

Matty Baldwin

Contributed by Rob Snell
Saturday, 20 June 2009

Name: Matty Baldwin
 Career Record: [click](#)
 Alias: Bunker Hill Bearcat
 Birth Name: Matthew M Baldwin
 Nationality: US American
 Hometown: Boston, Massachusetts, USA
 Born: 1885-02-15
 Died: 1918-10-15
 Age at Death: 33
 Height: 5′ 5½″
 Managers: Alex MacLean
 Matthew (Matty) Baldwin died October 15, 1918 in the Charleston district of Boston from the Spanish Influenza, then sweeping throughout North America at the very end of World War I. (Date of death sometimes recorded as Oct. 1.)

The Bridgeport Telegram 11 October 1918 Matty Baldwin Had Brilliant Career in Ring

Matty Baldwin, the lightweight, boxer who died Tuesday at his home in Boston, a victim of the Spanish influenza plague, enjoyed a unique career in the squared circle. Matty, although never champion of his division, fought, without losing two men who later won the lightweight title. These men were Ad Wolgast, the Michigan Bearcat, and Willie Ritchie.

In June 1909 Baldwin and Wolgast fought a twelve round draw in Boston, and in the following year the Michigan Bearcat won the title from Battling Nelson. In 1911 Matty outpointed Willie Ritchie in a twenty round contest at San Francisco, and in the following year Ritchie won the title on a foul from Ad Wolgast.

In 1907 Baldwin was a top notcher and the fight fans throughout the country were closely following his ring engagements. In that year he won several ten and fifteen round battles and fought a twelve round draw with Bert Keyes. He won on a foul from Jimmy Clabby in four rounds and Bert Keyes in six. The following four years he was a favorite with the New York fans and was seen in action at several of the Gotham clubs during the membership days. At the National Sporting- Club in 1910 he met Leach Cross, the fighting dentist, in what was scheduled as a ten round bout. In the first seven rounds Baldwin, was master of Leach and it was evident that Matty could only lose by being knocked out. In the eighth round, however, Referee Joe Hess suddenly stopped the fight and declared Cross the winner. The abrupt ending caused great confusion among the spectators, who saw no reason for the referee's actions.

Those who had ringside seats swarmed around the squared circle and demanded an explanation. Hess announced that Baldwin had bucked Cross with his head after he had been warned several times. In April, 1911, the pair again met at the same club and Baldwin outpointed his opponent in a ten round battle. In the ninth round of the contest the Boston lightweight landed two hard blows in rapid succession to Cross's jaw and Leach was on the verge of taking the count.

After this contest Baldwin went out to the Pacific coast and met Freddy Welsh in a twenty round bout and was outpointed. On August 31 of the same year he won from Willie Ritchie. Less than a month after this battle he fought a twenty round draw with Frankie Burns. In November he fought an eight round draw with Joe Mandot at Memphis. While fighting on the coast he was under the management of Alex McLean.

On July 7, 1914, Willie Ritchie lost his title to Freddy Welsh in London and after the contest Welsh crossed the Atlantic and the first bout he engaged in was with Baldwin. It was staged in Boston and Matty was defeated in twelve rounds. In the same year Johnny Dundee and Matty fought a twelve round draw Oakland Tribune 24 August 1911 BALDWIN AND RITCHIE ARE TRAINING HARD FOR BOUT Boston Man Takes to the Road While Local Lad Devotes Time to Boxing; Nelson Wanted at Sacramento Matty Baldwin and Willie 'Ritchie, who are to furnish the fistic card for the fight fans : this month, have both begun active training, Baldwin being quartered at Al White's place at the St. Julian Hotel and Ritchie being at the Seal Rock House over the bay. Willie Ritchie was the first of the two to get down to real hard work for he began preparing on Sunday with light gymnasium work. Yesterday, though he began the real hard grind of the training camp and boxed, six rounds. with Puggy Cove, Jimmy Carroll and Kid Hutt. Ritchie is weighing 187 pounds, but as the weight is to be made at 6 o'clock on the afternoon of the bout, he should have no great difficulty in getting into condition and being strong.

Baldwin, has confidence by the wholesale that he will be returned a winner and each day he grinds through his work with a preciseness that makes the fans sit up and look.

Yesterday he began with the boxing end of the training stunt and went merrily through a siege with Middleweight Joe Thomas who is conditioning himself for a bout hereabouts in the near future

Another stunt that Baldwin is strong for is road work and this was added to his work yesterday and will be a feature each day. With Thomas and a bunch of trainers Baldwin ran five times around the race track at Emeryville and then finished up with the run back to White's, which is some distance.

Baldwin is within a couple of pounds of the weight, and can drop down to the lightweight notch, 133 pounds, any time he pleases. He is just as fast and snappy and as clever as he was when he met Welsh two months ago and on that occasion the fans voted him one of the best near champions they had seen in action in many a long day.

RITCHIE IS A CLEVER BOY.

There is no denying the fact that Ritchie is a wonderfully clever boy. He never has been injured as yet, though he has taken part in countless four, six and ten-round ring engagements. As an aggressive boy, Ritchie never figured very

strongly, but he has always made up for his speed and his ability to keep pegging away and by his wonderful footwork and classy ducking.

The Queensberry world will have to recognize Ritchie as a member of the army of lightweight candidates if he gets away with Baldwin next. Thursday evening.

A victory over the Bostonian will put the local boy right up in the front ranks and he will have his pick between San Francisco and New York. It is Willie's first big ring engagement, and if he can manage to control his nerves it looks as though he will surely give Baldwin a fight that will be worth going many a mile to see. Ritchie will have the advantage in both height and reach and this should help out a lot.

Although he looks more like a welterweight, the San Francisco lad can make the lightweight limit, without much trouble. In the past he has always surprised the fans by weighing in time. When he first started out Willie looked like the making of a good welter but has managed to keep in the lightweight division ever since. End Oakland Tribune 24 June 1911 SCIENCE OF WELSH IS TOO MUCH FOR MATTY BALDWIN Britisher Outpoints and Outgenerals Game Youngster From Boston (By EDDIE SMITH.) _ It was a debate wherein the fellow who had turned the midnight oil studying over the finer points of his profession was awarded the decision over, a stronger, more aggressive and better lasting opponent. Such might have been the proper way of explaining the difference in ability between Freddie Welsh and Matty Baldwin had their affair of last evening been one of words and not fists.

As it is the explanation holds good, for when Referee Eddie Hanlon raised the hand of Freddie Welsh indicating that he had been awarded the decision he did so because the Britisher had out-jabbed and out-generated his stocky opponent, helped by a superior knowledge of the boxing game.

If the boxer was to be rewarded for gameness, willingness and persistent rushing, the game little Boston lad would have shared the honors of the affair with the crafty Welshman, but as the points of the game must be scored by hitting the other fellow and not by taking a punch in futile attempt to rush the opposing party off his feet, "Welsh" was entitled to the verdict by every count by which the points of boxing are scored.

With his five and a little more years experience in the boxing game Freddie Welsh has practiced and studied more of the fine points of the boxing game than has Baldwin with his more than nine years, and in the battle of last night this study helped wonderfully in the winning of the contest. "Welsh has a reason for every move that he makes during a contest and seldom makes a false one. Baldwin, on the other hand, tried persistently to baffle the clever Britisher with rushes that meant little and any number of times he deliberately threw himself off his balance by moves that meant little to him from the offensive point of boxing.

WELSH WORKED ON LINES.

The story of the contest is best told by saying that Welsh worked along the lines of least resistance at all times, was always on his balance, punched cleanly and straight all the time, had any number of tantalizing and damaging little rips, jabs and uppercuts to use in the clinches and breakaways and although, not as sturdy or strong as his opponent finished the better because he saved himself the unnecessary labor Baldwin executed in his endeavor to take the battle by storm.

At every one of the real sciences of boxing Welsh excelled and the fact that he at no time missed with wild swings or made false movements did much to help him finish as strong as he did.

To Matty Baldwin's credit let it be said that although he was being systematically beaten by a cleverer man who used all sorts of tantalizing methods and punches, that never once did he shirk his duty.

From the very first to the last Baldwin was coming all the time and at times: he made the Britisher sit up and take notice Welsh won by a lead that left no chances for criticism of the referee's decision, but he had to fight for every point he scored and the win was not an easy one by any means. The contest was an interesting one in many ways even though one round was something of a repetition of the one preceding it.

BRITISHER IS CLEVER AND FAST

Welsh, proved all that had been said of him in the matter of cleverness and somewhat of a surprise as a punishing boxer at the in-fighting style of work Baldwin had made no pretences of cleverness in his training and had said right along that he fully expected to be jabbed up during the early rounds of the contest, but that he would win by setting a pace Welsh, would not be able to keep up with.

True to his word, Matty did set a pace that looked too fast for Welsh, in fact one would have ventured the opinion that the men were starting out on a six-round journey instead of twenty, had he judged the length of the contest by the pace Baldwin set at the outset of the battle.

Baldwin had not reckoned on the ability of the Britisher to stall and set the pace to suit himself when tired, however, and although he tried at all times to keep, the fast clip up Welsh invariably slowed the going down when the least fatigued.

When the contest opened Welsh and Baldwin came together with a rush. Matty made the first pass and missing he fell into a clinch. Welsh took things easy during the first few rounds and Baldwin scored repeatedly with right and left hand swings and it looked as if Freddie had been made a false favorite when the fans offered 10 to 4 on his chances.

In the third round, However, Welsh opened up and took the lead and from that time on he had a little the better every round, with, the exception of one or two. From then on the Britisher started working his short-arm jolts in the clinches and the left hand leads he sent out found their way to the face of Baldwin with great regularity.

During the battle Welsh succeeded in cutting Baldwin about the lips and puffing his face slightly, but at no time was the Boston boy in danger of going out or being very badly punished. Welsh won by out-boxing and out-roughing the little Boston fellow and in doing so proved himself a great ring general and a boxer to be feared by any of the lightweights.