

Name: Jackie Fields
Career Record: [click](#)
Birth Name: Jacob Finkelstein
Nationality: US American
Birthplace: Chicago, IL
Hometown: Los Angeles, California, USA
Born: 1908-02-09
Died: 1987-06-03
Age at Death: 79
Height: 5' 7½"
Reach: 175
Division: Welterweight
Managers: [Gig Rooney](#), [Jack Kearns](#)

He was an [Olympic flyweight gold medal](#) winner, and the world [welterweight](#) champion.

In 1962, legendary fight manager [Jack Kearns](#) called Fields the “best all-around battler the United States has ever produced.”

Defeated [Joe Salas](#) (United States) points

Fields was only 16 years old in when he captured the Olympic featherweight championship, the youngest athlete ever to win an Olympic boxing crown. When he got home from the Olympics, however, his mother spanked him for stepping into the ring.

Amateur career

Fields finished his amateur career with a record of 51 victories in 54 fights.

Pro career

Fields turned professional in 1925 and quickly moved up the ranks, defeating [Mushy Callahan](#), Sammy Baker, [Vince Dundee](#), and Jack Zivic.

He then defeated Young [Jack Thompson](#) for the [National Boxing Association](#) welterweight championship in March 1929 via a 10-round decision.

In July 1929, Fields faced defending champion [Joe Dundee](#) for the world welterweight title, and won the match after Dundee fouled him with a 2nd-round low blow.

Fields totally dominated the abbreviated fight. He floored Dundee once in the first round and four more times in the first part of round 2. After the fifth knockdown in that round, [Pal Joey](#) crawled across the ring on his hands and knees until he got right in front of Fields and [sucker punched](#) him in the groin. Fields nailed the issue succinctly: "That bum and his buddies had bet money on the fight." [1] Dundee knew he was a goner and he also knew if the fight ended on a foul, all bets were off.

In May 1930, Fields lost the title to [Jack Thompson](#) in a 15-round fight.

Fields retired after the fight, but returned to the ring two years later fighting for the welterweight world title against Lou Brouillard, who had won it from Thompson. Fields regained it, winning in 10 rounds, in January 1932.

In 1932, he was involved in a [car accident](#) in which suffered a detached retina and lost sight in one eye, though he did not tell anyone about it at the time.

In February 1933, Fields lost the title in a 10-round decision to [Young Corbett III](#) in [San Francisco](#). The referee, Jack Kennedy, admitted to Jackie's manager Jack Kearns after the fight in the dressing room: "I made a mistake," and told him he had raised the wrong hand. Kearns hit Kennedy, sending him sprawling to the floor and knocking him out.^[2]

Fields fought only one bout after his loss to Corbett because his eye injury had become too troublesome.

He retired with a professional record of 74 victories (30 knockouts), 3 draws, 9 losses, and 1 no-contest.

Life after boxing

Fields earned an estimated \$500,000 during his career, which he had invested in real estate. However, due to the [Depression](#), Fields like millions of others was financially wiped out. Fields landed a job as an assistant unit manager for [20th Century Fox](#), and in the latter half of the '30s as a [film editor](#) for [MGM](#).

Until 1949, Fields sold jukeboxes for [Wurlitzer](#). Later Fields became a business representative for [J & B Scotch](#) in the mid-West. In the late 1950s Fields bought a large share of stock in the Tropicana Hotel in [Las Vegas](#). Although he sold his shares a few years later, he remained on as Public Relations Director for the hotel. He also served for many years as Vice Chairman of the [Nevada State Athletic Commission](#).

Movie

His Olympic triumph was made in to a 1939 movie called "The Crowd Roars".

Coaching in the Maccabiah Games

Fields coached the U.S. boxing team at the [1965 Maccabiah Games](#).

Halls of Fame

He was elected to the [World Boxing Hall of Fame](#) in 1977.

Fields, who was [Jewish](#), was inducted into the [International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame](#) in 1979.^[3]

Fields, who grew up in a [Jewish](#) neighborhood in Chicago, said, "Being in the [ghetto](#), you had to fight." When his father contracted [tuberculosis](#), the family moved to [Los Angeles](#), where he was introduced to boxing.

Legend has it that Fields took his ring name from either a Chicago [department store](#), or in honor of an obscure fighter named [Marty Fields](#).

Olympic championship

He began in 1921, and by 1924, had competed in the pre-Olympic [AAU](#) Nationals. Despite a broken hand, he reached the semifinals and a place on the Olympic team as an alternate. On the boat ride to the [1924 Summer Olympics](#), Fields defeated two other Olympic candidates to make the team.

Results:

Defeated Doyle (Ireland) points

Defeated Hansen (Norway) points

Defeated Abarca-Gonzalez (Chile) points

Defeated [Pedro Quartucci](#) (Argentina) points

WATERLOO EVENING COURIER

26 MARCH 1929

10,000 Fans Riot as Jackie Fields Gains Disputed Title

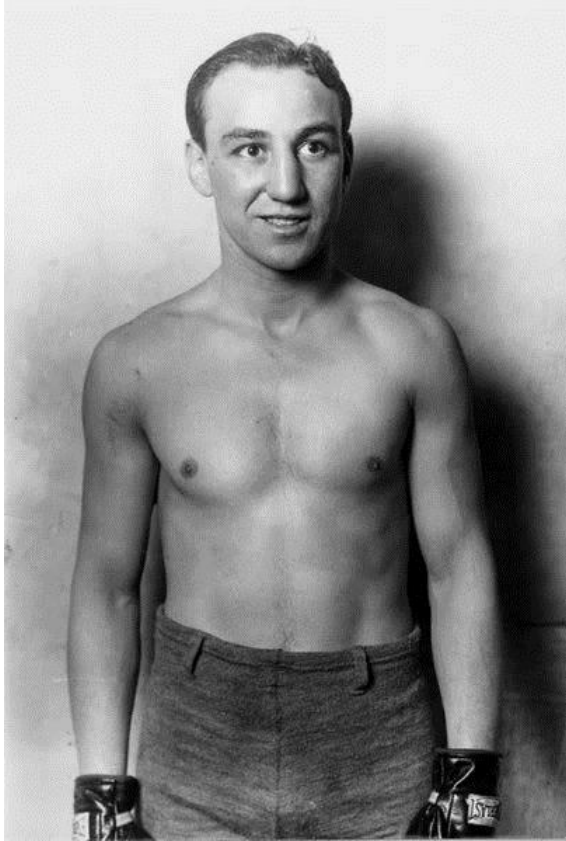
GUNS AND RAZORS FLASH ABOUT IN BALCONY SCENE

Thirty Receive Hospital Treatment;

Thompson Is Most Frightened.

Chicago, March 26.—(INS)—Because of the race riot in the coliseum here last night during the Jackie Fields-Young Jack Thompson bout, a resolution barring mixed fights will be considered by the Illinois Boxing commission, it was learned today. Plans for detailing more police officers at boxing bouts will also be discussed by the commission.

Approximately 100 persons were being treated today for injuries sustained in a riot and panic during the Jackie Fields-Jack Thompson boxing show at the Coliseum last night. Upwards of



9,000 spectators were packed in the old graystone building at the time.

Thirty of the more seriously injured were rushed to nearby hospitals. Most of these suffered fractured limbs from the crush of the mob. Others were badly hurt when they leaped or fell from the balcony. A few were pushed thru rear windows. One of the many women present was seriously injured when trampled.

Feeling aroused over the mixed bout is blamed for the trouble. Thompson is a negro. Fields a white man. In the eighth round, after Thompson had taken a lot of punishment, a negro fan and a white sitting beside him in the southeast balcony, exchanged compliments.

Then They Yell "Fire"!!

Two long keen blades flashed in the dim light and the balcony fight was on. When another spectator in the crowded gallery produced a gun, the stampede started. Other hoodlums in the vicinity

of the brawl, fearful that a gang fight had started, added to the confusion by drawing guns. As the balcony fans stormed the aisles, someone screamed "Fire!"

Spectators in other sections of the crowded hall, not knowing the cause of the confusion and then hearing the sickening cry of "fire" bolted madly for exits. But they could not go far, packed in as they were. The crash of chairs and the screams of terrified men and women turned the jammed coliseum into a frenzied maelstrom of fear-stricken, humanity.

Women in ringside seats were tossed bodily into the ring by their male escorts. Others near the ring climbed thru the ropes while some tried to duck under the arena. The very helplessness of the wedged-in spectators probably meant their salvation. After the first flush of awful turmoil, quick-thinking officials saved the situation from disastrous consequences by leaping into the ring, clearing it of spectators and forcing the boxers to continue.

Riot Call Sent In.

They sprang into the breach at the psychological moment. But even if this strategy would not have prevailed in the face of another spark in the form of a pistol shot or another cry of fire. Hundreds of the more sensible spectators, realizing the danger of the situation, gradually settled into their seats as a dozen officials yelled assurance from the ring that **"everything is all right."**

Meanwhile a riot call and fire alarms were sent in. The injured were taken out side doors as cautiously as possible so as not to further arouse the panicky throng.

Among those slightly hurt were Judge Francis Borelli and Teddy Hayes, trainer for Mickey Walker, world's middleweight champion. Hayes and Walker occupied seventh row seats, ringside. Walker was unhurt. Hundreds, nearer the exits, fought their way to the open, but many were minus hats and overcoats. A few saved themselves from the crush by scaling the structural steel brattice work.

Thompson Frightened.

James C. Mullen, who promoted the ill-fated match, was too depressed to discuss the affair. It was his fifth big indoor show of the season, all of which had been near "sell-outs." Mullen took occasion to compliment his "lieutenants," whose coolness and prompt action probably prevented what threatened to be one of the worst, disasters in the city's history.

The negro fighter, young Jack Thompson, was perhaps the worst frightened person in the coliseum. Realizing that he was appearing before a Fields' crowd, with 75 per cent of the spectators white, and not hearing the start of the commotion in the balcony, he naturally thought the worst when the white ringsiders started climbing thru the ropes.



NEGRO STAR GETS BUT FEW ROUNDS IN WILD AFFAIR

Chicago Youth Proves a Master Boxer to Win Easy Decision.

Still excited because of the wildest night of its fistic history, Chicago today claimed one of its "Ghetto boys" as the National Boxing association's recognized welterweight champion of the 'World.

The title was won last night by Jackie Fields, who was born Jacob Finkelstein and who comes from that, part of Chicago where fists count for more than diplomacy. Jackie won his honors last night by outpointing Young Jack Thompson, California negro, in ten rounds of fighting, which climaxed the most turbulent night Chicago's fisticana ever has known.

Even before Fields and Thompson entered the ring, there was an indication of what was to follow, when two spectators put on a bout not on the card, and before the night was over Chicago had seen its greatest spectacle of a wild crowd in motion.

Round One

Thompson hooked a left to the body . They clinched, trading punches. Thompson drove a right to the body. They missed left hooks to the head. Thompson landed a left, to the face. Field hooked two lefts and a right to the jaw, Thompson was staggering. Fields smashed a hard right to the jaw with Thompson fighting back feebly. Thompson drove a right uppercut to the jaw. Fields hooked three lefts and threw a right to the jaw knocking Thompson to his knees. Fields backed away from a hard right to the head. Thompson tried a right to the jaw. Thompson threw n right to the body. Fields planted two left hooks to the body as the gong sounded.

Round Two

Thompson drove a left to the body as they clinched. Thompson stabbed three lefts to the face. Fields hooked a right to the. Head as they came in close. Fields scored with two lefts to the face and Thompson put a left to the body. Fields drove both fists to the body. Fields hooked a left tothe face and Thompson a left to the body. Fields fired a left and right to the body and left to the head. He repeated with another left, and right to the negro's body with Thompson covering up. Fields hooked three lefts to the head. Fields staggered the negro with a right to the jaw and pounded his body as they clinched. Thompson hooked a left to the head. Fields drove hisleft to the body and a left to the head.

Round Three

Thompson tried a right to the body and snapped a left to the head. Fields threw a left to the head. Thompson scored with a left and right to head and a left to the body. Fields hooked a left to the body. Fields hooked a loft to the negro's jaw. Thompson slammed a left to the body. Thompson landed a left to the jaw and a right to the head with Fields fighting savagely. They traded half a dozen lefts and rights on the ropes. Then they traded punches to the body with Thompson trying for right uppercuts, Thompson missed a left to the head and threw a right uppercut. They came in close trading punches to the body. Fields stabbed a left to the face and a right to the head.

Round Four

They exchanged lefts to the head. Thompson hanged his right to the jaw. Fields backed away from two lefts after missing himself. Fields hooked a left to the head and planted a hard right to the jaw. Thompson landed a left and right to the jaw and Fields retaliated. They came togetherwith Fields driving both fists to the body. They traded right uppercuts. Fields stabbed two lefts to the face and caught, two rights to the jaw. Fields blocked a left to the body and whipped a right to the head. They stood head to head in mid ring and traded punches with Fields chasing the negro with two heavy rights. Thompson missed a hard right to the chin and took a left to the head.

Round Five

Fields hooked two lefts to the head and a right to the jaw. As they came in close Fields drove

both fists to the body and slipped away from Thompson's lead. Fields scored with two lefts to the jaw and then shot a right, to the head. Fields hooked two lefts to the body and a right to the jaw. Fields slammed three lefts to the head and then shot two hard rights to Thompson's chin with the negro backing away. Fields kept after his foe, forcing him to retreat under a heavy attack. Thompson was bleeding from a cut over the right eye and from the mouth -Fields knocked Thompson into the ropes with a left hook as the bell rang.

Round six

Fields stabbed three lefts to the face. Thompson missed a left to the face and they traded lefts to the face. Fields hooked two lefts to the face. They came together trading punches to the body. Fields put a left and right to the chin. Thompson smashed his right to the jaw and then Fields smothered Thompson with a barrage of punches. Fields connected with a right cross with Thompson driving both fists to the body. Fields cracked the negro with three rights to the jaw, forcing him to the ropes. Thompson hooked left to the head and two rights to the head and body. They traded punches to the head as the round ended.

Round Seven

Fields hooked a left to the jaw and caught two rights to the body. They traded rights to the chin. Thompson scored with a right uppercut and backed away. Thompson hooked a left to the, body and right to the jaw. Fields scored with two lefts to the chin and then with a right.

As they came together Fields landed three lefts to the head. Fields danced around, Thompson and then threw a left to the body and backed away from a right to the head. Thompson trying a left and right in the head. Field missed a left to the head and caught a right to the chin. Fields threw three rights to the body and a left to the head.

Round Eight

Fields rushed over to Thompson's corner and put a right to the body. They exchanged lefts to the head. Fields hooked a left to the head and backed away from Thompson's left thrust. They clinched, both inflicting body punishment.

Round Nine

Fields landed a left to the body. Thompson landed a right to the body and they clinched. Fields stabbed three lefts to the head. Thompson got Fields with a right uppercut to the chin, with fields throwing his punches to the head. Fields scored with two lefts to the head. They came in close and swapped punches to the body. Fields hooked a left lo the body and Three lefts to the head. Thompson missed a right to the head but connected with a left hook. Fields landed a half dozen punches to head. They came charging together with Thompson centering his attack to the body.

Round Ten

They shook hands, They exchanged hooks to the head. Thompson carried the fight to Fields. He

drove both fists to the body. Fields smashed lefts and rights to the head. Thompson hooked a left to the body and took a right to the chin. Fields forced the negro to the ropes under a heavy body attack. They traded hard rights to the head. They stood toe to toe in midring throwing punches to the body. Thompson was stumbling forward as the fight ended.

JACKIE FIELDS WITHOUT PEER AMONG WELTERWEIGHTS



An Uncrowned King

* * * * *
Jackie Fields Considered Best of Welters.



The Montana Standard

14 April 1929

Jackie Fields, proclaimed welter weight champion of the world by the National Boxing association, after his victory over Young Jack Thompson in Chicago, is the cleverest boxer whoever held the title.

Fields is world's champion for the second time. He won in Paris. There was crowned king of the amateur feather-weights after beating his own clever team-mate, Joe Salas, in the final bout. At that time Jackie was only 17, and he was the youngest boxer to win an Olympic championship.

Jackie had a brilliant career as an amateur. He was born in the stock yards district in Chicago. There his youthful hero was another stockyards boy, Packey McFarland, who was the best boxer of his day and who easily would have taken the world's welter championship if he hadn't preferred to train down to the last possible pound and fight among the light-weights. The light-weight limit was then 133 pounds.

Packey never had a chance to get that title because Battling Nelson, the champion, couldn't be induced to box him. When Bat was at his best as champion he was showing in the stockyards district in Chicago and invited any local light-weight to set-to with him on the stage. Packey at once accepted and was engaged for a week. The first day Packey showered gloves on Nelson, and Bat couldn't touch him, for even then Packey was faster than the flick of a whip and as cunning as a fox. Packey's engagement terminated suddenly. Nelson went to his manager, Bill Nolan and suggested that Bill get McFarland signed to a contract immediately. Nelson was quite frank with Nolan. "I want this kid in the same stable, so I won't have to fight him." he said.

Unless you get him under contract he'll be fighting around the country pretty soon and he can lick them all. he'll be challenging me, and believe me Bill this is one bird I'll never fight."

Didn't Sign Packey.

Nolan didn't sign McFarland. Packey was smart enough to know that he couldn't fight Nelson if he had the same manager - and the few minutes boxing with Bat had convinced Packey that Nelson would be easy picking.

McFarland knocked out or beat nearly all the best light-weights, but he never had a championship chance and eventually he grew out of the class and retired with about \$250,000 in ring earnings. Cleverest boxer in the world —so clever that in only one fight in his career did Packey ever get a black eye, and that from a clumsy second rater he was merely playing with.

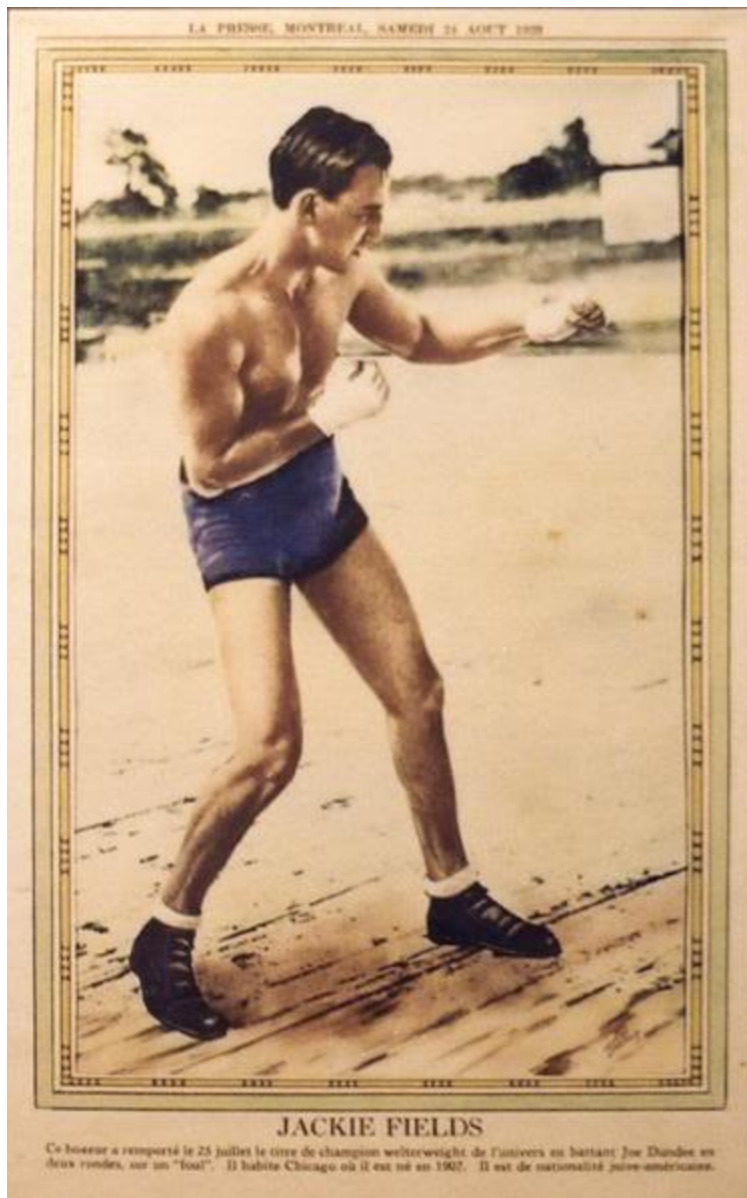
McFarland never made money the way ordinary boxers make it in these days. I was stake holder and paid Packey the two biggest purses he ever got in the ring. One was \$10, 000 paid him for the fight with Matt Wells, English champion, and the other was his share of the \$32000 purse for his last ring battle, with Mike Gibbons.

Naturally in his fighting days Packey was the idol of all the kids in the stockyards district. His example started scores of boxers. The best of the lot is Jackie Fields, new wearer of the welter crown. Jackie is as clever as McFarland himself, and unlike Packey, he never gets into a ring without trying to win as quickly as possible. Packey preferred to win on points and seldom tried for a knockout unless he was hard pressed.

Fields was 7 years old when Packey fought his last bout. He didn't see McFarland fight. But the stockyards district was full of people who saw McFarland in many fights, and Packey's cleverness was discussed and illustrated for every youngster who pulled the gloves on. Fields' family moved to Los Angeles. There, a small boy, Jackie began boxing at the Los Angeles Athletic club, under the teaching of George Blake, who developed LaBarba and many other fine

boxers.

Jackie began boxing in the competitions when he was 14. He lost his first bout to Fidel LaBarba, who was more experienced. LaBarba afterward won the Olympic championship in the flyweight class, the same year Jackie won the feather-weight. In 1922 Jackie lost two bouts and won one. Then he began fighting in a way that was amazing in such a little, round, chunky, smooth-faced youngster. He won 11 matches and *lost* one, a four-round bout at Santa Barbara, where a great field day was held to give Charlie Paddock a chance to break records. Jackie boxed very slowly that night, and as I happened to be referee and gave the decision against him I asked him afterward what was the matter. "Mr. Edgren," he said, "I never went away from home before and they sent me over here last week to train, and every night at the hotel they had Long Island duck for dinner. I just had my plate filled two or three times every dinner, and I was, so full of that Long Island duck I could hardly move."



Probably Jackie never dissipated in Long Island duck after that, for he certainly can move.

In the national amateur championships in 1924 Jackie reached the semi-finals. It was supposed Salas would win in at Paris, but Fields came up under the pressure of competition. He's what athletes call a "good competitor" the tougher the fighting the better he fights.

He showed that in knocking out tough Sammy Baker and in twice beating Jack Thompson, who is a clever and dangerous hitter. This same Thompson had knocked out Joe Dundee, who finally lost the championship by not defending the title. As in most of the matches he did take on, Dundee made Thompson fatten up over-weight, so that the title wouldn't be at stake. A cheap trick for any champion.

Fields still regards McFarland as the master of all boxers. He is modest about his own work in the

ring. "There never was anybody like McFarland," says Jackie. "I've dreamed of being a boxer like Packey ever since I was a little bit of a fellow. I tried to study out how Packey would do things I don't suppose I ever will be able to box like Packey."

Career Short but Sweet

Fields has done very well in his short professional career. He started as a feather-weight, but rapidly grew out of the class. After winning a few fights he met Baby-face Jimmy McLarnin.

Fields had to train to a low weight for that fight. He was a streak in the first round. In the second McLarnin clipped him on the chin and flattened him for a 10-second count. That knockout was like the end of the world to Fields. He wept copiously as he was led from the ring. But he was soon fighting again, winning every fight. He was growing taller and heavier, was soon a lightweight.

He boxed Sammy Mandell in Los Angeles in 1927, Sammy insisting on 12 rounds and no decision, refusing to risk his title in a decision fight with Fields. Sammy was wise. Jackie boxed his head off. Last year Sammy took Jackie on for 10 rounds in Chicago, and won the decision.

Fields was growing out of the light-weight class and had to bake himself down to weight. But he beat Baby Joe Gans Mushy Callahan, Vince Dundee twice. Then he started a knockout streak, he whipped Jack Thompson and had him nearly out in San Francisco, knocked out Jack Zivic, Joe Vargas Sammy Baker, Mike Payan, Tommy Elks and kept hot on the trail of Joe Dundee-, recognized welter champion. Dundee defied boxing commissions and the N. B. A. and refused to sign with Fields under any conditions.

Dundee was being trimmed even by his selected opponents, and wouldn't take a chance with a fighter who could whip Jack Thompson, who had knocked Dundee out in two rounds,

Finally the N. B. A. ruled that Dundee had forfeited his title by refusing to defend it, and declared the Fields-Thompson bout, a fight for the welter-weight champion. This may have

been a reasonable proposition, and there's no doubt the two were the best welters in America and probably in the world. Also there is the fact that Thompson, a real welter-weight at all times, forced by Dundee to fatten up four pounds to be over the welter limit, had knocked Dundee out easily and with no undue delay. Such a framed-up technicality shouldn't be recognized by any boxing authorities.

I expect to see Jackie Fields welterweight champion for a long time unless he grows into a middle-weight. He is aggressive, a fighter, a good hard hitter, and absolutely without a

peer among welter-weights in boxing skill. In that he's another McFarland. He knows how to fight, and he won't need to resort to the usual modern subterfuges to hold that title safe.

From the way he has fought since he started as a small boy among the amateurs. I don't think he ever will dodge a fight or hide behind a technicality.

It will be a distinct disappointment if Jackie Fields turns out like the rest of our safety-first "champions." Ten to one he won't.

By the way Jackie Fields borrowed his fighting name from a museum in Chicago. His real moniker is Finkelstein.

The Ogden Standard Examiner

26 July 1929

Dundee Drops Welterweight Title To Coast Flash

Foul Blow To Baltimore Star

Championship Contest At. Detroit Ends In Second Round; Former Champion Goes Down Twice For Count; Gate Receipts Announced At \$175,000

On the head of Jackie fields, product of Chicago's ghetto, the worlds welterweight crown rested today. Jackie won undisputed claim to the title last night when he was fouled by two low punches in the second round of his title fight with Joe Dundee, Baltimore Italian, who has

been dodging the foremost challengers of his division, with such consistency that he already had already had been deprived of his title by the National Boxing association.

Jackie started after Dundee in the initial round and was ahead on points when the bell sounded. He opened the second round by flooring Dundee, for a count of six. Joe came in gamely to take another solid smash on the jaw and went down for the count of seven. From that point on he was as good as beaten.

WINS ON FOUL

As Joe came up, he staggered against the ropes and then lunged toward Fields, both arms swinging wildly. The first, a right, landed in the groin and Jackie fell back in pain amid the crowd's boos. The second, a left, also landed low and Jackie fell prostrate to the floor.

When it was obvious he was too badly hurt to continue, Fields hand was raised as winner — as newly crowned welterweight champion of the world. The fans howled in delight. It was several minutes before the cheering subsided. And so it was that Jackie went Down — down to victory and up to the title.

Fields' victory was popular generally despite the fact New York and a few other states boxing commissions had tolerated over a long period Dundee's refusal to meet the logical contenders in his division. It was only when Fields agreed to enter the Detroit ring on the short end of the purse and take his chances to lose all his claims or become undisputed champion that Dundee finally was induced to defend his title.

The new champion had been the favorite in the betting. Odds ranged from 7 to 5 to 2 to 1.

WINS EASILY

Jackie's victory last night was convincing. He was master of the fight from the outset and had whipped Dundee so badly that Joe was irresponsible for the low blows he landed.

The fight, second of the three championship fights of the summer season, drew a crowd of approximately 31,000 and gate receipts of about \$175,000. The show was put on by' Floyd Fitzsimmons and was the first under Michigan's new state law permitting 15 round bouts.

The preliminary fights ended as follows: Carlo Mazzola, Detroit, bantam, outpointed Johnny Martini, Chicago (6) . Roger Bernard, Flint, won by technical knockout from Young

Terry McGovern. Youngstown (2) . Soldier Dombrowski. . Detroit lightweight, defeated Pete Firpo, Detroit (6).

The fight by rounds:

Round One

They shook hands in the middle of the ring and came out fighting. Dundee missed a left to the head and they clinched. Fields digs a left to the body. Dundee drove a right to the head. Fields was short with a left to the head, but drove a right to the body. Fields hooked two lefts and rights to the head. They came together Dundee landing a right to the head. Fields shot two lefts and rights to the head with Dundee backing to the ropes. Fields hooked a left to the body as the champion came into range. They traded lefts to the face. Fields hooked a left to the jaw and a right to the cheek Fields hooked another left to the jaw with Dundee backing away as the round ended.

Round Two

Dundee was short with a left to the head and they clinched in mid-ring. They exchanged body punches. Fields hooked two lefts to the body and a terrific right to jaw. Dundee backed to the ropes and was floored with a heavy barrage of punches to the head. He got up at the count of nine and was not down a again until a moment later for a count of seven. Fields drove three rights to the jaw that had the champion reeling. Dundee drove a hard right to foul territory and Fields fell to the floor in pain. His seconds started to work over him while he was dragged to his corner. He was unable to sit on the chair and fell to the floor. A doctor was called in to the ring to make an examination .

THE OGDEN STANDARD-EXAMINER

28 FEBRUARY 1932

JACKIE FIELDS MEETS BELMONT IN MIT FEATURE

Welterweight Champion Regains Crown After Stubborn Battle

By SPAREOW McGANN,

Special Correspondent of The Standard-Examiner.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—Jackie Fields has acquired a world's title and a bride within a short time and now he is stepping out to make all- the money he can. Monday night Jackie tackles Jimmy Belmont, at Pittsburg and on the following. Friday he'll mingle with Johnny Indrisano, at Boston. Belmont is the youngster who held Fields to a draw before the latter beat Lou Brouillaid for the welterweight title, and Indrisano is just about the classiest boxer tipping the scales at 147 pounds.

Jackie will win both contests if Martha Lynn Fields has anything to do with it. From what the writer knows about Martha and Jackie, from personal experience, he will be hard to beat.

This writer met Fields, when he was a scrawny kid weighing less than 122 pounds, at the national amateur bouts held at Boston in 1924 and has kept in touch with the former world's amateur featherweight champion ever since. A likeable boy is Jackie with more sense than the ordinary run of fighters and a disposition that makes friends.

Girls never played a part in Jackie's scheme of things. His heart was in the boxing game and the fact that he suffered a disastrous defeat at the hands of Jimmy McLarnin and was beaten by Louis Kid Kaplan in this city did not deter him.

At a dinner given to visiting sports writers on the eve of the second Dempsey-Tunney fight in Chicago, this observer witnessed a little byplay which was not on the bill. A sweet young thing passing out cigars spotted Jackie and fell hard. It wasn't long before Jackie was .being teased by the crowd at his table. The youngster took it good naturedly, but when the kidding became too pointed, he remarked: I'm a youngster yet. I believe I have a future in the boxing game, have no time for dates until I win the title and then I'll have plenty of time for the girls."

It worked out that way. Fields went on to win the welterweight championship, and it so happened that the time he took off to keep his dates cost him that title. This is the first time the fans have been told what was instrumental in causing, Jackie to drop the title to Young Jack Thompson.

After He had stopped Meyer Grace, at Kansas City, he was due to go at once to Detroit to prepare for the titular go with Thompson. Three days elapsed, with no sign of the champion;

Two days before the fight Jackie showed up and tried to prepare himself for a gruelling 15-round engagement—and, as everyone knows, he was outspeeded by the colored boxer.

Fields was too busy courting the lovely Martha Lynn, with the result that he sacrificed his title on love's altar.

Then Jackie took a long rest. He came back and broke a hand. He came back again, with the same result and Martha was just as undecided as ever about her answer. It was up to Jackie to do something, and he did. He took on the busy young Terry, the rough King Tut, the speedy Jimmy Belmont and then was ready for the king pin. The rest is history. Jackie Fields regained his title and won the fair Martha.

All's well that ends well. Fields has realized his heart's desire, but he has one other thought in his mind, and that is to wipe out the knockout Jimmy McLarnin handed him back in 1925. Jimmy insisted on a low poundage, which so weakened Fields that he was unable to put up his hands. After Jackie became champion Jimmy insisted on a ridiculous weight, 142 pounds, but Fields was branded as a coward for refusing to fight the Vancouver thumper. Now that McLarnin, tips the beam at 147 pounds, he cannot refuse to fight Fields and the match will-come off this summer, McLarnin willing. Jackie promises to reverse the knockout verdict and Martha says he must.

AN OLD FAMILY CUSTOM



Mrs. Gladys Giordano, wife of Raffaele Giordano, or Young Corbett III, Fresno's uncrowned welterweight boxing champion, has been wishing the southpaw luck for many years and so it is for to-morrow's championship fight between Corbett and Jackie Fields in San Francisco. Corbett daily contacts his wife by telephone, telling of his condition and training camp work. She hopes the crowning of her famed husband will be no idle dream to-morrow.

7 February 1933

KEARNS SAYS FIELDS HAS MASTERED STYLE OF SOUTHPAW BOXER

First Fight With Corbett And His Defeat Of Brouillard Put Jackie In Good Stead, Says Manager .

By Jack Kearns

(Manager Of Jackie Fields)

(Special To The Bee-Republican)

HAS GREAT LEFT HOOK; MAY BECOME A SECOND WALCOTT



SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 6—"When I made the statement, in my last article, that Jackie Fields would defeat Young Corbett III at Seals' Stadium on February 22nd next, it brought some hot criticism in letters from strong Corbett boosters and rooters, as I expected it would.

These letters pointed out, for my information, that Corbett had defeated Fields on the only occasion that they met, February 22nd. 1930. I already knew that, but fight enthusiasts have a habit of repeating

In the first place, because the Fields who met Corbett three years ago had never faced a southpaw before in the ring. He was puzzled by Corbett's stance. He was meeting a strong, eager and ambitious youngster, who was fighting the champion in his division, and from my experience of fighter, I know that boys often fight "over their heads" in a spot like this. I am not trying to belittle Corbett's ability by this remark: I merely want to point out that the Fresno boy rose to the occasion, put forth superhuman effort and succeeded in walking away with the decision.

Both boys are three years older now than they were when they last met. Both may be termed veterans although neither shows many marks of the ring. My boy Fields, hasn't a scar or blemish to show for the eight years he has been fighting. Corbett shows no sign of wear and tear either.

In the three years that have passed since Fields "blew the duke" to Corbett, he has met several southpaws in the ring. Perhaps the best of these was the boy who whipped Jimmmy McLamin so soundly - Lou Brouillard. And as I pointed out Fields whipped Brouillard so decisively, so conclusively, that he eliminated any doubt from my mind about his ability to fight southpaws.

Fields has been training with southpaw sparring partners off and on for the last three years, preparing for the Corbett fight. For we both knew that eventually he would have to meet Corbett.

The manner in which Jackie has handled these southpaw sparring partners has convinced me that he has solved the problem of how the fight left-handers. Without betraying any secrets I have seen him use a left hook with great effect against southpaws which is a punch that is more effective than the right hand if properly used.

Remember, that when Fields first fought Corbett, he wasn't sure of his ability to fight left-handers. Now he knows he can lick the best of them. That knowledge will be of immense value to him when he faces the raisin picker from Fresno.

Corbett can't punch hard enough to hurt Fields, whereas Fields has improved his punching powers surprisingly. I will not be surprised if Jackie knocks out Corbett this time. And that's another surmise that will bring a storm of disapproval from the hot-blooded Corbett admirers, or I miss my guess. If you look up the record of southpaw fighters, you'll find that they don't last as long, as a general rule, as right-handers. I mean by this remark that the years have been tougher on Corbett than they have on Jackie Fields, another reason why a Fields' knockout victory won't surprise me much.

They tell me the betting is 10 to 7. Corbett favorite. In Los Angeles and San Francisco. That's the best joke I know. They tell me also that the odds will go to 2 to 1, Corbett favorite, before the fight. Well. If they do the Kearns family nest-egg will be planked down on Fields to win, to the last dollar.

End

WILLINGNESS TO MIX MAKES FIELDS MOST POPULAR MAN IN RING

