

THE GREATEST PRIZE FIGHTER OF ALL TIME

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Having been requested to pick the man who in my opinion was the greatest pugilist that world has ever seen and to give the reasons for my selection, I reply without any hesitation to the first question, James J. Jeffries of Los Angeles, Cal.

The reasons for my selection may require something of a review of history, although I may say at the outset that pugilistic history, generally speaking, does not offer any one who may be used in close comparison. Jeffries seems to me to have been in a class all by himself. That he should retire as an undefeated champion to my mind cuts off nearly all argument.

The question has frequently been asked, however, as in the case with other ring champions, and in fact is nearly every class of sport, as to what position Jeffries would have held had he been born ten, twenty, fifty, or even one hundred years ago. My answer in this case would be the same. Jeffries has a variety of ring accomplishments that no other pugilist ever had and as I search through the pages of history I reach the same conclusion, that he stands out as the ideal pugilist of all time.

**Old Tactics Lose Value.**  
In nearly every decade since the days of Pug in 1719 there has been a new champion, one man at least who classed above all his fellows. From the old prints showing the poses assumed in the ring by former champions and from all I can find in written history or have heard during my travels about the world from those who had a close personal contact with former champions, and I have made probably more of a study of this matter than any other man, I do not find that the old champions had anything that could be developed into any value today by our fast champions.

In a review of this subject we must start away back in the old, old days when ring contests were held out in the open and the followers of the sport were largely drawn from the toughest element. This was necessary, because so keen was partisan feeling that when either contestant showed signs of defeat the ring ropes were cut and frequently the man with the toughest crowd behind him won the battle.

It has taken years to change all this and we of the present day should rejoice at the different conditions that now prevail. Boxing contests are now held in large auditoriums lighted by electricity, attended by men in evening dress and frequently by women; there are padded ring posts and ropes; honest referees and large purses to offer a pleasing contrast with conditions of other days. And, incidentally, I call attention particularly to the fact that the character of the men engaged has much to do with this change.

**Brute Strength in the Past.**

The prints of the early champions show a majority of poses in the ring, but absolutely no indication of what we today call science in boxing. Our present day amateurs would be ridiculed should they strike the same attitude as the champions of even 100 years ago, and that is really only ten decades in boxing. They had then to develop wrestling skill as well as punching ability, and their muscular development. I still admit, was something to get into. But it was all summed up in brute strength, and the referee which now furnishes the pleasant scene to the sport was then almost entirely lacking. The same conditions today beyond the attraction of a novelty would not only kill the sport but



James J. Corbett and James J. Jeffries

after the first performance would excite the most hostile criticism.

Coming down to the time of Jim Mace, we really reach the first pugilist to study out the scientific side of boxing. He was the founder of this innovation in pugilism, and to him we owe the change that has elevated the sport.

**Corbett Convinces Mace.**

I shall never forget my first introduction to Jim Mace some sixteen years ago. He invited me to come around and show him what I had that was new in boxing. It was a meeting of the old and new champions, and I was as glad of the opportunity to learn from him as to show my own skill. He explained the straight leads and straight cross counters that he had used so effectively in earlier days, and seemed greatly surprised when I kindly told him that if they boxed like that now the clever men of the new school would tear the top of his head off.

To illustrate this fact as he desired, I let him the younger man, I said, "You lead at me and I'll show you something you have never seen." He was simply dumb for a time in his astonishment at my skill in avoiding his leads. For instance, I tried the double feint with both hands and slipped into a sidestepping, or which he let go both hands and went out of position and at my mercy, as the trick is intended to be used. I followed with all I knew of boxing and the grand old man of the ring was greatly pleased and warmly congratulated me on my skill.

After Mace came Joe Wornald, Joe Lewis, Tom Allen and Joe Cornish. They all stampy followed the style of the old master as far as they were able to master the scientific end of the game, each adding a little individuality, but nothing that was startling or that had not been seen before.

**Comment on John L.**

Then along came John L. Sullivan, a combat and craft, slambang, right-handed fighter of great muscular development and game to the core. I wouldn't detract one iota from John L.'s reputation or seek to lower him from a position he occupied so many years as the popular one of the ring, but honestly compels me to say that he added nothing to pugilistic science excepting his famous right-hand punch. As usual, the new champion's style was immediately in vogue, and Mike Sayers and some others gained a place in pugilistic history as right-handed fighters. I am

not going out of my way to say here that I don't believe Sullivan in his best days was the master of Jeffries, and I say this because I have so often heard them compared.

Charley Mitchell was one man whom Sullivan could never whip. Mitchell, who had trained in the Mace school, was nearer to the present style of boxing than any man of his day. Weight was his great handicap.

Then came Peter Jackson from Australia, who weighed 200 pounds stripped and was 6 feet 1 1/2 in height. Jackson, too, had the Mace style as improved by Larry Foley, the teacher of so many good men from the antipodes. Jackson also was a wonderful fighter, a good left-hand jabber and he had a right-hand bad punch capable of terrific damage. The one thing Jackson lacked was the left-hand hook.

**Corbett Works on New Lines.**

What shall I say of Jim Corbett? He had studied out a miscellaneous style in which something had been adopted from Mace and carried forward into a development showing individuality. It was a system of boxing entirely his own and one that had never been seen before the night of September 7, 1892, at New Orleans, and without dwelling further upon the subject I wish merely to say that there has been no improvement since.

Bob Fitzsimmons was a wonderful two-handed fighter, able to hit as hard with one hand as the other and fairly clever. It was his walk-out that won nearly all his fights. Tom Sharkey was a physical wonder, game and a hard slugger. Sayers and Joe Goldard were of a similar class.

And now we get to Jeffries, a big, robust man weighing 250 pounds, as hard as nails, and the quickest man of his weight I have ever seen in the ring. Above all, he has something that none of the others, and particularly none of the Sullivan type, could ever show, in a knockout punch with the left hand. The fact that he is naturally left-handed, and as good, if not better, in every other way as all he has met, has contributed materially to his success in the ring. That he has defeated Fitzsimmons, Sharkey, Baldwin, and Corbett, not once but twice, and the fact that those named were the best of the heavies at the time, shows what a marvelous fighter this great bear from the Pacific coast really is. For, unlike some of the other critics, I believe Jeff still the master of them all, and I much doubt if we shall ever look upon his like again.

**Jeffries Best of All.**

Fifty years ago Jeffries would have been considered a scientific fighter as well as a successful knockout pugilist even among such men as Jim Mace, John Heenan, Tom Sayers, John Morrissey, and Ned O'Baldwin. Just think what Jeff, with a knockout punch in his left hand as well as the right, would have done to the men named. For I don't hesitate to say he was every bit as quick as those men, and as clever.

Jeffries takes punishment with the same degree of nonchalance as did Morrissey, is clever like Mace, but with an improved style, and he is bigger than O'Baldwin. He is better on his feet than Coburn, and he has

everything that any one else ever had—in fact, a little more, including that famous knockout punch with the left hand, and he doesn't need to send it along more than seven inches to make it effective.

\*\*\*\*\* STATE COLLEGE NOTES. \*\*\*\*\*

**State University News.**

Norman, Okla., April 23.—The pupils in the department of music gave a free recital in the studio down town last Friday night.

Professor Brewer, head of the English department, has been chosen to act as manuscript judge of an intercollegiate debate to be held between the University of Mississippi and four other schools of that state.

The senior class is planning to put on a "stunt" in the form of a carnival to be given during the week of the intercollegiate track and field meet. They plan to have a miniature Mardi Gras, with a king and queen of festivities. Peanuts, popcorn, confection, "barkers" and all other attendants of the usual carnival midway will be in evidence. The cost will be a penny for each purchase and a penny admission to the attraction. Seniors will have charge of the various booths.

The house of representatives literary society and the senate held a joint meeting last Saturday night. After the meeting the house elected officers for the year as follows: G. E. Meador, speaker; A. M. McCullough, speaker pro tem; Earl Christman, clerk; L. E. Trout, treasurer; L. W. Maxwell, sergeant-at-arms; J. B. Newby, chaplain; Ulys. Webb, critic.

At the adjourned meeting of the board of regents of the University last Wednesday, the reports of special committees on the extension of the medical school and on salaries were presented. The report on the medical school which recommended the expansion of the course to four years, the last two of which are to be carried on in Oklahoma City, with the acceptance of the services of members of the Epworth college of medicine, was approved. Dr. Bobo, the present dean of the school at Norman, was made dean of the entire school.

The report of the committee on salaries was held over until the next meeting, which will be the last of the month. It was decided to add to the school of law the second year's work, and President Evans and Dean Monnet were instructed to recommend a suitable instructor for the additional work. The president was instructed to present suitable applications for the positions. In the school of fine arts made vacant by the resignation of some of the present instructors.

In place of M. S. Gardner, who resigned from the chair of psychology, Professor Erwin was elected head of the department and T. J. Brockway was elected instructor. Work in the preparatory department heretofore carried on by student instructors, was recommended by the committee to be placed in the hands of regular professors in the departments.

The university oratorical council have selected Rev. Butler, of the Chickasha M. E. church, south, as the third judge of the Kansas-Oklahoma debate which will be held at the opera house Friday night, April 29th. Tickets have been on sale for the debate for some time and a goodly crowd of "sooner rooters" will be present to help Oklahoma win. Speakman and Walker, the representatives for Oklahoma have been working hard and will put up a good line of talk to the Kansans. The students are planning a big demonstration in chapel on the day of the debate which will work up a good deal of enthusiasm and help lead the boys to victory.

**Southern State Normal.**

During April 23.—At the meeting of the Coal County Teachers' Association at Tupelo last Friday and Saturday, decidedly the most interesting and best appreciated numbers of the program were the lectures by Prof. Laird of the Southeastern on "Liquid Air and the Wireless Telegraph." The lecture on the wireless especially attracted much favorable notice and comment. The teachers who were present gave additional assurances of their friendship to the Southeastern. It was stated by various educational authorities present that over 90 per cent of the teachers in the county would attend the summer term of the Southeastern.

A change in the credit basis has been announced by the president, placing the requirements for one credit at thirty recitations instead of six weeks' work as heretofore. Under the new ruling if a student misses one recitation in a term it will deprive him of the right to credit unless he can make up the work. This is intended to eliminate

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any desire on the part of the students to cut classes.

The committee on location of summer students has had blanks printed on which they are recording the names and addresses of those willing to provide room and board during the summer term. This will avoid a great deal of confusion in commencing the term.

The Southeastern inter-high school track meet will take place as announced before, May 7. The medals have come, the grounds are in readiness, the seventeen high schools entered are busy training their men. This affair, if successful, will develop a great deal of latent ability in this part of the state and it is hoped that southeastern Oklahoma will make a better showing at the state track meet hereafter on account of it.

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**Notice.**  
Whereas, on the 1st day of March, 1910, a certain execution was duly issued out of the District Court of Carter County, Oklahoma, in a certain case therein pending, wherein Ardmore Concrete Co. was the plaintiff and B. F. Mills was the defendant, commanding me of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of the said B. F. Mills, to cause to be made the sum of \$16.65, and whereas finding no goods and chattels to levy upon, I have on this the 25th day of March, 1910, levied upon the following described property, to-wit: Lot No. 3 and the West 1/4 of Lot No. 4 of Block No 284 of the City of Ardmore, Carter County, Oklahoma, according to the official

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