

Black Dynamite

Eddie Booker

Weight: Welterweight to Light heavyweight

Manager: John Burdick

Est. Pro record: 68-5-9

Eddie Booker is another of the often-ignored black fighters that campaigned in the United States during the 1930s. A defensive stylist with decent power in both hands -- particularly the left hook-- Booker beat some of the better fighters of his era.

An accomplished, title-winning amateur around his adopted home town of San Jose, Eddie Booker was popular with fans. He turned professional under the management of local boxing guru John Burdick. Although his pilot was often criticized for being selective when considering opponents for his charge, Eddie did his part by defeating most of the men that were put in front of him.

With a well-developed and muscular physique, Eddie Booker had the strength and ability to 'mix-it-up' when the chips were down and was happy to either fight or box -- he genuinely loved to be in the ring. Compared by some to heavyweight great Jack Johnson in regards to his ability to catch a punch and deliver a blow in the same motion with the same hand, Eddie was a methodical, conservative workman who used his mind along with his fists.

He was unbeaten in his first 44 bouts, then lost back-to-back decisions to Fritzie Zivic and Cocoa Kid. He rebounded with a string of knockout victories before taking time out during 1940 due to badly damaged hands.

Victories against some of the better west coast battlers, such as the Hogue twins, Bobby Birch, and Lloyd Marshall earned him a world-ranking and a crack at the California State middleweight title, which he lost over 15 close fought rounds to the brilliant Jack Chase. A match with the legendary Charley Burley never materialised with Eddie confessing to a sparring partner that the Burley was "Just about the best there is out there."

In his last year as a professional fighter -- despite rapidly deteriorating eyesight -- Booker scored knockouts over Paul Hartnek (a heavyweight) and Archie Moore. A points victory over classy Holman Williams wrapped up a nine-year, 83-fight career for the unheralded and long forgotten Booker.

Considered a perfect gentleman in and out of the ring, it has been said that Eddie Booker was not only the tragic victim of racism in boxing, but also of the seedier, slimy underbelly of the professional fight game. An incident in the ring involving a doctored pair of gloves led to terrible eye injuries that just would not heal. Eddie lived his remaining years blind.

Pro Record

Early record is incomplete.

Fights from 1935 & 1936 are results from press clippings

1935

Hank Lewis
KO
Johnny Mateo
KO 2
Joe Pablo
KO
Johnny Natalie
W
Johnny Bassinelli
W
Johnny Natalie
KO
Johnny Bassinelli
W
Tommy O'Dell
W
Mickey Barker
KO 4
Johnny Foster
TK 1
Billy Azevedo
TK 4

1936

Horatio Velha
W 10
Jimmy Wakefield
D 10
Jimmy Wakefield
W 10
Gail Harrington
W 10

After an enforced layoff of several months, Booker returned to the ring in 1937. His record up to that point was 27-0-3

1937

Jan 26 Remo Fernandez San Diego, Ca
W 10
Jul 14 Johnny Bassinelli San Francisco, Ca
KO 9
Aug 27 Gaston LaCadre San Francisco, Ca
KO 9
Oct 8 Jackie Burke San Francisco, Ca
D 10

1938

Mar 3	Andy Callahan	San Francisco, Ca
W 10		
Jun 9	Al Manfredo	Fresno, Ca
W 10		
Jun 24	George Salvatore	San Francisco, Ca
KO 7		
Jul 17	Carlos Miranda	San Diego, Ca
KO 3		
Nov 19	Dem Wakerlis	New York, NY
W 6		
Dec 9	Lou Raymond	New York, NY
W 6		
Dec 20	Oscar Suggs	New Haven, Ct
KO 3		

1939

Jan 2	Unknown Morgan	New Haven, Ct
KO 1		
Jan 9	Oscar Suggs	New Haven, Ct
KO 3		
Jan 25	Holman Williams	New York, NY
D 6		
Feb 10	Fritzie Zivic	New York, NY
L 8		
Mar 9	Cocoa Kid	New Haven, Ct
L 10		
Oct 3	Carlos Garcia	San Jose, Ca
KO 3		
Nov 13	Henry Majcher	San Francisco, Ca
KO 7		
Nov 28	Ray Vargas	San Francisco, Ca
KO 2		
Dec 19	Bobby Pacho	San Francisco, Ca
W 10		

1940

Apr 9	Bobby Pacho	San Jose, Ca
W 10		

1941

Feb 4	Chester Parks	San Jose, Ca
KO 1		
Feb 12	Milo Theodorescu	Oakland, Ca
W 10		
Feb 26	Archie Moore	San Diego, Ca
D 10		
Mar 14	Willis "Shorty" Hogue	San Diego, Ca
D 10		
Apr 4	Freddie Dixon	San Diego, Ca
W 10		

Apr 25	Leon Zorrita	San Diego, Ca
W 10		
May 2	Willis "Shorty" Hogue	San Diego, Ca
W 10		
Jun 16	Johnny Diaz	San Francisco, Ca
KO 8		
Jul 8	Jimmy McDaniels	Los Angeles, Ca
W 10		
Jul 18	Charley Harris	San Diego, Ca
KO 6		
Jul 26	Charley Simpson	San Jose, Ca
W 10		
Aug 11	Henry Chmielewski	San Francisco, Ca
KO 6		
Aug 19	Jimmy McDaniels	Los Angeles, Ca
W 10		
Aug 22	Willis "Shorty" Hogue	San Diego, Ca
L 10		
Dec 1	Billy Connerty	Billings, Mt
KO 3		

1942

May 1	Johnny "Bandit" Romero	San Diego, Ca
D 10		
Jul 14	Castillo Cruz	Oakland, Ca
W 10		
Aug 14	Willis "Shorty" Hogue	San Diego, Ca
KO 8		
Aug 24	Isidoro "Izzy" Jannazzo	San Francisco, Ca
W 10		
Sep 4	Bobby Birch	San Diego, Ca
W 12		
Sep 17	Willard "Big Boy" Hogue	San Diego, Ca
KO 3		
Sep 28	Lloyd Marshall	San Francisco, Ca
W 10		
Nov	Jimmy McDaniels	Hollywood, Ca
W 10		
Dec 11	Archie Moore	San Diego, Ca
D 10		

1943

Jan 11	Jack Chase	San Francisco, Ca
L 15		
	-Middleweight Championship of California	
	This was the first 15-round bout in California	
	in 28 years	
Aug 9	Harry "Kid" Matthews	San Francisco, Ca
KO 5		

Oct 18 Van McNutt
KO 5

San Francisco, Ca

Nov 19 [Holman Williams](#)
L 12

San Francisco, Ca

1944

Jan 5 Paul Hartnek
KO 6

Oakland, Ca

Jan 21 [Archie Moore](#)
KO 8

Hollywood, Ca

Feb 20 Frankie Nelson
W 10

Oakland, Ca

Mar 6 [Holman Williams](#)
W 10

San Francisco, Ca