

**Name:** Leach Cross

**Career Record:** [http://boxrec.com/list\\_bouts.php?human\\_id=017314&cat=boxer](http://boxrec.com/list_bouts.php?human_id=017314&cat=boxer)

**Alias:** The Fighting Dentist

**Birth Name:** Louis Charles Wallach

**Nationality:** US American

**Birthplace:** New York, NY

**Hometown:** New York, NY

**Born:** 1886-02-12

**Died:** 1957-09-07

**Age at Death:** 71

**Height:** 5' 7"

**Reach:** 67 inches

**Division:** Lightweight

**Trainer:** [Jimmy De Forest](#)

**Manager:** [Sam Wallach](#)

**[Photo #2:](#)** circa 1921

**Leach Cross** (born Louis C. Wallach, and one of the many boxing Cross brothers--along with Sam, Phil, Dave, Marty, Monte, Tommy and Johnny) began boxing in 1906, taking part in almost 150 ring battles. Although he never won a title, he was known for his gameness and thus was very popular. In 1916, he retired for the first time after he had acquired considerable wealth, and a dental degree from New York University.

He then went to Los Angeles, where one of his ventures was a private gymnasium. He staged a comeback in 1921, not because of financial distress, but to prove that he could still cope with the youngsters after a five year layoff. Returning to California, he erected an apartment complex, which he managed himself, while still running his dental practice. He soon returned to New York, however, and had successful dental offices on Columbus Circle, in the Bronx and on Fourteenth Street.

He was also a boxing [referee](#) and judge. According to the April 22, 1920 *Tacoma News Tribune*, Cross had signed with Universal Studios in Los Angeles to appear in an 18-episode serial entitled "The Vanishing Dagger" with Eddie Polo. In 1922, after his final retirement from the ring, he had his name changed legally to "Leach Cross."

# Manitoba Free Press

26 April 1913

Showing Of Cross Is Sensational  
New York Boy Battles With Joe Rivers



Dr Louis C Wallach, a dentist in New York, better known to the fight fans all over the country as Leach Cross, by his wonderful fighting in his last few appearances has stamped himself as a dangerous man to have around when many of the lightweights are talking about championships.

Leach has been in the fighting game for a number of years but he is just now showing in his best form. His recent bout with Joe Rivers and his sensational knockout of Joe Mandot, the New Orleans scrapper, stamps him as a mighty hard hitter.

Leach's latest bout was with Joe Rivers, the greatest little lightweight in the game to-day. The men met in New York last Wednesday night and after ten grueling rounds, Leach was defeated by the little bronzed warrior from Mexico.

Although defeated, Leach was not disgraced by his showing. Joe was too strong for Leach. He showed a great deal more speed

and harder hitting ability, but the New Yorker also showed that he can hit some by several times staggering Rivers.

## Victory Over Mandot.

Leach met Joe Mandot in a ten round bout which took place in New Orleans on March 10 of this

year. Mandot forced the fighting from the beginning, and had Leach in distress several times, but the New York lad proved to be as game as any in the lightweight division, and refused to go down for the count.

After, plugging along for nine rounds Leach finally found the opening for which he had been waiting, and he whipped his right through. It caught Mandot flush on the jaw and Joe went down and took the count of nine. He arose very groggy, and Leach tore after him, again sending him to the floor for a count of nine. Leach repeated this performance again before the bout was stopped to save Joe from probable fatal injury at the hands of the Gotham fighter.

During his boxing career Leach has fought sensational battles with many of the best lightweights in the game. Some of those he fought are Packey McFarland, six rounds; Jack Britton, ten rounds; Young Loughery, six rounds; Dick Hyland, twice; Jack Goodman, .Matty .Baldwin, Tommy Murphy, another New York favorite; Knockout Brown, twice; Willie Beacher, Tommy Maloney, Bert Keyes, One -Round Hogan, twice,. both knockout's; Young Jack O'Brien, Terry Maloney. and a host of other fighters too numerous to mention. He holds a popular decision over the great Battling Nelson.

### **Is Knocked Out Three Times.**

Leach has been knocked out only three times; two of these happened, when he was starting in the- game. The other occurred in a bout with Fighting Dick Hyland, of California. Leach met Hyland in what was to be a finish fight in Colma, Cal., on June 26, 1909. After forty-one grueling rounds Leach finally succumbed to Hyland's tremendous punches.

In this bout Hyland showed his ability to go over the long distance better than Leach. He also showed his ability to assimilate a great' deal of punishment by taking all that Leach could hand out while he in turn sent a lot to Cross' head and body.

Leach entered the fight game as a side line to his dental practice in 1906. He celebrated his first fight by knocking out his opponent in two rounds. His second light was also a knockout, but in his third attempt he was knocked out in the second session of his bout with Jack Doyle. His next opponent also knocked him out.

Leach went along fighting his way to the top until he is now meeting the best men in the lightweight division. He is a full-fledged lightweight He can do 133 pounds ringside if his opponent demands it.

### **Finishes Hogan Twice.**

Leach has knock-out victories over One-Round Hogan on two ' occasions. Cross met the Californian in a. ten round bout in New York on March 13,1912. Leach stopped Hogan In the first round. The coast boxer was dissatisfied with the result of, this bout and asked for a return engagement. The men fought their second battle on Nov. 14 in New York and Leach-repeated the performance of their first bout, except that it took him .three rounds to turn the trick. .

Leach met Packey McFarland, the cleverest man in the fight game, twice. Their first bout took place in 1908, and Packey was the victor in six rounds. Their second fight occurred in New York on March 23, 1909. Packey was again the popular victor after ten fast rounds. Leach is 27 years of age. He was born on Feb. 12, 1886, in New York. He is 5 feet 7 ½ inches in his stocking feet. He is a Hebrew.

Cross is managed by his brother, Sam Wallach, who is willing to match him with any man in the lightweight ranks. His one ambition like all the rest of the "33" pounders is to meet Willie Ritchie in a bout for the lightweight championship of the world.

# Burlington Daily Times

27 Feb 1957

## Fights I Can't Forget .. No 8

### Cross's head Hit Canvas So Hard He Woke Up And Flattened Bedell

By Nat Fleischer

It lacked the glamour of a real championship match. It didn't roll up a record attendance or gate receipts. It was fought at the Clermont Rink in Brooklyn. But when Leach Cross and Joe Bedell started their bout, it quickly became a ring classic.

The night was March 16, 1911. The Irish' already had begun to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The Italians were noisy about their idol, Bedell. And from New York's Ghetto, the thousands who had come to know the sport through Leach — a fighter who did much to popularize boxing during the Frawley Law and early days of the Walker Law — came out to see him take on Bedell.

Joe took a short count, but was dazed when he got to his feet. The din was terrific. Still wobbly, he went forward to meet Cross. Bedell reached down almost to his heels and uncorked a wild right hand that landed on Cross's face. Down Leach went, feet shooting high in the air. He got up quickly and ran into another right to the chin which sent him to the canvas again.

This time he fell so hard few expected him to get up. But he did. He took the count of nine and as he got off the floor, the bell rang, saving him from a sure knockout.

The last blow seemed to stupefy Cross. He came out of his corner for the second round bleary-eyed, but with his ring savvy he covered up and stalled through the three minutes. It was the same in the next round, but Leach weakened considerably under Bedell's heavy body attack.

In the fifth, Bedell tried for a KO. He stormed at Leach and traded blows with him. Leach took his best and fired back. Then, three seconds before the bell, Bedell threw a hay-maker and Cross dropped dead-weight. They could have counted 100 if the bell hadn't rescued him. The crowd shrieked as Cross, lifeless, was dragged to his corner.

Referee Lewis walked to the corner to see if Leach could continue. In those days a fight wasn't stopped unless a man was helpless or his chief second tossed in the towel. Lewis decided he would let the fight continue. Smelling salts, an ice pack and brandy helped revive Leach. Somehow, he got through the next two rounds. In the seventh and eighth, Jimmy Kelly, later a powerful politician was offering 4-1 on Cross being knocked out. Through those rounds Bedell was catching Cross with terrific body punches.

In the ninth round. Bedell caught Cross with a right and put him down for eight. But as Leach hit the floor, something happened. As he explained it later, the fall shook him up and revived him. The ring wasn't as well padded then as it is now and his head banged hard on the ring floor — and cleared. Suddenly. Cross was on his feet, steady, eyes bright, looking for an opening. He feigned grogginess, an old trick, and Bedell fell for it. He rushed in — only to find Cross ready with a tremendous comeback assault which lasted the full final minute of the round. In the 10th, Bedell came quickly. As he did, Leach sidestepped, made Joe miss, then let go a long left hook that dropped Bedell. He got up at nine.

But he was groggy. Now it was Cross' turn to be on top and he didn't miss. He stepped in with a right to the jaw that tossed Bedell's head back and he went down for a second time, his head crashing against the floor. His body was stretched out. Not a quiver was visible as the referee's hand went up and down.

## **Oakland Tribune**

**27 June 1909**

**New Yorker Cleverest Fighter of Pair, But  
Lacking in Strength, Finally Collapses**

**Under pushes of the Cornishman.**

**By EDDIE SMITH,**

HAD the contest yesterday been most any other athletic event the affair would go down in history as a record-breaker. As it was simply a boxing contest, however, the record will simply read that Dick Hyland won from Leach Cross in the forty-first round by a knock-out. Simple as it may sound and though the fighters will never get any credit for establishing a new record, it took the greatest amount of grit to stick to their work and the pace they set and the grueling each took makes the gameness of Marathon runners and the like fade away into insignificance.

The battle was one in which a sturdy little son of the soil was matched against a wiry youth whose ancestors, and especially his parents, no doubt tabooed manual labor many years before

his birth The son of the soil, "Fighting Dick" Hyland, had as his chief asset an indomitable grit and an almost everlasting endurance, his boxing: from a scientific standpoint Being badly overmatched. He was shorter than his opponent in the matter of height and reach, and during- the early rounds was sadly outboxed.

### **Hyland Has Grit**

"Fighting Dick," and no name ever suited a man better, had that one asset, grit, however, and although It took some time to assert itself, In the end it conquered. Cross had as his chief asset a cultivated cleverness, a lightning- like punch and his brain worked with greater activity. Leach is not the natural fighter, though, and his cultivated fighting spirit deserted him when that sturdy little son of the soil marched up with the greatest persistency In the face of a severe beating and kept trying to land a punch, being entirely satisfied if he could land but one to the other fellow's two. It took Hyland forty-one of the toughest kind of rounds to finally conquer that cultivated lighting power of the New Yorker, but although it came slowly, it came surely, and the victory was all the sweeter owing to the fact that It was well earned.

The contest is the longest that has been fought In San Francisco for about eighteen or twenty years and it tops the much-talked of Joe Thomas-Stanley Ketchel battle In the same arena by nine rounds and falls short of the famous Gans-Nelson championship battle at Goldfield by one round. The day was anything but an ideal one for an open-air athletic event, as the fog hung heavily over the ring and a cold southwest wind was blowing:.

### **Possessed Interest of Marathon Race**

As to whether or not the contest was highly interesting, It might be said that from a standpoint of sensationalism it was a failure, for during the early rounds, when both men were fresh, there was nothing sensational about the affair, and many bec.ime convinced that Cross would eventually show that yellow streak that is so often talked of .From an interest point of view the battle took on the excitement with which one would watch a Marathon race or any other endurance contest, for after twenty rounds it became apparent that the battle was to be either a limit bout or one in which the man with the grit and endurance would come out the victor.

One of the best proofs that this Interest held the fans was the fact that although it grew bitter cold during the last rounds not a man left the building until the last round had been fought, and this means much as proof of the interest the spectators had in the ultimate re-suit. After Billy Jordan had introduced the contestants and they had posed for their pictures the men returned to their corners, and when the bell rang for the first start both hesitated about taking the initiative in the matter of pace.

### **Cross Delivers Punishment**

Their start could very easily be likened to that of any exhibition wherein the contestants realized that a long grueling test was before them, and as one looks back at that start It almost seems as though each had a premonition of the long route they were to travel. Hyland, with his lips closed

tightly together and his teeth clinched, walked right up to Cross and tried to close in from the start. Cross, who had met the little fellow in the center of the ring, immediately shot out his left hand and Hyland ran smack into it, the force pushing Dick's head backwards. Hyland reached up with his right and pulled the unwelcome hand down and Cross cleverly stepped away without getting hit. In this manner the contest proceeded for some few rounds, Hyland always boring in, but Cross delivering the greater amount of punishment. Those who had backed Hyland with the idea that he would leave his corner with a rush to rip and tear into the New Yorker suffered disappointment, for Dick plodded on in the most patient manner and with great fortitude stuck to the task of wearing the other fellow down with his superior strength.

### **Cross Not Anxious to Mix Matters**

Cross displayed no desire to mix things and very early in the game it was apparent that he had serious doubts as to his ability to go the route. The visitor jabbed and hooked, ripped and crossed with both left and right swings, and in doing so landed at least two to one punches, but wherever he shifted to inside the roped square he always found that game little Cornishman after him like a shadow, and there can be no denying the fact that this had much effect on the nerve of Cross during the early rounds.

When Hyland crowded the dentist-pugilist the hardest the latter would turn sideways and back away ready to strike as the aggressive little fellow came in. Any number of times during the early rounds Cross sidestepped away from his man, making him miss badly. Hyland landed occasionally but he was receiving a severe beating trying to land these occasional punches, and before the contest had gone ten rounds he was bruised and bleeding, while not a mark showed on the face of the clever visitor and it could hardly be said that he had been stung. Hyland had been shaken up a few times but not badly and it was apparent that Cross was not the possessor of a knockout punch. By the time the tenth round had been, fought it was easy to see that Cross had to jab Hyland into submission and that Hyland had only the chance of wearing his opponent out. Cross held tightly to his man in the clinches and in this manner greatly handicapped Hyland, whose only chance was the landing of blows at short range.

### **Cross Fights at Long Range**

Referee Billy Roche was forced time and again to pull the fighters apart, and each time he did so Cross quickly backed away and tried to box at long range. By the time that the tenth round was reached half of the people in the 'house were of the opinion that Cross would win, but it was proven beyond any doubt that he would never do as an opponent for Nelson. After the tenth Leach, seemed to fear the fighting Cornishman more than ever and he backed away more when he was being forced. In fact, it seemed as if the only chance Hyland had to land a punch was to force the dentist to the ropes and there land his punches before the clever Hebrew could tie him up in a clinch. Hyland is not the fastest fellow in the world by a big margin and he often failed. Failures seemed to mean little to him, however, for he went right back at the work again with all the vigor he possessed.

## **Twelfth Round is Turning Point**

Round twelve seemed the turning point of the battle, for when Cross left his corner he seemed desirous of finishing the job. He displayed more fighting- spirit than he had previously and for a time he planted his punches on his man at will.

Hyland kept coming just the same and near the end of the round Cross weakened and Hyland shot over his left to the head and down went Cross to his knees. He started to get up without taking the count but again slipped back to the floor for the time allowed him, which Roche would not permit, claiming that he had gone down the second time without being hit, which was right.

From then on Cross had little chance for victory and 'at times he gave every evidence of wanting to stop, and not ten men in the .house could be found who would not have said the New Yorker was about to quit..

One round was a repetition of the other from then on, for although at times Cross made rather sensational sprints, it seemed as if Hyland would .wear him out much quicker than he did. Cross at times made believe he was worse off than he was, in the hope that Hyland would fight himself out in an effort to stop him, but the plodding little Cornishman kept at his work persistently, but without any undue rush, and when Cross backed to the ropes and covered up with his arms wrapped about his face and body Hyland patiently waited for the openings before wasting his punches.

Time after time Cross was either put to the floor with a punch or pushed to the floor after backing to the ropes, but never would he stay down and to .the surprise of all present he would smile and wave to his seconds every time he went down. During the last five rounds It was apparent that Cross was to stick the limit and probably win with a knock-out punch Both men were so tired, and weak that they could hardly hold a balance and even though Cross was very weak, it looked as if Hyland had also shot his bolt

## **Cross' Final Collapse**

With his manager Jack Perkins' smiling face as an encouragement, and Willie Britt, who had gone to the corner to help earlier In the contest shouting words of encouragement, however, Hyland kept at the job and Cross was given an awful lacing. All the remarks as to the lack of courage that the Easterner might have were by this time dispensed with for he had put up a wonderfully game a battle as has been witnessed here In years and he was much admired for his staying qualities.

The end had to come, however; and in the forty-first round he finally collapsed after having- been to the floor several times in the last five rounds from a light punch to the body and his efforts to get up were of no avail Hyland had proven the more rugged of the pair and victory crowned his game uphill fight made during- the early rounds. It was a great battle and the best man truly won. It was a fair test and Hyland must be considered the best of the two at the long distance game.



