



## **Bob Armstrong ("King of the Battle Royal")**

**BORN** September 4  
1873;  
Rogersville,  
Tennessee;  
Family moved  
to  
Washington,  
Ohio when he  
was three

**DIED** January 5  
1933;  
Chicago,  
Illinois

**HEIGHT** 6-3

**WEIGHT** 185-217 lbs

**MANAGER** Charles E.  
"Parson"  
Davies

**Armstrong was a very good fighter who was used as a sparring partner during 1895-1910 by Jim Jeffries, Bob Fitzsimmons, Tom Sharkey, and Joe Choynski**

**He was a natural left-hander who moved quickly, had an excellent straight, sharp left jab and a hard right hand punch; He was a good counter-puncher who was light on his feet and "cool-under-fire"; His greatest weakness was taking punches to the body**

### **Undated**

**-Armstrong worked with racing horses before he started boxing; He worked for a man named Al Orth who owned a**

large stable of horses in Minneapolis, Mn

## 1893

Bill Crockett Des Moines, Ia  
KO 1  
Sep 11 Joe Sheehy Des Moines, Ia  
KO 2

-Sheehy promoted this bout and made off with all the money after the contest; Some sources report "TK 7"

Joe Tansey in Iowa  
TK 3

## 1894

Con Tobin in Iowa  
TK 3  
[Joe Choynski](#) Chicago, Il  
D 6  
George Fownes Chicago, Il  
KO 3  
Spuds Gallagher Chicago, Il  
W 6  
Joe Kelly Chicago, Il  
W 6  
Jack Miller Chicago, Il  
TK 3

## 1893-1895

-Armstrong won many Battle Royals in Chicago, Il

## 1895

May [Tommy Ryan](#) Dead Lake, NJ (near Asbury Park) EX  
Jun 8 [Joe Choynski](#) New York, NY  
EX  
Jun 27 [Joe Choynski](#) New York, NY  
EX 6  
Jul 15 Walter Johnson Boston, Ma  
D 10  
Nov 5 [Frank "Paddy" Slavin](#) Hoboken, NJ  
KO 10

## 1896

-Armstrong won several fights against minor opponents

Aug 2 William Mayo Dubuque, Ia  
KO 2

-Some sources report "KO 4"

Aug 31 Tom Forrest New York, NY  
TK 2  
Aug 31 [Fred Morris](#) New York, NY  
EX 4  
- The previous 2 bouts were held the same date  
Nov 23 [Frank "Paddy" Slavin](#) Philadelphia, Pa  
TK 4  
- Some sources report "TK 6" on 11/25/96  
Dec 14 "Hoboken" Tommy Kelly New York, NY  
EX 3  
Dec 21 Charley Strong New York, NY  
KO 19  
- Some sources report 3/25/97 at "Philadelphia, Pa"

## 1897

Mar 6 [Joe Butler](#) Brooklyn, NY  
KO 6  
- Some sources report "New York, NY";  
Some sources report "Philadelphia, Pa"  
Mar 7 [Frank Childs](#) Philadelphia, Pa  
L 6  
- Some sources report "W 6"  
Apr 23 Sam Pruitt San Francisco, Ca  
KO 1  
May 4 [Jimmy Barry](#) Omaha, Ne  
EX  
May [Tom Sharkey](#) Southfield, NY  
EX  
May [Tom Sharkey](#) Southfield, NY  
EX 4  
May 29 [Frank Childs](#) Chicago, Il  
EX  
May 29 Jimmy Barry Chicago, Il  
EX  
- The previous 2 bouts were held the same date;  
Some sources report 5/30/97  
Jun Joe Sheehy Green Bay, Wi  
L 4  
Aug 6 [Joe Choynski](#) Chicago, Il  
EX  
Sep 13 Jack Douglas Chicago, Il  
TK 2  
- Some sources report "Philadelphia, Pa"  
Sep 25 Jack McCormick Pittsburgh, Pa  
W 6  
Nov 18 John Holtman St. Louis, Mo  
EX 3  
- Some sources report "D 3"

## 1898

Jan 29 [Frank Childs](#) Chicago, Il  
LT 2  
Feb 21 [Yank Kenny](#) Chicago, Il  
KO 5  
-Some sources report 2/22/98  
Feb 28 [Frank Childs](#) Chicago, Il  
LK 10  
Mar 25 Charley Strong Philadelphia, Pa  
ND 6  
Apr 8 Charley Pruett Philadelphia, Pa  
KO 1  
-Some sources report this bout held 4/08/99  
Apr 25 Ed Dunkhorst Syracuse, NY  
W 10  
-Some sources report "D 10"  
May 27 [Joe Butler](#) Philadelphia, Pa  
KO 3  
Jun 10 [Tom "Stockings" Conroy](#) Philadelphia, Pa  
ND 6  
-Some sources report "W 6"  
Aug 5 [Jim Jeffries](#) New York, NY  
L 10  
Aug 29 [Joe Goddard](#) Philadelphia, Pa  
ND 6  
-Some sources report "ND 10"  
Nov 7 [Joe Goddard](#) Brooklyn, NY  
SCH  
-This bout was scheduled but cancelled  
Dec 4 Ed Dunkhorst Syracuse, NY  
D 10  
-Some sources report "W 10"  
Dec 9 "Mexican" Pete Everett Denver, Co  
TK 14

## 1899

Mar 4 [Frank Childs](#) Cincinnati, Oh  
LT 6  
Apr 17 [Tom Sharkey](#) Pittsburgh, Pa  
EX 3  
Apr 18 [Tom Sharkey](#) Pittsburgh, Pa  
SCH  
Apr 20 [Tom Sharkey](#) Pittsburgh, Pa  
SCH  
Apr 21 [Tom Sharkey](#) Pittsburgh, Pa  
SCH

Apr 22 [Tom Sharkey](#) Pittsburgh, Pa  
SCH

-This previous 4 bouts were scheduled; The outcomes are not known

Apr 26 [Tom Sharkey](#) Rochester, NY  
EX 4

Jun 6 ["Denver" Ed Martin](#) New York, NY  
KO 2

-Some sources report 4/05/99

Jul 21 [Tom "Stockings" Conroy](#) Brooklyn, NY  
W 20

-Some sources report "New York, NY"

Oct [Tom Sharkey](#) New Dorph, NY  
EX 8

Oct 19 [Tom Sharkey](#) New Dorph, NY  
EX

Oct 23 [Tom Sharkey](#) New Dorph, NY  
EX 8

Oct 24 [Tom Sharkey](#) New Dorph, NY  
EX 6

Oct 25 [Tom Sharkey](#) New Dorph, NY  
EX 6

Oct 27 [Tom Sharkey](#) New Dorph, NY  
SCH

-This bout was scheduled; The outcome is not known; The Mutascope Company was to film the bout

Oct 31 [Tom Sharkey](#) New Dorph, NY  
EX 6

Nov 14 Ed Dunkhorst Syracuse, NY  
L 10

-Some sources report 11/20/98;

Some sources report "W 10"

Nov 27 [Jim Jeffords](#) Brooklyn, NY  
TK 3

## 1900

Feb 19 [Steve Flanagan](#) Philadelphia, Pa  
EX 1

-Flanagan was a bantamweight

Mar 23 ["Denver" Ed Martin](#) Philadelphia, Pa  
ND 6

Aug 7 [Bob Fitzsimmons](#) Bergen Beach, NY  
EX 6

Aug 22 [Bob Fitzsimmons](#) Bergen Beach, NY  
EX 3

## 1901

Jan 7 [Jim Jeffries](#) Allenhurst, NJ  
 EX  
 Jan -Armstrong sparred frequently with [Jim Jeffries](#)  
 Jan 26 [Jim Jeffries](#) Cincinnati, Oh  
 EX 4  
 Oct 31 [Jim Jeffries](#) Harbin Springs, Ca  
 EX 4  
 Nov 2 [Jim Jeffries](#) Harbin Springs,  
 Ca EX  
 Nov 4 [Jim Jeffries](#) Harbin Springs,  
 Ca EX 4  
 Nov 5 [Jim Jeffries](#) Harbin Springs,  
 Ca EX 3  
 Nov 11 [Jim Jeffries](#) Oakland,  
 Ca EX 1  
 Nov 11 [Jim Jeffries](#) Oakland,  
 Ca EX 1  
 Nov 11 [Jim Jeffries](#) Oakland,  
 Ca EX 1  
 Nov 11 [Jim Jeffries](#) Oakland,  
 Ca EX 1  
 -The previous 4 bouts were held the same date  
 Nov 12 [Jim Jeffries](#) Oakland,  
 Ca EX

## 1902

Jul 25 ["Denver" Ed Martin](#) London, Eng  
 L 15  
 Dec 10 ["Denver" Ed Martin](#) Philadelphia, Pa  
 ND 6

-Some sources report 12/11/02

## 1903

Feb 9 [George Gardner](#) Philadelphia, Pa  
 NC 4  
 Jun 10 ["Denver" Ed Martin](#) Boston, Ma  
 KO 3  
 Aug 24 [John "Sandy" Ferguson](#) Boston, Ma  
 LK 1

-Some sources report 8/20/03

Sep 23 [Steve O'Donnell](#) Saunderstown, RI  
 SCH

-This bout was scheduled but not held;

[O'Donnell](#) was ill

Sep 23 [Black Fitzsimmons](#) Saunderstown, RI  
 KO 1

-[Fitzsimmons](#) substituted for [O'Donnell](#)

Dec 7 [Jack Munroe](#) Boston, Ma  
EX 3

## 1904

Apr 18 Walter Johnson Haverhill, Ma  
KO 2  
Dec 26 Walter Johnson Haverhill, Ma  
LK 4

## 1910

[Sam Langford](#) Los Angeles, Ca  
EX 3  
Apr 14 [Jim Jeffries](#) Ben Lomond, Ca  
EX  
Apr 15 [Jim Jeffries](#) Ben Lomond,  
Ca EX  
May 16 [Jim Jeffries](#) Ben Lomond,  
Ca EX  
Jun [Jim Jeffries](#)  
EX

## 1912

Jan 29 [Tom Cowler](#) London, Eng  
EX 3

## 1913

Apr 4 [Joe Jeannette](#) New York, NY  
EX 3

## 1914

Jan 26 [Sam Langford](#) London, Eng  
EX 3

## 1910-1932

-Armstrong worked frequently as a sparring partner  
or trainer for different fighters

## 1932

Jan 29 -Armstrong worked the corner for King Levinsky  
(vs. [Max Baer](#)) in New York, NY

**\*\*\* The Following Bouts Are Reported But Not Confirmed**

**\*\*\***

## 1893-1895

[C.A.C. Smith](#)

W

## 1898

TK 6 Jack McCormick Philadelphia, Pa

[Joe Butler](#)

Philadelphia, Pa

W 6

[Joe Butler](#)

Philadelphia, Pa

LK 2

Jul 4 "Mexican" Pete Everett

LK 5

## 1899

[Joe Goddard](#)

W 10

**\*\*\* *Some Data Was Provided By [Kevin Smith](#) \*\*\****

**\*\*\* *[Click Here To See Book Review For THE SUNDOWNERS](#) \*\*\****

**\*\*\* *Photo (Below) From [Nigel Harding](#), Great Grandson of Harry Duncan \*\*\****

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Review courtesy of [Tracy Callis](#), Historian, International Boxing Research Organization

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"Mirror of Life and B.W." Photo.)

#### THEY'RE ALL AT HAPPY HAMPSTEAD.

The above group was taken by our man at the "Bull and Bush," Hampstead Heath, last week. In the back row, reading from left and right, are Arthur Duncan, Harry Duncan, Bob Armstrong, Sapper O'Neill, and Harry Price. Front row: Jim Harris, Mr. A. Oldrid Clarke, Harry Lewis, and Mr. Con. Murphy ("Mirror of Life and B.W."). The Old English bob-tailed sheep dog, "Marlowe," which can also be seen, is the property of Mr. Clarke. Armstrong has met the best heavy-weights of a few years back, and trained Jim Jeffries for several of his battles.

(Actual photos of the above, cabinet size, post free 7d. each, from the "Mirror of Life and B.W." office.)

