

Benny Bass aka Little Fish
He was born in Kiev, Russia 15 Dec 1904 .
Died 25 June 1975
Won 175 (65 ko)
Lost 40
Draw 10
Total 229
Height 5ft 3.5inches

1923-1940

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A very active boxer who carried plenty of power in his punches . In 1927 he won the vacant world featherweight title by outpointing Red Chapman (aka Morris Kaplan) over 10 rds in Philadelphia. In his first defence some 5 months later he lost it to Tony Canzoneri in New York in a 15 rd points verdict. At the end of 1929 he took the world junior lightweight title from Tod Morgan in just 2 rounds.

He kept hold of the title for some 19 months until he was knocked out by Kid Chocolate in the 7th . He never again fought for the championship but did continue for some further 8 yrs before he retired in 1940 aged 36.

1927

The Red Chapman fight – held at the Sesqui-Centennial Stadium – almost ended in a simultaneous knockout in the 9th round when both men fell to the floor from the impact of a head on rush at the start .Bass recovered more quickly but Chapman stayed down for 8 and was already a bloody figure with a gash over his left eye following a bump By Bass's head in the 7th. Chapman went down again for the count of 8 and although in a bad way lasted the round. In the 10th both men were exhausted and did little more than stab and clinch. Bass got the unanimous decision of the judges and gained the \$1000 belt.

1928

It was said that Canzoneri ran up such a points lead in the first 10 rounds that it was hardly necessary to fight the other 5 and "He folded up like a tobacco pouch for 6 rounds after Canzoneri dropped hi for the count of 8 in the 3rd." With the exception of the 12th it was Bass from the 10th round on Bass landed seven hard rights to take the 11th and after blowing the 12th he was all over Canzoneri for the final 3 rounds.

" You knock this Tony down as readily as you tip over the average freight car"

1929 – this a copy of the report from the Appleton – Post-Crescent dated 20 Dec 1929

PICK MORGAN TO BEAT BENNY BASS

“ The betting fraternity is willing to give odds that the junior lightweight championship will transfer its headquarters from Seattle to Philadelphia tonight when Tod Morgan defends his somewhat synthetic title against Benny Bass in Madison Square garden.

Overnight odds made the deadly punching Bass 8 to 5 favourite but these were expected to narrow to 6 to 5 at ring time.

Morgan will have an advantage in weight, height and reach, but the stockily built Hebrew is much the harder puncher. Bass last encounter was against Tony Canzoneri for the featherweight championship. On that occasion Bass suffered a broken bone in the shoulder early in the fight but fought so savagely that he barely dropped the decision to the New York Italian. Morgan is a frail looking fighter who can box with any of them but whether he can stand up under Bass punishing blows the experts are inclined to doubt.”

After the fight , which Bass won, the New York State Athletic withheld the purses of both men pending investigation. They had warned the ref Jim Crowley to be on the lookout for “anything suspicious” and who did not hesitate in declaring Bass the winner on a ko in the 2nd.

The match had some amazing reversals of form. In the 1st round Morgan several times staggered Bass with right hand punches to the chin, only to go down himself under sweeping right hand punch to the head at the start of the 2nd. He rose at the count of 9, protected himself for a few seconds and was then floored again for the ko.

1931

Kid Chocolate then 24 yrs (born Eligio Sardinias , Cuba) came close to winning the crown by a clean knockout in the second round when he got in a hard right to the jaw which staggered Bass. Bass put on a great comeback in the early stages of the 3rd and 4th but was much to wild in his swings. I the 5th his left eye started to bleed which was to give him more problems in the 6th . from the 5th Kid Chocolate he had Benny Bass on the run and rammed his left jab into Bass's face with ease. Kid Chocolate failed to score an actual ko but he had the champion virtually out on his feet when Referee Leo Hacuk stopped the fight after 2.38 minutes of the 7th round as it appeared certain he would drive bass to the floor with another punch.

His was the first time that Bass was ever stopped, he entered the ring at 128.5 pounds with the new Champion some 3 pounds lighter.

Benny "Little Fish" Bass died of heart complications on June 25, 1974.

Benny Bass was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame 2002

Cyber Boxing Bio -- Benny "Little Fish" Bass

Career Record (excluding "no decisions") -- W-151; L-28; D-5

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By the time Benny and Chapman squared off for the vacant N.B.A. featherweight title on September 19th in Philadelphia, Bass had evolved into a great fighter who had already cleaned out the featherweight division, as proven by solid victories over top contenders like: Mickey Doyle (KO-5), Eddie Anderson (D-10, W-10, W-12), Joey Glick (W-10, NC-3, W-10), & Babe Herman (W-10, D-12).

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By the mid-point of the 10th round both fighters were bloodied, grisly zombies, fighting on empty, with nothing but sheer will too maintain them. Ribalow describes the scene at the end of the fight: " Bass was in bad shape. His eye was badly bruised & his own blood was mixed with Chapman's blood. . . Chapman was completely covered with dried blood, which glistened where his perspiration met with blood. His teeth were out in a perpetual snarl & he moved with the deliberation of a sleepwalker. He threw punches he was unconscious of throwing & Bass ducked them with a casualness born of fatigue. Yet Bass seemed a bit more alert than Chapman & when the bell rang he seemed more human, more alive." Upon winning the well deserved decision Benny Bass became the featherweight champion of the world.

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<http://www.jewsinsports.org/profile.asp?sport=boxing&ID=6>

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Following the loss of his title Benny took four months off to recuperate. His return to the ring against a fighter he had previously beaten named Peter Nebo was unsuccessful (L-10). In his next bout on September 10th, he met Harry Blitman, a hot, undefeated and rapidly rising contender. The fight, billed as being for the combined featherweight titles of Pennsylvania & the Jewish championship of Philadelphia was a real grudge match. Blitman, a rugged southpaw, discarded all pretenses of boxing skill & went after the "Little Fish" as if he was the starving lion of Judah & attempted to go toe to toe. This proved a terminal mistake for young Harry. Benny slowed him to a crawl in the very first round with damaging left hooks to the liver, by the 6th round Blitman was totally on queer street when Benny landed two thudding overhand rights to the head & flattened Blitman. Harry was unconscious for a long time after his handlers dragged him back to his corner. Harry Blitman fought on for three more years, but was never the same again after the beating he absorbed from Benny.

On December 19th 1929 Benny challenged flashy boxer-puncher Todd Morgan for the jr. lightweight title. Morgan was an excellent fighter who had held the crown for four years defending it successfully 7 times.

For the majority of the first round Morgan held the tiny "Little Fish" at bay stabbing him with lightning lefts. Right before the end of the round Morgan caught Benny with a thundering right cross that sent him reeling into the ropes. Seconds before the bell, Morgan slammed home another right that badly hurt Benny who was barely able to stagger back to his corner. Once again displaying his remarkable recuperative powers, Benny roared out of his corner at the bell for round 2. He bulled Morgan around the ring & then dropped him with a heavy right cross flush on the jaw. Morgan struggled to his feet at the count of nine only to be met by an even more thunderous right hand. At the count of ten, Benny "Little Fish" Bass was the new world jr. lightweight champion.

Benny didn't defend his crown in 1930, but he still fought regularly. His highlight of the year was a ten round decision over future jr. welterweight champion [Johnny Jadick](#) & the lowlight was a 10-round decision loss in a non-title rematch with [Tony Canzoneri](#).

The first KO loss of Benny's career came in his first defense of his title against Kid Chocolate on July 15th 1931 (his only other KO loss was 6 years later, when he was well past his prime, against Henry Armstrong (KO by 4). Benny was more than holding his own against Chocolate when a very deep gash was opened over Benny's left eye and the contest was stopped in the 7th.

Benny never got a chance to regain his title and although he continued to fight for another ten years, his career as a first echelon prizefighter was pretty much over. He retired after two consecutive 10 round losses in 1940. After all the years of blood and effort Benny was dead broke. As Benny put it: "Everybody who needed money got it from me".

Benny was no dummy, however, and even though he lacked much formal scholastic training he had a sharp mind, as evinced by his fluency in five languages. Applying himself with the same resolve he had displayed in the ring, Benny passed a Civil Service exam and worked a desk job for the Philadelphia traffic courts for many years.

Benny "Little Fish" Bass died of heart complications on June 25, 1974. Among the world champions he face during his boxing career were: [Tony Canzoneri](#) (L-15, L-10), Todd Morgan (KO-2), [Johnny Jadick](#) (W-10, W-10), [Bud Taylor](#) (KO-2), Kid Chocolate (TKO BY 7), Petey Sarron (LF-6, L-10) Red Cochrane (W-10) & Henry Armstrong (KO by 4).

He is enshrined in the Pennsylvania Boxing Hall Of Fame.

<http://www.jewsinsports.org/profile.asp?sport=boxing&ID=6>

http://www.boxrec.com/media/index.php/Benny_Bass