



Name: Ezzard Charles
Career Record: [click](#)
Alias: The Cincinnati Cobra
Birth Name: Ezzard Mack Charles
Nationality: US American
Birthplace: Lawrenceville, GA, USA
Hometown: Cincinnati, OH, USA
Born: 1921-07-07
Died: 1975-05-27
Age at Death: 53
Stance: Orthodox
Height: 6' 0
Reach: 73?
Managers: [Charles Dyer](#), [Herb Williams](#), and [Jake Mintz](#)
Trainer: Ray Arcel, Bill Gore

Annotated [Fight Record](#)

Amateur Achievements

- 1937 & 1938 Won [Diamond Belt](#) in the welterweight division.

- 1939 Won Diamond Belt in the middleweight division.
- 1939 Won [Chicago Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions](#).
- 1939 National AAU Middleweight Champion

Record Issues

The previously published 1940 record for Charles is inaccurate, evidently because his first manager, Bert Williams of Cincinnati, padded it with fights that did not occur. One of Charles's alleged 1940 fights, with Bradley Lewis in San Francisco, actually occurred a year earlier, when Charles was an amateur, according to Michael DeLisa. Checks of two newspapers (the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *Ohio State Journal* of Columbus, Ohio, by Herb Goldman, using the facilities of the Library of Congress, and of a Cincinnati newspaper by Jack Kincaid, found the following fights untraceable:

- Medley Johnson, Middletown, Ohio, March 15, 1940.
- Eddie Fowler, Portsmouth, Ohio, May 10, 1940.
- Pat Wright, Middletown, Ohio, May 17, 1940.
- John Reeves, Columbus, Ohio, June 12, 1940.
- Al Woodridge. This fight was mentioned in an article that appeared in *The Ring*.

Also, Charles's alleged fight with Jimmy Brown in Reading, Pa., March 20, 1940, was not reported in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, search by Luckett Davis.

Even in 1940 and 1941, Charles's record still listed these untraced fights for Charles, although the details given were varied and conflicted from one telling to another.

It seems best to omit all of these fights from Charles's record, at least until and unless they can be verified.

Marciano Stops Charles In Eighth

Winnipeg Free Press 18 Sept 1954

Unbeaten Rocky Marciano, indestructible, and invincible in the seven years of his fist, fighting career, retained his world heavyweight title in his fourth defence by bludgeoning Ezzard Charles into submission in 2 minutes 26 seconds of the eighth round in their twice-postponed bout at the Yankee Stadium. Friday.

'Unable to knock out or even to knock down the plucky Cincinnati challenger in their first encounter exactly three months before in the same ring, the 30-year-old Brockton strong boy floored Charles for a count of two in the second and ended a procession of winning rounds from the second on by smashing his foe to the canvas twice in the eighth round.

A steady barrage of driving blows, most of them missing but some landing; in a typical Marciano manner, crumpled Charles sideways in a delayed-action fall late in the eighth round.

It was the beginning of the end. Marciano drove forward after his weakened opponent and with another volley of blows, winding up with a raking hook, smashed Charles onto his face.

The 38-year-old challenger pulled himself into a squatting posture, his knees bent, his hands resting on the deck, as he listened to the count of referee. At the count of 10, Charles hands were still on the floor. He pulled himself up an instant later, but the referee called it a 10-and-put count. Submitting to the decision with no sign of remonstrance, Charles walked over and saluted the all-conquering champion.

Though he missed dreadfully round after round in his interminable crowding pressure on Charles, Marciano, in the end result, restored the knockout prestige, he had lost in his 15-round decision in June. He scored his 47th consecutive victory with his 41st knockout. The knockout finish, however, unfolded a curious tableau Charles, in knockout defeat, presented a tired but unmarked fighter in sharp contrast to last June when he finished on his feet with his face knocked lopsided, a blood clot in his left cheek, and his right eye bruised, swollen and partly closed.

Once again Marciano won despite hazards inflicted by the fortunes of the ring. His nose bled from the third round on, but that was nothing to what happened to him subsequently as he piled into triumph. The end of his nose was split by two raking Charles hooks late in the sixth round. He came out with an ugly patch on it for the seventh round. In the round that proved to be the last Marciano's left eye lid was gashed again. He was getting to be the normally blood-covered champion when his great strength and inexhaustible punching power came to the rescue and demolished Charles.

Charles was making his third bid to reclaim the heavyweight title. No one ever had three chances to regain the title. No ex-champion ever regained the ring's biggest prize, and Charles was destined to make the futile try for the third time. Where James J. Corbett failed twice and other glamorous champions like James J. Jeffries, Jack Dempsey and Joe Louis failed once each, Charles failed once more. In the heavyweight division, it remains true now as has for 62 years—they never come back to the title. For this unprecedented third try, Charles came in heavier than he has been in his fighting career of 15 years. Weighing 192 ½ to Marciano's 187. Charles was heavier and also slower. He was geared for power, not for a war of movement or agility.

The fight started later than ever, but Marciano saw to it that it finished at least on the same day it started. Owing to the double postponement caused by wet weather and conflicting interests of a national TV fight and the Giants-Phillies baseball game at the Polo grounds, the fight was scheduled to start at 11pm and actually got under way at 11:06.

From the outset it was obvious that the heavier, slower Charles (who had never won a fight when he weighed above 180) aimed to make a fight of it as long as he could. Instead of using speed and movement to outbox Marciano as he had for the first five rounds in June. He was swinging all but, trying to damage this walking-armored truck from ward 2 in Brockton.

IT WAS NOT the sort of fight Joe Louis and others had recommended for Charles, but it was his fight to win or lose his own way. He threw punches with more power than in June. But all it did was win him one round—the first. He landed a solid right lead on Rocky's jaw, mauled with him in clinches, smashed another right counter to Rocky's jaw.

Marciano wore that puzzled look of concentration as he faced the enemy, warding off blows and trying to get in a clean shot. That was the last round Charles was destined to win. Marciano, starting faster as he said he would, with only three months rest since his previous fight, plodded forward, seeking to reach his foe, but punching away anyway.

Then Marciano caught Charles with a right on the jaw—his overhand right he calls his SuzieQ and how he loves her. Charles wobbled slightly, Marciano drove in with another right to the jaw. Charles trembled for a moment, then fell on all fours, on the south side of the ring near a neutral corner. He looked like a small boy who had lost something and was groping for it in the dark.

When Charles got up at 2, the count lost in the tumult, Marciano tried to finish him. Charles employed all the craft of his years in the ring to ward off the crusher, and fought back with two hooks. Marciano missed a wild left after the bell. From the second round on it was evident once again that no one around can match Marciano's crude power and his remarkable strength—least of all a 33-year-old veteran like Charles. Ezzard threw some fine and accurate punches, but they simply bounced off Rocky's concrete enforced chassis without appearing to hurt him at all.

Charles, using his wits and his skill, evaded another knockdown or really damaging blows but he was on the losing end going nowhere through the third, fourth fifth, sixth and seventh. He was weakening. His legs were going on him. Manager Al Weill, from the corner kept yelling at

Rocky to go for the body, but Marciano pursued his head-hunting tactics and finally brought his man down.