

Mickey Walker

Contributed by Rob Snell
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Mickey Walker World Middleweight and Welterweight Champion 1922-1930

Probably the toughest and hardest hitting middleweight boxer of all time, Mickey Walker was nicknamed "The Toy Bulldog" because of his aggression and tenacity. Yet only one of his eleven world title fights failed to go the distance. A good boxer, Walker did his best.

Edward Patrick "Mickey" Walker (July 13, 1903 - April 28, 1981) was a multi-faceted boxer from New Jersey. He was also an avid golfer and a renowned artist. Some say he was actually born in 1901.

He boxed professionally for the first time on February 10, 1919, fighting Dominic Orsini to a four round no-decision in his hometown of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Walker did not venture from Elizabeth until his eighteenth bout, he went to Newark. On April 29 of 1919, he was defeated by knockout in round one by K.O. Phil Delmontt, suffering his first defeat.

In 1920, he boxed twelve times, winning two and participating in ten no-decisions. Once again, all his bouts were held in New Jersey, which was, at the time, one of the areas where scoring systems had not been installed in boxing, therefore, each fight that lasted the scheduled distance was automatically declared a no-decision, regardless of who the better boxer had been.

He boxed sixteen times in 1921, winning six, losing one and having nine no-decisions. By then, Rhode Island had already become one of the areas where scoring in fights had been installed to allow fighters to get decision victories, and this attracted Walker twice to the area. He lost on a disqualification to Joe Stenafik his first time there, but earned his first decision win, in twelve rounds, against Kid Green, the second time around. He also held world champion boxer Jack Britton to a no-decision back in his home state of New Jersey, and beat Nate Siegal in Boston.

1922 was not looking like a great year for Mickey Walker, as he went 3-4-4 before getting a world title shot. He lost to Jock Malone during that span. However, on November 1 of that year, he found himself a world title challenger against Britton, who was the world's Welterweight champion. Walker outpointed Britton over fifteen rounds to become world champion.

He had thirteen fights in 1923, winning 11, having one no decision and one no contest. He defended the title twice, against Pete Latzo and Jimmy Jones.

Nine bouts followed in 1924, Walker winning six and having three no decisions. He defeated Lew Tendler and Bobby Barrett in defense of his world title, and had two of his three no decisions that year against arch-enemy Jock Malone.

After winning two fights to start 1925, he went up in division to challenge world Middleweight champion Harry Greb on July 2 but he failed to win the Middleweight crown at that time, losing a fifteen round decision to the 160 pound division champion. He went back to the Welterweight division, defending his title against Dave Shade, retaining it by decision. He won three bouts, lost one and had three no decisions that year.

On May 20, 1926, he lost the world Welterweight title in a rematch with Pete Latzo. It seemed Walker, now in his mid-20's, had physically matured out the Welterweight division; though many might also point to his extra-curriculars. Whatever the reasons, Walker then began concentrating on winning the world Middleweight championship. On November 22, he finally was able to beat Jock Malone, and on December 3, he conquered the world's Middleweight title with a controversial ten round decision over world champion Tiger Flowers. He kept that title for five years, although he only defended it three times during that span. He beat Mike McTigue and former world champion Paul Berlenbach.

On March 28, 1929, he tried to become a member of the exclusive group of boxers who have been world champions in three different weight divisions, however, he failed in his attempt when he was defeated in a close ten round decision to world Light Heavyweight champion Tommy Loughran. On June 19, 1931, Walker decided to give away his world Middleweight title to take a leap into the Heavyweight division. His debut as a Heavyweight on July 22, against former world Heavyweight champion Jack Sharkey, ended with a fifteen round draw (tie). Many felt the Bulldog from North Jersey had been robbed. In 1932, he went 5-1, beating such fighters as King Levinsky and Paulino Uzcudun before facing former world Heavyweight champion Max Schmeling, who knocked Walker out in round eight.

He went down in weight again, to the Light Heavyweight division, in 1933, when he lost a fifteen round decision to Maxie Rosenbloom for the world title. The next year, Walker rematched Rosenbloom and was awarded a decision win. Unfortunately for Walker, Rosenbloom, though still champion, had taken Walker on in a non-title fight. Undaunted,

Walker kept campaigning in that division until 1935, when he retired after losing to Eric Seelig by a seven round technical decision.

Walker opened a restaurant after retirement and his restaurant became a popular dining place in New York. It is said that he faced alcoholism problems after retiring.

He became, however, an accomplished painting artist, many of his works being exhibited at New York and London art galleries. During his boxing career, he found golf to be a suitable distraction to his training regimen, and he often dragged his manager Doc Kearns, and his kids to golf courses to play golf.

Walker was found by police in 1974 lying on a street in New York and taken to a hospital, where he was admitted with doctors initially thinking he was just a drunken man picked up at the streets. But further testing revealed that Walker was suffering from Parkinson's disease. Walker ignored who he was or where he was at when he was picked up by the police officers.

While he recovered from this incident, Parkinson's eventually took his life, and he died seven years later.

Walker had a record of 93 wins, 14 losses, 4 draws, 46 no decisions and 1 no contest in 163 professional bouts, his 60 knockout wins making him a member of the exclusive group of boxers who have won 50 or more bouts by knockout.

He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990, as an original member of that institution.

The Havre Daily News & Montana
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Walker takes Decision In Furious Ten round Mill With Lomski

BOXERS PUT ON
REAL SLUGGING
Score Sheet Gives Toy
Bulldog Six Rounds;
Lomski Three With One
Even

By EDWARD J. Neil

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 19. (AP) — Mickey "Walker, the embattled toy bulldog, who has ruled two fistic divisions in his ten years of leather slinging, geared himself up another notch tonight and punched his way right into the heart of the light heavyweight domain. Before a crowd of 25,000 in the center of the Sesqui Centennial stadium, the king of the middleweights, hammered out a ten round decision over Leo Lomski, clouting blonde from Aberdeen, Wash., and did the job so thoroughly that three times the ace of the light heavyweight contenders was on the verge of a knockout.

The victory gave walker, welterweight champion before winning the middleweight crown, unofficial leg on the light heavyweight title which Tommy Loughran, is expected to relinquish in order to joust in the future with the heavyweights.

Scaling six pounds above the middleweight limit, the Jerseyman tonight raged all over the ring as the battered and mauled Lomski, the man who twice floored Loughran in a title fight almost two years ago.

In the third, seventh and ninth rounds, Mickey's furious attack, 'studded with left hooks that rang out on Lomski's chin and body, hammered the Pacific coast star to the verge of a knockout. But each time Lomski came back.

From the opening gong with never a let-up, the air was filled with flying leather as the clean cut gladiators, both in splendid condition worked into a fighting fury and stayed there.

Although Walker as well as Lomski was badly stung at times, punishment seemed only to make the pair fight the harder. The speed and fury of the milling kept the crowd, a mere handful compared to the mammoth throng that filled the famous stadium for the Tunney-Dempsey battle here in 1926. in a constant state of uproar.

Aside from Walker's occasional lapses into his usual bobbing and weaving style of milling, the pair cast science aside and slugged the thing out.

The Associated Press score sheet gave Walker a decided margin in six rounds, with three for Lomski and the tenth even. The decision of the judges and referee was unanimous.

ROUND ONE

Lomski poked cautiously at Walker's head with a left and took two solid left hooks in return. The Aberdeen slasher chased Walker into the ropes, hooking his left hand steadily to the middleweight champion's chin, but another rousing left stung him on the chin. Leo was wild as he rushed Walker across the ring. Two solid rights however shook Mickey to the heels just before the gong.

ROUND TWO

Lomski fought aggressively and stung Walker with a straight left to the chin. But he ran into a storm of leather as the infuriated toy bulldog lashed back with both hands to the head. Walker smashed his foe all the way across the ring with a punishing barrage of left and right hooks to the head and body. They battled wildly on the ropes and back to mid ring swapping clouts until the bell rang.

ROUND THREE

Thoroughly warmed up now, they swapped left jabs in the center of the ring, danced and hooked and filled the ring with fast, exciting action. Walker threw two long rights to Lomski's jaw but Leo increased his pace and speared the bulldog's face with left jabs. A hard left drew blood from Lomski's lips just before the gong.

ROUND FOUR

Mickey outsmarted the Pacific coast star shifted his style frequently and stung Leo with the speed of his attack. Mickey's left hook seeped steadily through Lomski's guard and one terrific left smashed to the body almost floored the Aberdeen boy. Badly hurt, Leo held a moment and then ripped back furiously -with both hands. He was forcing the issue at the bell.

ROUND FIVE

Lomski increased his speed by jabbing furiously with his left and tying up the toy" bulldog effectively in the clinches that followed. Buried under the leather storm, Walker hung on and slowed up as Lomski shifting to a wild swinging attack smashed the middleweight champion around the ring. Walker reeled under a straight right smash to the chin, stumbled into the ropes and took a thorough hiding up to the gong.

ROUND SIX

Despite the terrific pace, neither sought to slow the milling and Lomski fought furiously to keep the upper hand. He rushed Mickey across the ring before two busy hands but was stopped short by a left hook to the chin. Lomski lashed a hard right and stinging left hook to Walker's cheek, but Mickey managed to land two short hooks, at the bell.

ROUND SEVEN

Walker took the upper hand again, swinging his left in wide arcs, from crouch to Lomski's chin. One solid smash as they battled on the ropes staggered Leo. They called each other names as they broke clear and the referee scowled. Lomski wilted as Mickey swarmed all over him with left hooks, but rallied and battled Walker grimly in a neutral corner as the bell sounded.

ROUND EIGHT

A left hook to the ear and an overhead knocked Lomski to the ropes and brought him out battling furiously. He stayed close to Walker, pounding for the head while Mickey beat a drum fire on his body. A right smash to the head failed to stop Walker and he ripped both hands to Lomski's head and body on the ropes. They stayed at long range until the bell, Lomski swapping his right to the head for Mickey's sturdy left hooks.

ROUND NINE

Lomski rushed Walker to the ropes and battered heartily with both hands opening a cut over Mickey's left eye. A left and right to the head knocked Lomski into the ropes and his knees buckled under him. He was badly hurt and held on as Walker belted him about the ring. Lomski well in close, staggering as Walker kept up his battering attack. Shaking his head clear, Lomski threw two rights into Walker's head and held on until his head cleared and the bell sounded. He staggered to his corner bleeding from a cut under his right eye.

ROUND TEN

They shook hands for the final round and Lomski apparently fully recovered, drove Walker into a corner with a stream of

rights to the head. Mickey fought back courageously, but took another storm of smashes to the head, as Leo drove him across the ring and into another corner. Walker fought his way clear and looped a hard left to Lomski's chin. The pace never slackened as they smashed at each other's heads without any attempt at scientific mauling. They fell into the ropes, still pushing wildly and fought their way out and across the ring again without a letup. Lomski smashed in a final wallop, a right to the chin.