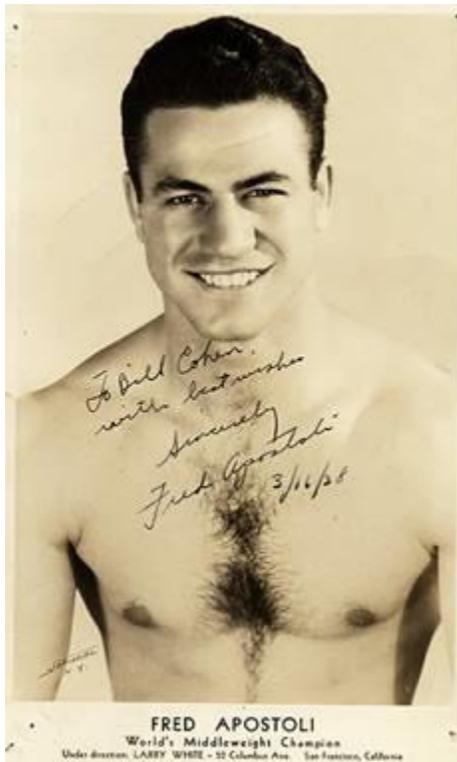


Name: Fred Apostoli
Career Record: [click](#)
Alias: Boxing Bell Hop
Birth Name: Alfredo Apostoli
Nationality: US American
Birthplace: San Francisco, CA
Hometown: San Francisco, California, USA
Born: 1913-02-02
Died: 1973-11-29
Age at Death: 60
Stance: Orthodox
Height: 5' 9½"
Reach: 178
Manager: [Dolph Thomas](#)
Trainer: [Whitey Bimstein](#)



• Won the Pacific Coast Junior Welterweight, Golden Gloves Middleweight, and National AAU Middleweight Championships (1934)

Served as a gunner in the US Navy during World War II

Selected by [The Ring](#) magazine as [Fighter of the Year](#) for 1943

Elected to [The Ring's Hall of Fame](#)

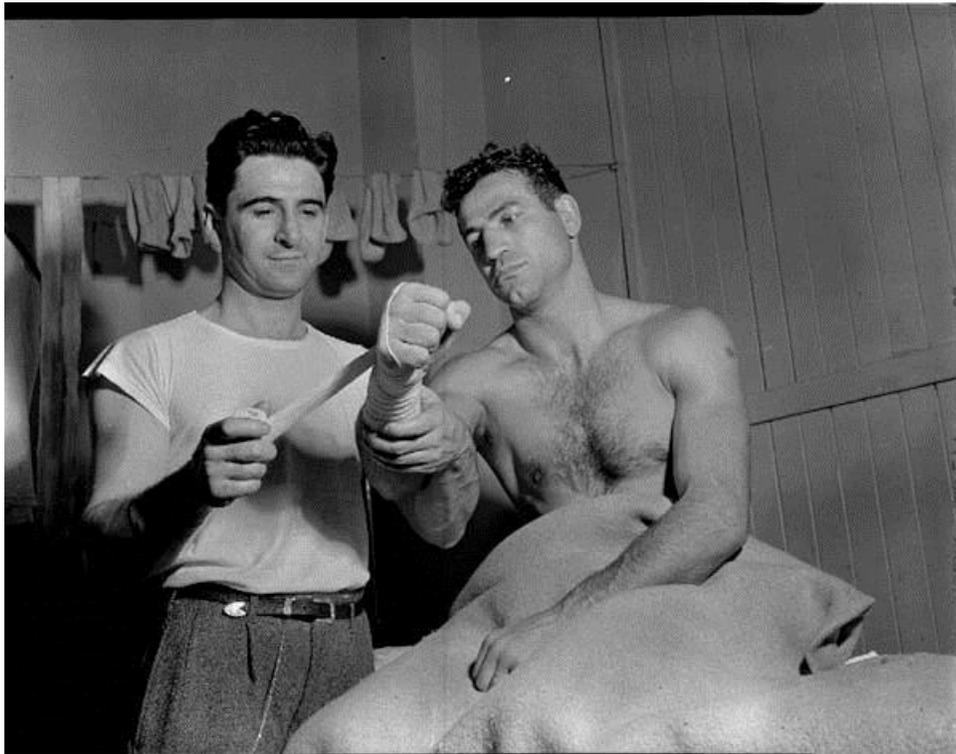
The Boxing Bell Hop" ([February 2, 1913](#) - [November 29, 1973](#) in [San Francisco](#)) was a rugged, accomplished body punching middleweight, who was recognized as the world champion when he defeated [Marcel Thil](#) on [September 23, 1937](#).

An orphan, Apostoli won the Pacific Coast Junior Welterweight championship, Golden Gloves Middleweight championship, and the National AAU middleweight championship in 1934, and turned pro later that year.

He quickly moved up the ladder and fought future middleweight champion [Freddie Steele](#) within his first seven months as a professional. Although, the more experienced Steele stopped him in 10 rounds, Apostoli went on to defeat top fighters such as Swede Berglund, Babe Marino, [Babe Risko](#), [Solly Krieger](#) and [Lou Brouillard](#) to become the leading contender for the world championship.

Eventually, Apostoli was matched with title claimant Marcel Thil; he defeated the Frenchman via a 10th round TKO. The New York Boxing Commission, however, still recognized Freddie Steele as champion. In 1938, Apostoli fought Steele in a non-title rematch and avenged his earlier defeat with a 9th round KO. Apostoli also fought as a light heavyweight. Although he dropped two close decisions to Hall of Famer [Billy Conn](#), Conn always credited Apostoli as a great fighter who hurt him in both matches. On [October 2, 1939](#), Apostoli's title reign ended when he lost the middleweight crown to [Ceferino Garcia](#).

Apostoli served in the United States Navy during [World War II](#) as a gunner. He retired from the ring in 1948 with a 61-10-1 (31KOs) record. He was also a member of the [Olympic Club](#) in [San Francisco](#).



Oakland Tribune 28 January 1937

Small Crowd Sees Freddie's Debut In New York

NEW YORK, Jan. 28.

Fight by fight, it seems harder to figure out the middleweights than any other division in fistic circles. In recent months. Harry Balsamo. Solly Krieger and others have come near the top. only to be upset and shoved out of the running. A few weeks ago. Fred Apostoli came East from his San Francisco home, with a great record behind him.

Promoter Mike Jacobs signed Apostoli for five fights, starting with what was regarded as somewhat of a "breather" with Ken Overlin of Norfolk. Va. Overlin upset the bucket all the way before 2774 paid customers at the Hippodrome last night by punching out a 10-round decision. A lot of the customers and ring didn't agree with the decision.

Overlin's fast start gave him an early advantage which the officials figured Apostoli, outweighed 155 to 159. never overcame. Despite the setback, Apostoli was signed to meet Krieger. the Brooklyn belter, in a 10-rounder at the Hippodrome February 17. - Apostoli was a 2 to 1 favorite but couldn't solve the long, rapier like lefts that the Virginian tossed into his face all during the fight.

The Associated Press score sheet gave a narrow edge to Apostoli in addition to calling four rounds even- It was those even rounds that decided the outcome evidently in the opinion of the judges and Referee Jack Denning.

Overlin took the wind- out of the ex-San Francisco bellhop's sails in the first round. Rushing out and catching the West Coast middleweight unawares, he pumped long, hard lefts to his face and had him groggy.

Apostoli came back with, a fine showing in the second round and fought .on .even .terms in the third, only to lose the fourth on a foul In that fourth round; the Virginian did most .of the damage by closing Apostoli's left eye with two looping lefts that made the Californian wince and miss. Apostoli's timing thereafter was faulty although he was the aggressor throughout.

Fight writers were almost unanimous in their opinion that Apostoli should have been given the decision. Despite his setback, Apostoli was immediately signed to meet Solly ' Krieger, Brooklyn middleweight, in the main 10-round attraction at the Hippodrome; February.

The two judges and referee at first refused to disclose how they voted but later it was learned that the judges voted for Overlin and Referee Jack Denning for a draw

End

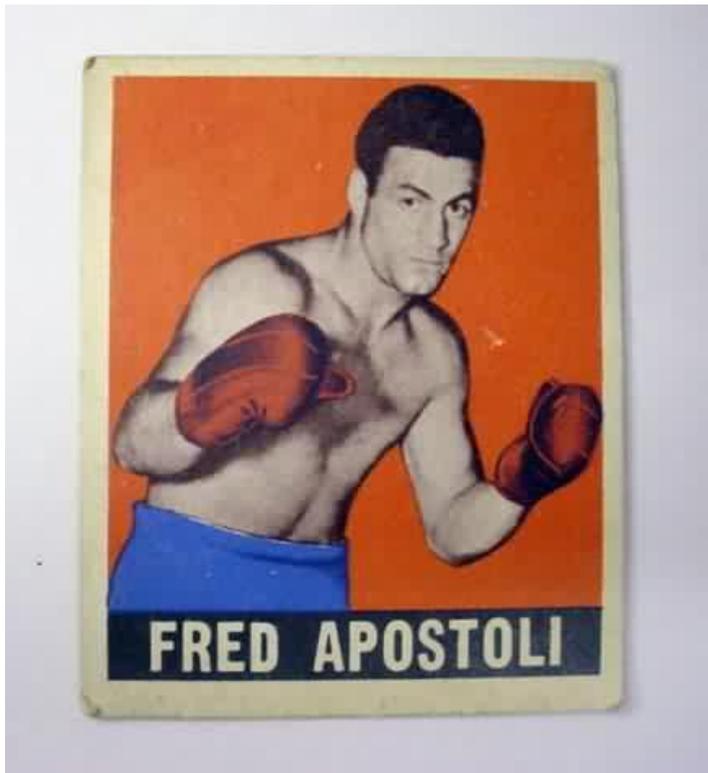
The Lowell Sun

8 January 1938

Apostoli to Claim Title After Battering Steel

Savage Battle in New York Goes down

As One of Gory Sagas of Ring , but Middleweight Title Not at Stake



Blood came in a cascade from Freddie Steel's left eye, the right was just a horrid slit and, in the middle of his face, there was only a ring of red to show where once a nose had been. And always he dragged his leg painfully the result of a low blow.

That was the lurid scene, as presented before 8,000 witnesses at Madison Square Garden last night, when mercifully they stopped the fight after 54 seconds of the ninth round to save the middleweight champion of the world from further punishment. Today, he's still the middle weight champion of the world.

Briefly, and to the point, Fred Apostoli,, San Francisco, (161 ½) scored a technical knockout over Freddie Steele, Seattle, (158 ¾) one of the wildest, most boisterous

evenings ever put on at the Garden in years, but, after all, they were only fooling and that "161 ½ after Apostoli's name was the joker. It meant that, by pre-arrangement, he had come in a pound and half over the middleweight limit and hence couldn't win the middleweight title because, for purposes of the records, he wasn't a middleweight last night.

Apostoli, Fighter

It also meant that, within a few months, Apostoli has knocked out Marcel Thil, of France, and Steele, Co-claimants of the championship, and still remains what he's always been the leading challenger, probably nothing quite like this ever has happened before in the history of boxing and, for sheer savagery, there have been few fights like last night's.

It was a grudge fight, a pay-off for the knockout that Steele scored a few years ago when Apostoli was strictly second rate and so they faced each other with lips curled back in a snarl and belted ceaselessly with both hands. It was the greatest middleweight fight seen around here in a generation, topping the Greb-Walker brawl by many a sanguinary punch

And of course it will have to be repeated outdoors next summer, this time with the title riding along. But a strangely unmarked Apostoli didn't seem to be thinking about that in his dressing room or even about the comparatively small cut he got on the \$23,000 gate.

“I’ve followed him for three years” he said, with a touch of macabre relish. ***“I’ve watched him every chance, I got and read everything written about him. And tonight I got him. Once or twice he almost got me – in the middle rounds.***

His manager, Larry White said he was going to claim the title, but that can mean very little. Steele had nothing to say at all, being in the hand of the physicians.

He was really hurt by that low left hook in the seventh round; so badly hurt, in fact, that tears coursed down, his cheeks and mingled with the blood, in the eighth and his hands might have been 16-pound hammers so great was the effort to keep them aloft. With that punch and its aftereffect the knockout was practically ordained.

But even without it, there seemed no question that Apostoli must win it seemed that way, as a matter of fact while Steele was making a stand-off fight of it for six rounds.

For Apostoli, keeping his right guard high as protection against Steele's left hook, always had an answer for anything that champion did, if it was toe-toe slugging, Apostoli generally outlasted him and punched him into retreat. If Steele elected to box as he did in taking the fourth, Apostoli found the reply thereafter and almost drove the other man out of the ring.

Chester Times, Chester PA

19 November 1938

JACOB STOOGES CROWN CHAMP

Fred Apostoli Wins 8 Round TKO Over Corbett

For N.Y. Title

New York, Nov. 19

Boxing being what it is, Fred Apostoli of San Francisco is middleweight champion of the world in New York today but Solly Krieger of New York is middleweight champion of the world in San Francisco. Verily, a middleweight is out of luck in his home town.

With only a few scattered precincts missing, it appeared that those two were the only middleweight champions of the world going about the business of championing at present. However, the New York State Boxing Commission is threatening to hold a meeting soon and what will happen then .

Apostoli became middleweight champion of the world (the world by a strange prank of fate shrinking to the exact boundaries of New York state) when he hammered out a technical knockout last night over Young Corbett III in the eighth round. No blow was struck to bring about this coronation of Apostoli, Corbett just sank to his knees with his eyes as vacant as half the seats in Madison Square Garden.

Referee Eddie Josephs saw right away that Corbett had lost all interest in being middleweight champion of the world in New York. So he stopped the fight as the clock stood at two minutes and one second of the round, and Apostoli was king of all he surveyed provided he didn't survey beyond New York's boundaries.

Last Nov. Krieger became middleweight champion of the world outside New York when he beat Al Hostak, of Seattle, to a red spongy pulp on the west coast. The New York commission, however, refused to recognize his claim and last night's bout in the Garden was for the middleweight championship of the New York State Athletic Commission.

The trick now is to get Champion Apostoli to meet Champion Krieger for the championship of both their worlds. Hymie Chaplin, who manages Champion Krieger, insists his man has a right to go around championing without fighting for six months, so it may be a slow haul.

strange fight. Corbett and Apostoli fought in San Francisco last February and Corbett won. And. He started this time as though he intended to do it again. Pumping lefts to Apostoli's body and head, he won the first two rounds on the United Press score sheet, the second one because of a foul by his opponent. After that it was all Apostoli.

Corbett is 33 and not many of them keep their eyes sharp and their legs strong at that age. Last night Corbett was facing a man almost 10 years younger than himself— a hard punching youngster who was throwing punches so fast that many of them slipped into foul territory. So after the third round it was only a question of how long the tiring old man could last. In the seventh round Apostoli whistled a right to Corbett's chin and the count started. Crawling up on one knee Corbett took nine and leaped up fighting. Then Apostoli's right crashed again and Corbett was down again.

In the eighth Apostoli bent Corbett double with a left to the stomach and caught him coming up with a right to the jaw. Over in a neutral corner, Corbett took a count of nine and got up. Again there was a flurry of Apostoli's fists and Corbett backed into a corner.

He stood there for a moment with Apostoli far out of striking distance. Then he dropped to one knee without being struck and the referee led him away. Only 7,500 persons saw it and the receipts of \$21,000 were far below what Promoter Mike Jacobs had hopes to get for this division of the world into two worlds.

The Salt Lake Tribune

7 January 1939

Conn Defeats Apostoli In Heated Scrap

Coast Boxer loses by Close Margin

NEW YORK, Jan. 6

Billy Conn, the long left-hander from Pittsburgh to whom middleweight champions come a dime-a-dozen, made it two straight over 160-pound kings Friday night by nipping Fred Apostoli in as wild-and-wooly a 10- round punch party as Madison Square Garden fistic arena has seen in years. Conn scaled 167 $\frac{3}{4}$, Apostoli 160 $\frac{1}{2}$.

The Pittsburgh youngster, a professional fist-thrower for only three years, fired left hands by the hundred at the ex-San Francisco bellhop to come through by the narrowest of margins, as a crowd of 10,918, Who contributed to a- gate of \$25,458.55, cheered the verdict.

By the victory, Conn made it a clean sweep of the accepted kings in the middleweight division. Apostoli is recognized as crown holder in this state and California, while Solly Krieger, Brooklyn belter and another recent Conn victim, is accepted in all other states.

Referee Billy Kavanaugh and both judges voted unanimously for the 21-year-old

Pennsylvanian, who has grown from lightweight to light heavyweight size in the short space of three boxing seasons. The Associated Press score card showed Conn holding a slim edge of five rounds to four, with one even, although Apostoli was the more aggressive throughout and threw the more effective punches.

Crowd Roars

From start to finish the blistering action had the crowd roaring as the two clouters tore at each other. Apostoli spotted his rival precious inches in height and reach, and this in the last analysis may have cost him the fight. In the second and third heats especially he had difficulty getting inside Billy's long looping left and throughout the battle this blow piled up valuable points for the Pennsylvanian.

Perhaps the round that cost Apostoli the fight was the ninth, which Referee Kavanaugh took from him because of two low blows. Up to that point, Fred held a one-round margin on the score card. This long left of Conn's was virtually his entire offense. He fired it from all angles and made it land anywhere. Except for defensive purposes, his right might well be tied behind him.

Starts Off Well

But with a left like he showed against fighting Fred, he needed little else, Apostoli started off well taking the first round by several right chops to the head, but the second and third were Billy's as he left-handed Apostoli dizzy. The coast clouter did his best to solve Conn's style, but he was unable to get inside.

Apostoli switched his attack from head to body in the fourth and fifth and gained ground. He stepped into one of Conn's looping lefts in the fourth, however, and an old wound over his right eye was reopened. He gained revenge for this, however, by raising a "mouse" on Conn's right eye. The fifth heat climaxed the battle, with both throwing punches for the entire three minutes without let-up. In close, Apostoli had the better of the going, but Billy realized that and did his best to stand back and belt his rival from the port side.

End

The Waterloo Daily Courier, Waterloo Iowa

9 February 1939

RECORDS SUPPORT THEORY FRED TO

MAKE IT TOUGHER

But Billy Asserts He Can

Stand Pace Over Longer Route.

New York

Billy Conn, gangling young Irishman, from Pittsburgh, licked Freddie Apostoli of San Francisco when they met last month so, believe it or not, the boys have made Freddie a 7-5 favorite for the return match on Friday.

It sounds silly but — Apostoli is one of those gents to whom fighting a second time does not come under the heading of a way to spend a peaceful evening. The former west coast bellboy indicated as much Wednesday as he finished training For the 15-round bout.

"Look at the record," he said, "and you'll see how much success I've had the second time out. Conn fooled me the last time with that left of his but he didn't hurt me. I think it's going to be a different story Friday because the fight is 15 rounds while the other one was 10 and I was just getting warmed up when it ended."

Rough in 'Repeaters'.

The records lend some support to Apostoli's statement. Back in 1935, when Apostoli was just an up and coming youngster out in California, he fought Freddie Steele and was knocked out in the tenth round. Early last year Apostoli helped himself to a double order of revenge and belted Steele out in 10 rounds.

Then there was the case of Solly Krieger in 1937. Fred beat Solly but it was as close as six is to seven. They were re-matched and Apostoli won by a knockout in five rounds. Next came Glen Lee. Apostoli beat him too, the first time, but that was another close one and in a return match Freddie cut Glen to ribbons in winning the decision. Finally comes Young Corbett III. In February of last year, Corbett outpointed Apostoli in San Francisco and that was one of the year's greatest upsets. But late last year they counted Corbett out in the eighth round. So maybe the men who make the odds aren't so silly after all in making Apostoli the favorite.

Conn, a 21-year-old lad who fights like Gene Tunney, thinks they are. He ended training Wednesday by working 15 rounds in the ring and on the bags and claims he could go 20 rounds if necessary.

"They claim I was tired at the end of the first fight," he said. "Well, I had done 10 hard rounds with a good man and I rated myself accordingly. This fight is for 15 rounds. I'm training for that distance and I'll be in shape to go it at top speed." Conn claimed that if anybody gets tired it will be Apostoli. "He's only had one 15-rounder in was his second fight against Lee. And his next longest was a 12- rounder.

Last Bout as Middleweight.

"I beat Teddy Yarosz in 15 and have gone 12 rounds four times. I've worked 15 rounds in training almost every day for the last week so don't worry about me going the distance."

This probably will be Conn's last fight as a middleweight. He will weigh 168, give or take a pound, so the New York share of the title which Apostoli holds will not be at stake. Fred will scale around Conn's next start probably will be as a light-heavyweight against Melio Bettina of Beacon, N. Y., who won New York recognition as 175- pound champion by kayoing Tiger Jack Fox last week.

End