in his prime and at the highest notch of his fighting skill. This contest also ended in a draw.

When James Corbett was training at Carson City, Jeffries was his sparring partner for a time and many are of the opinion that Jeffries learned a great deal of the science of boxing from his sparring opponent. Jeffries, however, has always denied this. Jeffries was ambitious and eager for a fight with Tom Sharkey and at last the match was arranged. But the authorities stepped in and the contest was called off. Jeffries never lost sight of "Sailor" Sharkey and eventually met him in the ring. In the mean time Jeffries went to Los Angeles and took on Joe Goddard, the Barrier champion, who proved easy money. Jeffries won in four rounds. This was on February 28, 1898. It was in the same year that Jeffries by a succession of victories came into prominence as a fighter.

In March and April he met and defeated Peter Jackson and Peter Everett, and in May his fight with Sharkey. Jeffries won after twenty hard rounds, and his fame was made. San Francisco and the West coast were too small for the big boiler maker and he decided to go to New York. Accompanied by "Billy" Delaney, his manager, Jeffries set out for the East. He was well received and soon became popular, but there were no fights to be had. Negotiations with Peter Maher were carried on for some time, but struck a snag in some technicality. It was then that Jeffries, somewhat desperate, offered to take on any two men the same night at the Lenox Athletic Club. "Bob" Armstrong was the first man who was carried out by the stipulated ten rounds and whipped the big colored man, but hurt his hand so severely that he had to abandon the second fight which was to be against Steve O'Donnell.

After this experience Jeffries returned to California, but the following year found him back in New York, with William T. Brady as his manager. June 5 of that year, 1899, saw him in the ring at Coney Island facing Robert Fitzsimmons, champion of the world. In the eleventh round Jeffries got in his knockout blow and the championship was his.

Contrary to precedent, the new champion did not rest long on his laurels. Although he did not fight again that summer, November found him matched with "Sailor" Sharkey again. The fight lasted twenty-five rounds and was won by Jeffries.

On April 6, 1900, Jeffries found easy money in Jack Finnegan at Detroit. He knocked him out in the first round. The champion's next big battle was with Jim Corbett at Coney Island. Corbett fought twenty-three rounds, but was finally knocked out. Then Jeffries returned to California. He had three fights the next year. He won from Frank Griffin at Los Angeles in four rounds, and a week later knocked out Joe Kennedy in two. In November he fought Gus Ruhlin in San Francisco and finished him in five rounds. His next big fight was July 25, 1902, when he fought a return match with Bob Fitzsimmons, who had knocked him out after eight severely contested rounds. In August of the following year he fought Jim Corbett again at San Francisco and knocked him out in ten rounds. His last fight previous to the present was in August 1904, when he knocked out Jack Munton in the second round at San Francisco.

Galveston Negro Broke Into the Pugilistic Game Ten Years Ago.

Jack Johnson was born in Galveston, Tex., March 31, 1878, and began his fighting career in his native town about ten years ago. At that time the Galveston Athletic Club, of which Leo Posner was the moving spirit, gave boxing shows in which Charles Brooks, a masseur and teacher of boxing in a boxing academy in Galveston, was the principal feature. He took on any corner, and usually knocked out his opponents in the third round. One day Johnson presented himself and expressed his willingness to fight Brooks for a consideration. Posner accepted him and when the night of the fight came, Johnson surprised everybody by knocking out Brooks in the second round.

After that first of his ring battles Johnson did not want for fights. He cleaned up the best of the darkies in the black belt, among his early victories being a knockout of Horace Miles in three rounds. Then George Lawlor, an Irish giant, who fought under the ring name of Jim McCormick, accepted a challenge. Johnson defeated him in ten rounds, and twice again beat him, both times in seven rounds. In between his fights with McCormick Johnson defeated Jack Lee.

His next victory of some consequence was over a burly negro known as "Klondyke," who came to Galveston from Philadelphia and was defeated by Johnson after a grueling battle of twenty rounds. Johnson was still a raw novice when he fought his first really big battle, with Joe Choynski. The latter was at the height of his skill and Johnson was no match for him in science. In the third round Johnson was knocked out and lost the fight. It was the first and only time that he was thus disposed of by one of his opponents. This defeat proved of great benefit to Johnson, however. He and Choynski were arrested after the fight and put in jail, where they whiled away the time boxing. In those days Johnson learned a great deal from his skillful teacher.

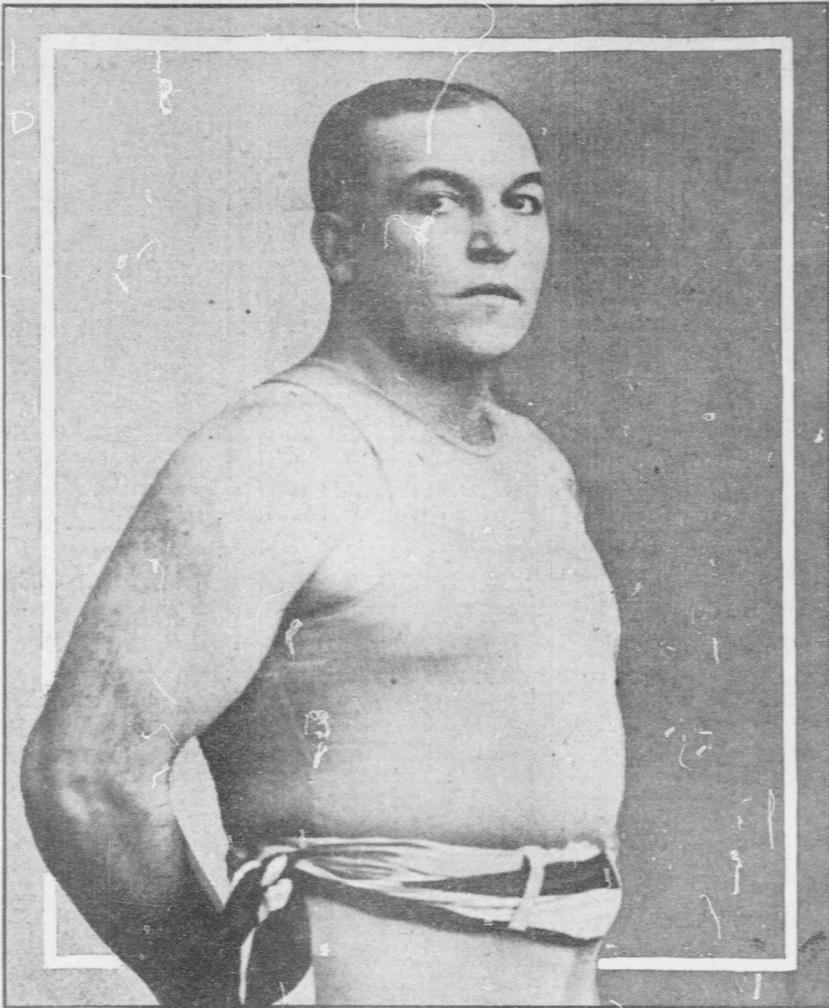
The second fighting year of his career, 1902, was a big one for Johnson. He was the principal in sixteen contests, losing one and having four draws. In that year he met Jack Jeffries, a brother of Jim, and knocked him out after playing with him for four rounds. One of Johnson's hardest fights was with George Gardner, the middle-weight champion of New England, who defeated Gardner easily, and thereby added greatly to his reputation as a fighter. After that battle Johnson defeated Fred Russell and Deaver Ed Martin, and finally the negro Sam McVey, whom he defeated on points in twenty rounds.

The following day Johnson issued a challenge to Jim Jeffries, asserting he was the champion of the world. Jeffries evaded him, however, saying that he had drawn the color line after meeting Hank Griffin in 1901. Johnson won all of his battles in 1902, beating the rugged McVey twice on points. On April 22, 1904, he fought again and knocked him out in the twentieth round. He also won from Frank Childs in six rounds. In March, 1905, he fought Marvin Hart at San Francisco, and although he made a number of other battles, never defeated any of them. In that year he fought Joe Jeannette, on a foul. The list of his opponents in that year included Jim Jeffries, Black Bill, Walter Johnson, Jack Monroe, Sandy Ferguson, Joe Jeannette, and Young Peter Jackson.

The only man who made any showing against Johnson in the following year was Joe Jeannette, with whom he fought several battles without scoring a knockout. Those who saw these fights, however, clearly felt that Johnson was master of the situation at all times, and could have easily finished with a knockout had he wished to do so. In April, 1906, Johnson defeated Sam Langford at Chelsea, Mass., which showed his class, as Langford was and is considered one of the most dangerous opponents in the ring.

In the following year, 1907, Johnson went to Australia, and there met J. Lang, whom he knocked out in the ninth round. In July of the same year he fought Bob Fitzsimmons at Philadelphia and knocked him out in the second round. In November, 1907, he fought eleven rounds with Jim Flynn at San Francisco and knocked out his opponent. Johnson's victories over Tommy Burns, in December, 1908, at Sydney, N. S. W., and Stanley Ketchel, at Colma, Cal., October 16, 1909, are still fresh in the minds of the ring followers. He defeated Burns on points in fourteen rounds and put Ketchel to sleep in the twelfth round. His fight with Ketchel was the last of Johnson's ring battles before the championship contest with Jeffries was agreed upon.

Meets Johnson in Most Important Ring Battle in Years



JAMES J. JEFFRIES.

BIGGEST PURSE IN HISTORY OF RING OFFERED FOR FIGHT

The estimated gate receipts of the Jeffries-Johnson battle at Reno are close to \$300,000, more than four times larger than the biggest gate in the history of the ring. The purse of \$101,000 is more than the entire receipts of any previous battle, as the following figures show:

Fight	Gate Receipts
Nelson-Gans, at Goldfield, Nev.	\$69,000
Johnson-Burns, at Sidney, Australia	67,000
Jeffries-Sharkey, Coney Island	66,500
Fitzsimmons-Jeffries, at Coney Island	63,000
Corbett-Jeffries, at San Francisco	62,340
Corbett-McCoy, at New York	57,000
Britt-Nelson, at Colma, Cal.	48,311
Corbett-Sullivan, at New Orleans, La.	45,000
Fitzsimmons-Ruhlin, at New York	45,000
Ruhlin-Sharkey, at New York	40,000
Fitzsimmons-Hall, at New Orleans	40,000
Gans-Britt, at San Francisco, Cal.	36,000
Britt-Corbett, at San Francisco, Cal.	32,265
Johnson-Ketchel, at San Francisco, Cal.	32,300
Jeffries-Ruhlin, at San Francisco, Cal.	30,800

Joe Hefferman, the West Philadelphia lightweight, who has won so many victories during the past season, has decided to rest up for a white and not box any more till the fall. He has made a large following in West Philadelphia by his boxing and genial manners.

Jack Williams, a Jersey City sporting man, manager of Darkey Griffin, was in Philadelphia on Friday trying to get on a match for his man against any 116 to 120 pounder. Williams says Tom O'Rourke is willing to match Griffin against Young Pierce, if the latter will meet Griffin.

GOLDSWAIN A SNAP FOR P. M'FARLAND

Englishman Never Had Chance and Lasted Only Three Rounds.

The following details of Packey McFarland's knockout of Jack Goldswain, the English fighter, in London on June 20, are taken from Sporting Life, of London:

"In no form could Jack Goldswain be considered to have a chance of beating a wonder like Packey McFarland, although the Bermondsey boxer would be anything up to twenty pounds the heavier man, but it was hardly expected that the stock yard boy would win the fifteen-round contest for a big purse at the Ring, a new boxing club in London, on Saturday night so easily as he did. "During the three rounds the affair lasted, it was clearly evident that McFarland was out to win as early as possible, for he went about his work in hurricane style. Goldswain could not find Packey at all. McFarland simply could not get in the way of Goldswain's gloves, whereas his own played a tattoo on Goldswain's face—and Packy hits tremendously hard, of that there can be no doubt. One felt sorry for the spectators who had expected a fairly close battle, and also one felt sorry for the management, who had thought to provide their patrons with at least an interesting contest. Eugene Corri acted as referee. "It is interesting to note that Fred Welsh was present, and was introduced, as were Harry Lewis and Jim Triscoll. The latter's reception was a great one, and it was easy to see that Jim was much affected, strange as it may seem, by the fact that he had announced that the Ring syndicate was prepared to bid up to £2,000 for a contest between McFarland and Welsh."

CAPITAL AMATEURS ARE MAKING GOOD

Former amateur league players of this city played a prominent part in Hagerstown's victory over the fast Frederick team in Hagerstown last Saturday, by 4 to 0.

With Pearce, the youngster who has been promised a trial by the local American League club, in the box, an easy victory for Frederick was expected. However, the Hagerstown nine, with five Washington boys in the line-up, took kindly to his assortment and connected for seven hits, resulting in four runs. The Washington players, Noyes, satcher; Marceron, left field; Saib, third base; M. Macdonald, first base, and Snyder, right field, made six of the seven hits, and scored all four runs.

Hagerstown slipped up on three chances, but not one of the Washington quintet figured in the miscuing. The manager of the Maryland team is not more liberal than usual, and it is possible that by the end of the month the Washington boys will fill every position.

FINES FOR PROFANITY.

NEW YORK, July 4.—"Tom" Lynch, president of the National League, indicated recently that he intended to substitute indefinite suspensions for the three day ones he has been dispensing recently. He maintains that he will fine profane ball players, and says that the clubs will soon tire of paying these fines.

Devlin will be back in the game today.

OLD WASHINGTONIAN IS OFFICIAL AT RENO

District Attorney Woodburn, Whose Decision Authorized Fight, Studied Law Here.

It developed today that one of the most prominent factors at the scene of the greatest event in the history of pugilism is a former Washington man. William Woodburn, Jr., district attorney at Reno, spent several years in this city previous to 1908 as an employe of the Census office. He is the son of Representative Woodburn, who represented Nevada in the House for several terms, and who was one of the original Forty-Niners who went West during the time of the gold fever and gathered together a fortune which made him one of the richest men in that section in those days.

Young Woodburn, while in the Census office, studied law at Georgetown and graduated in 1903, after having made a consistently good record through his three year term. He received the degree of LL. B. and shortly afterward went West to practice.

He immediately became prominent in legal circles throughout the Sage Brush State, later being chosen district attorney at Reno. When Governor Gillett's famous order driving the fighters from California was promulgated, Tex Rickard immediately looked to Nevada. Governor Dickerson gave assurances that there would be no interference at Reno, but before allowing work on the arena to be started he assigned District Attorney Woodburn to make a study of the prize fight clause. The young official advised his chief that such a bout was perfectly legal under the laws of the State, and then came Dickerson's unqualified welcome to the fighters.

Ever since the thousands of visitors commenced to arrive at Reno, one of the biggest problems has been to see that order was preserved. In this Woodburn has co-operated with the city police and the State constabulary until the conduct of affairs under the circumstances has attracted attention throughout the West.

In addition to being Reno's district attorney, Woodburn is one of the most prominent political forces in Nevada.

Joe Sieger finds it just as hard to get matches in New York as it is in Philadelphia, none of the lightweights there caring to meet him. Sieger is ready to meet Tommy Coleman or any other lightweight in the city.

HOW FIGHTERS SHARE EITHER WIN OR LOSE

A tabulation of the earnings of the fighters considered from both a winning and losing standpoint is as follows:

Jeffries (Winner), (Loser)	\$75,750.00	\$25,250.00
Picture sales	66,995.67	66,995.67
Bonus	10,000.00	10,000.00
Totals	\$152,745.67	\$101,915.67
Johnson (Winner), (Loser)	\$75,750.00	\$25,250.00
Picture sale	50,000.00	50,000.00
Bonus	10,000.00	10,000.00
Totals	\$135,750.00	\$85,250.00

RACE RIOTS FEARED IN SMOKY CITY

PITTSBURG, Pa., July 4.—Fifty extra policemen have been sworn in to prevent riots in the negro section of Pittsburgh during the Jeffries-Johnson fight this afternoon. Last night 5,000 negroes congregated on Wylie avenue and it was dangerous for a white person or a follower of Jeffries to appear upon the scene. Fights were numerous, but the regular police were powerless to keep order. Numerous arrests were made.

PENDLETON MAKING EXCELLENT RECORD

T. C. Pendleton, the former Episcopal High School athlete, has made a most enviable record during his first year at Princeton.

In addition to star performances on the gridiron and track, he closed the season as a member of the Princeton freshman nine, making seven hits and drawing two bases on balls in the two games with the Yale crew. Pendleton is slated for two Tiger varsity teams next season.

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