



**Name:** Marvin Hart  
**Career Record:** [click](#)  
**Alias:** The Fightin' Kentuckian  
**Nationality:** US American  
**Birthplace:** Fern Creek, KY  
**Hometown:** Fern Creek, KY  
**Born:** 1876-09-16  
**Died:** 1931-09-17  
**Age at Death:** 55  
**Stance:** Orthodox  
**Height:** 5' 11"  
**Reach:** 74in

Hart died at his home in Fern Creek, Kentucky, after an illness of nine months.

## MARVIN HART-TRUE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION

By Matt Donnellon

This article attempts to redress the lack of information on this great fighter of the first decade of the twentieth century and tries to evaluate his true position in pugilistic history.

Marvin Hart was born on September 16<sup>th</sup> 1896 in Jefferson County, near Louisville, Kentucky. His father Samuel was born in Pennsylvania and was noted for his strength and fearlessness. His mother was a Kentuckian and she too was tall and muscular. Marvin soon found that he excelled at wrestling and fighting. He was also an excellent footballer and played left end for the Louisville Athletic club football team. Finishing school at eighteen, the youngster started learning his trade as a plumber. He was to be twenty-three before he entered the profession that made him famous.

Marvin never boxed formally as an amateur but a Professor Gearhardt, at that time physical instructor at the Young Men's Hebrew Association, had been giving him boxing lessons. Hart was challenged to a bout with a local named Joseph Eichenberger. Marvin enlisted another local boxer, Charles Slusher to train the now twenty three year old while Eichenberger sought the help of William Schiller. Schiller, however knocked out his protégé in sparring, prompting his retirement and Schiller took his place against young Hart.

The date of this debut is uncertain, usually been listed as December 12<sup>th</sup> 1899 but listed as January 17<sup>th</sup> 1900 in the only contemporary record that I found. Hart weighed only 158 to his opponents 190 for the scheduled twenty rounder. The result is not in question, a six round KO win for the aspiring champion. He repeated the dose a month later, this time in four stanzas.

Next up was Charles Meisner who had a reputation that, while in the regular army, he had whipped all the soldiers that thought they could fight. He fell in one and "Australian Tommy"

Williams went the same way, in two.

Marvin stuck to his home patch of Louisville for the rest of the year and closed it out with 5 stoppage wins over Louis Seifker, Harry Rogers, Kid Hubert (twice), and Peter Trainor. Hubert and Hart boxed at 156 pounds in their first clash at the Nonpareil Athletic Club, Lexington with Hart the winner on a sixth round disqualification.

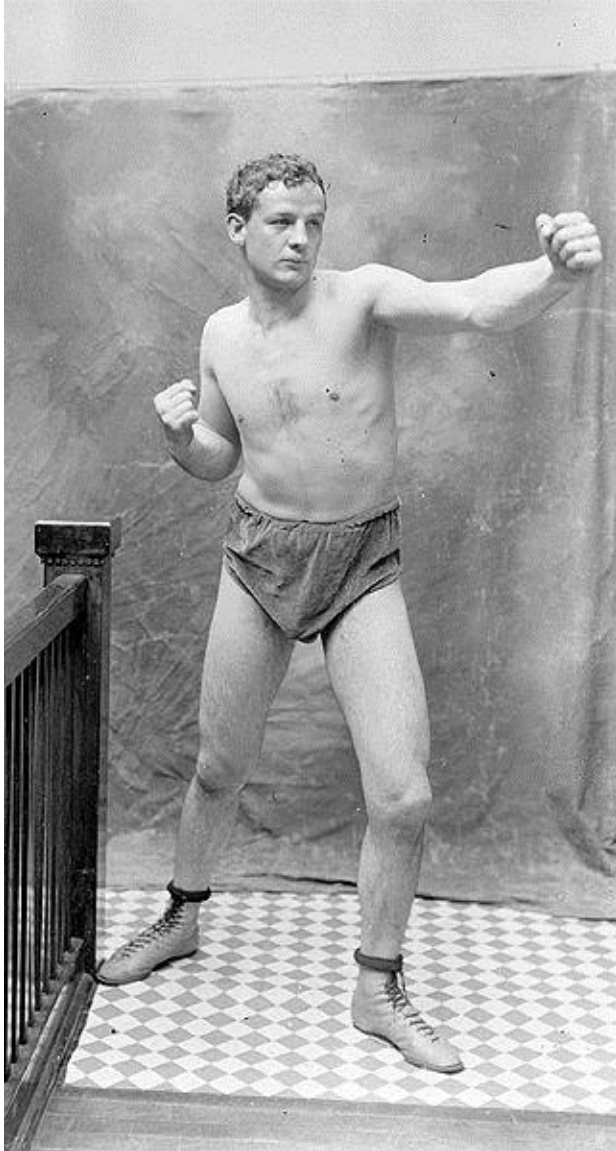
A step up in class was required and came in the form of Al Weinig. Al stood 6 feet 1 inch and tipped in at around 190 pounds. He had wins over Jim Daly, Dick O'Brien, and "Doc" Payne and would follow up the Hart fight by beating Dick Moore, Jim Scanlon, Dan Creedon, Billy Stift, John Willie, Jim Jeffords and Jack McCormack. After a tough battle during which Weinig had the best of the early fighting, at the Music Hall, the man from Buffalo hit the mat three times in round eleven of the scheduled twelve and was counted out on the last visit.

The Kentucky man was on a roll and the useful "Australian" Jimmy Ryan went out in eight a month later. Ryan boasted a draw with Jack Root, about whom more anon. Next came another step up, in the form of another conqueror of Jimmy Ryan, Tommy West. Billy Stift, Joe Walcott, Dick Moore, Charlie Stevenson, Jack Bonner, George Byers, Billy Hanrahan, Frank Craig, "Doc" Payne and Philadelphia Jack O'Brien had all fallen to the little man from Wales.

The bout took place at the Southern Athletic Club and West, despite weighing only 158 to his opponents 165 was the betting favorite. He was coming off a middleweight title loss to the great Tommy Ryan and hoped to garner a quick win. It was not to be, and from the thirteenth on, West was down numerous times before referee Tim Hurst brought proceedings to a halt in round 16 of a mooted 20.

Dan Creedon, one time big hope from New Zealand was on the come back trail, Frank Craig, Alec Greggains, Frank Childs, Nick Burley, Al Weinig and England's Jem Smith were just some of the top men he had defeated in his long career. In a savage fight at the Southern A.C. set for 25 rounds, Hart still gaining weight at 170 pounds, sent his man, 167 pounds, crashing to the canvas in round three. The bell saved him in round five but a right hook sent Dan down and out in the sixth. His corner tried to revive him by sprinkling water during the count and this led to an all-out melee. The police soon cleared it all up.

Big Jack Beauschulte was trotted out next and lasted into the tenth before Marvin's career met its first hiccup. It came in the unlikely form of former amateur middleweight star "Wild" Billy Hanrahan. Hanrahan had drawn with George Byers and taken Joe Walcott into the twelfth round as well as starching Kid Carter in twelve and winning and losing against Jack Bonner but nothing in his record hinted at what was about to happen. They met at the Auditorium in Louisville and from the outset Hart looked out of sorts. He was to claim later that he was drugged and while this was a common defense in those days, contemporaneous accounts bear out that Marvin seemed ill at ease and lacking a confident air before the first bell. Whatever the reason, the 175 pound "Wild" Bill caught him cold, knocking him down with a right to the neck. A dazed Hart got to his feet to be met by a left to the body and a right to the point of the jaw which ended his interest in the proposed twelve rounder as Tim Hurst tolled the fatal ten.



This defeat has never been adequately explained, as Hart never again showed any signs of either a nervous disposition or a “glass” chin. Marvin went quickly about rebuilding his shattered career and picked no less an opponent than the hard-hitting Billy Stift. Stift wasn’t much of a boxer but he hit as hard as a mule. Weinig, West, “Mysterious” Billy Smith and George Byers were some who had felt his power. After a hard and fast three rounds, it was the man from Chicago who bit the dust.

The experienced Dick O’Brien came to the Empire Athletic Club in April 1902. Craig, Weinig, Sandy Ferguson, Ed Binney, “Scaldy” Bill Quinn and Bobby Dobbs were the big wins on his résumé as well as a draw with Kid McCoy. He was completely outclassed by the hard-hitting Kentuckian and after three rounds of hitting to the face and body. Hart knocked his hapless victim out with a right hand to the solar plexus. The impressive winner threw punches “with such rapidity that it was impossible to keep count of them”.

Kid Carter was the next to test the Louisville comer and a tough test it promised to be. In an up and down career the then twenty two year old held wins over George Cole, Billy Hanrahan, Joe Walcott, and Jack Bonner. More significantly, he was coming off

two great wins in 1902 over the great Joe Choynski (KO1) and Al Weinig. After eight and a half rounds of terrific fighting Hart knocked out the Kid with a tremendous left to the jaw, delivered when he himself seemed almost ready to fall. Both men were severely battered and the winner was bleeding freely from the mouth and nose and his face and right eye were badly swollen. Carter maintained he never met any opponent who could take punishment like Hart.

In August Billy Stift was again beaten, this time after six rounds of “awkward fighting” in a disappointing showing. It took Hart four rounds to get going and then he started landing his straight left and “by rough work held his advantage”. The fight marked two milestones however, it was Marvin’s first “away” contest, having been held in Chicago and it was also his first bout to go to a decision.

October 16 saw Kid Carter renew acquaintances with Hart, this time at the Penn A.C. in Philadelphia over six rounds in a no decision affair. Again, it was a crowd pleaser and the honors

were fairly even though the tough Louisville lad had the edge.

Jack Root from Chicago now crossed paths with Hart for the first time. Born in Austria in 1876 he amassed a brilliant record going 46 fight undefeated against all the top middle and heavyweights of the period. The names of the men he defeated are a who's-who of the period and were littered with former foes of Harts. Root is lightly regarded today but very few, if any, fighters in the history of the light-heavyweight division have better records. Stift, Jim Ryan, Craig, Greggains, West, Dick O'Brien, Creedon, Byers, Carter, and George Gardiner were just a sample of his victims. Australian Jimmy Ryan and Tommy Ryan had draws against Root and it was the outstanding George Gardiner that snapped his streak in August 1902.

Root bounced back with a win over Kid Carter but many felt the Kid deserved the decision. Hart felt that he was ready for Root. He was wrong.

Root took the six round decision in the Glicman Theatre, under the auspices of the Lyceum Club, Chicago, even though Marvin always maintained that he got a raw deal against the local hero. Accounts at the time said that Root was just too fast and cute for the stronger southerner.

Nothing daunted, Hart was engaged for a six round no decision affair with "Philadelphia" Jack O'Brien at the Penn Art club in that man's hometown. George Cole, Yank Kenny, Craig and Choynski numbered amongst Jack's many scalps and Jack was moving with the big boys having tackled the dangerous Peter Maher in a couple of close no-decision affairs.

O'Brien was a cautious operator and felt that Hart was too strong for him. He insisted that Hart agree not to KO him, Hart agreed but Jack wanted his opponent to put up a forfeit. Hart refused, simply because he hadn't got the money anyway. Jack then demanded that Hart's purse be frozen in the event of the unthinkable happening and O'Brien been kayoed, Hart again refused whereupon the crafty Philadelphian announced to the crowd that Hart, the heavier by fifteen pounds, was too big for him to tackle. Marvin, seeing a badly needed payday, going down the drain, relented and Jack promptly went back to the crowd and bravely (!) agreed to go against the heavier man! O'Brien had the better of it early on but in the fifth Hart forgot himself and forced the issue. In the last, he drove O'Brien to the mat for a nine count and the lighter man ran and hugged until the bell saved O'Brien; - and Hart!

All-in -all 1902 was a good year and on the domestic front, he had married the pretty Florence Zeigler on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the fighting front, he had moved to a level just behind the big boys. In Mick Paul's brilliant retrospective computer ratings, he comes in at joint tenth with Kid Carter at the end of '02.

The men ahead of him are impressive. Jeffries, Fitz, Ryan, Johnson, Gus Ruhlin, Root, Gardiner, O'Brien and "Denver" Ed Martin.

1903 saw a continuation of the good form with a four round disqualification win over capable Jack Bonner. Jack knocked his man through the ropes in the second but them resorted to butting Hart in the stomach. Referee George Siler promptly awarded the verdict to Hart. Bonner,

too, had mixed with the best and had scored wins over Burley, West, Joe Butler, Dick O'Brien, Creedon, Dick Moore, Yank Kenny and Hanrahan.

A return with "Philadelphia" Jack O'Brien in that man's city saw the fighting plumber having the best of it with his superior strength and harder hitting. O'Brien always had trouble with Hart and never wanted any part of a decision fight over a long number of rounds with him. Marvin wasn't as big and slow as the usual heavies that Jack bewildered with his skill and speed but yet he had the strength, stamina and punching power of the bigger men. Jack was down in the fifth and the bell was a welcome relief at the end of the sixth as he was all in.

Irishman George Gardiner, the future light-heavyweight champion of the world (he would win the title in his next fight with a KO of Jack Root) was the next in line. Like Root, O'Brien and Hart he had a tremendous record. Carter, Craig, Walcott, Byers, Maher, Weinig, Stift were some of the names on his plus side and he had given the outstanding Jack Johnson a good argument over the twenty round distance six months earlier. A great and close contest went to the wire until Hart broke his hand and had to retire in the twelfth of a set-for twenty. George hit faster and oftener, Marvin hit harder and was the stronger.

The great Joe Choynski was engaged in a six round no-decision battle in Philadelphia. Joe had mixed with the best, champions Corbett, Fitz, Jeffries, Johnson and near champs like Sharkey, Maher, Ruhlin and McCoy and had held his own with them all. He was on the slide now but after six rounds of fast, furious and skillful action, most observers felt honors were even.

Edward "Kid" Carter re-entered the fray in December '03 in Boston and another mighty struggle ensued. Peter Maher, John Willie and Joe Butler had bit the dust against the "Kid" since their last encounter and this one was to be a classic. It took place at the Criterion Athletic Club, and was a savage affair. Carter was knocked down in the third and clinched to survive. From there to the ninth, it was warfare but Hart had the better of it. Carter opened a bad cut over Hart's left eye, which bled freely but from that point to the finish in the fifteenth round Hart repeatedly floored the Kid. With one minute left in the fight referee Buckley waved off the action to save Carter from serious harm after he was knocked down twice in that round.

1904 saw Hart back at the Criterion Club, against the local man George Gardiner who had won and lost the light-heavyweight crown since last fighting Hart, beating Root and losing to Fitz. They fought fifteen furious rounds and at the finish, it was declared a draw. The decision was not a popular one, for it was the opinion of all that Hart had the best of it, dropping the Irishman twice in the second. In all other rounds, he punched his opponent around the ring and completely outclassed him.

John Willie, another useful journeyman was the next obstacle in Chicago and in a poor performance, honors were even at the end of the six no-decision rounds. Hart came down sick after the fight and this may account for the poor performance. Willie was no slouch, however, as his wins over Weinig and Beauscholte testify. It took a rally in the last round to earn Hart the draw.



The biggest top class fighter of the time was John “Sandy” Ferguson who at six feet three and 197 pounds was a formidable foe. Dick O’Brien, Bob Armstrong, “Klondyke” Haynes, Joe Walcott and George Byers were men who had succumbed to his tough, no-nonsense style. The venue for his clash with Marvin was the Whittington Park Athletic Club, Hot Springs, Arkansas, before a large crowd. Hart forced the fighting at all times but caught a lot of left jabs to the face. Ferguson sent him to the floor for a seven count in the seventh round but as he often did, Hart finished well in the latter part. Swings, uppercuts and kidney punches swung the closest of contests in the favor of the lighter man at 185 pounds. Hart had started a 2 to 1 favorite.

Back to Philadelphia for a date with another big heavy, the Akron Giant Gus Ruhlin for a six round no-decision clash at the National Athletic Club.

Steve O’Donnell, Maher, Joe Goddard, Sharkey were the caliber of men that Gus had fought and beaten and he even had a draw with the champion Jeffries. Hart entered the affray against the three inches taller Ruhlin with an injured left hand but it bothered him little as he dominated the early exchanges before dumping his adversary in the fourth, for a nine count with a big right hand. In the last round, the men went toe to toe in a fast and furious finish after which it was generally felt that Hart had the better of it.

They met again a month later at the Eureka Athletic and Sporting Club in Baltimore. This time over twelve rounds and Gus had trained hard in the meantime but the result was much the same, though some felt that Gus was worth a draw this time around.

At this point in time Hart was just about the top white contender for Jeffries title and a contest was arranged for early 1905 with the other logical contender, the top black heavyweight, Jack Johnson. Woodard’s Pavillion, San Francisco was the meeting place of the two hopefuls. Twenty rounds of hard fighting ensued with Hart the aggressor and Johnson the superior in strength and skill. Harts dogged approach and body punches won the day and he was awarded the decision by referee Alec Greggains. Speaking afterwards Greggains said, “Hart won because he was aggressive throughout the fight. He wanted to fight continually. Johnson, in my opinion, dogged it”. Johnson would later claim that the sight of a revolver in the lap of a ringsider encouraged him to ease up on Hart but after retirement he gave Marvin his due, saying he was one of his toughest men he ever met.

Breaking his own Southern induced color bar had pushed our man to the very head of the contenders for championship honors.

A date with John Willie on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Sporting Club in Philadelphia marked time for Hart and he had little difficulty beating his opponent, hitting him at will in a rather poor contest before a small crowd. His next contest was to be a different kettle of fish, Hart's manager, Jack McCormack, secured a world title fight with Jack Root on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Reno, Nevada.

Since his win over Hart, Jack had defeated Kid McCoy to win the first generally recognized light-heavyweight title and then lost it to Gardiner. However, he had since avenged this reversal and also topped the up-and-coming Fireman Jim Flynn. All this conspired to make him the clear leader in the betting.

The retired champion Jim Jeffries acted as referee in this contest to find his successor and Root weighed in at 171 pounds to Harts 190. in what was to prove a good fight, Root started fast and his speed won him most of the early rounds while Hart looked for the body. Round seven saw a steady assault by Jack, culminating in Hart crashing to the floor from a big right hand just before the bell. Without much doubt, if he had been caught earlier in the round he would not have survived.

It was a tribute to his recuperative powers that he came out in the eight and took the action to Root and by the tenth was starting to score heavily with right hand swings. Twelve proved to be the faithful number for the Austrian as a tremendous right to the chest resounded through the theatre and smashed Root to the floor where he remained for the duration of the full count. \$3,200 accrued to Marvin as his end of the purse but more importantly, Hart was world champion!

Hart's right to be considered a true linear champion has often been questioned but at the time all agreed that he was either number one or two in the pecking order and his win over Root was universally acclaimed. He had proved himself superior to all the leading contenders, Root, Gardiner, O'Brien, Carter, Johnson and Ruhlin. The retrospective regarding of Hart's achievements and abilities stem from Johnson's victory over Burns. The best way to diminish the "Negro's" win was to denigrate Burns as a fighter, and if Tommy was no good, then it followed that neither was Hart. The truth was that Burns was a great fighter and probably a good match for any champion up to that time, Jeffries excepted.

Pat Callahan, a miner from Butte was engaged for a four round non-title tilt in his hometown in Montana. Despite conceding a great weight difference to the champion, he is credited with putting Hart to the canvas in the opening round. He paid the price in the next as the aggressive Hart put him to sleep.

Tommy Burns, a five feet seven inch Canadian, had risen the ranks to challenge Hart for the title. The lightly regarded contender was a two to one underdog for their clash at the Pacific Athletic Club, Los Angeles before 4,000 fight fans. Tommy started nervously in the opener but from there to the finish, he out boxed a bloody and increasingly rough and frustrated Hart in all

rounds except the tenth and twelfth. The decision of referee Charles Eyton was a formality.

Marvin licked his wounds and boxed a lively four rounds no decision bout with southpaw Mike Schreck in Madison Square Garden in New York. After the fight Hart reckoned he had learnt enough to master his difficult and awkward opponent, Schreck was the “Spinks Jinx”, the Mike “the Bounty” Hunter, the Jimmy Young of the era. The man from Ohio held a win over Burns as well as Willie and Gardiner. He was to prove to be Marvin’s nemesis.

1907 started with a pair of victories in Hot Springs. The first was a very impressive two round demolition job on his old foe from the early Louisville days, Harry Rogers. A big right hand did the trick. The second opponent was the once great Peter Maher, perhaps the biggest hitter of the period. He was well over the hill at this time and only once in the first round did he connect with his famous right swing, which visibly affected Hart. The man who had laid low Choynski, Slavin, Goddard, Ruhlin, Godfrey and hundreds more was but a shadow of his former self and a body blow sent him to the mat at the gong. The Kentuckian then struck but two blows in the second and the Irishman wisely lay down.

This activity saw Hart line up a big contest at Tonopah, Nevada, with Mike Schreck, advertised for the world heavyweight title. Since their first clash, Schreck had knocked out Rogers, Ben Tremble, John Willie and Tony Ross. It was a terrific scrap with Hart the aggressor and Schreck giving as good as he got, the right wrist that Marvin had broken against Gardiner gave out in the sixth but still he gamely fought on. Mike was nearly put away in the eighteenth but rallied in the next two and Hart was a sorry sight at the end of the twentieth. Half way through the next, Hart’s seconds threw in the sponge and referee George Siler awarded the fight to Schreck. Hart was never the same fighter again after this punishing contest and neither was Schreck.

Ten months later, Hart re-entered the ring to score a win over John Willie in a scheduled twenty at Hot Springs. Willie was disqualified by referee “Doc” Hottum of Memphis for hitting Hart on the ear after a break in the fourth round. He then boxed a draw with old foe Kid Hubert in the Kid’s home base at Lexington before tackling the top-flight contender, Jack “Twin” Sullivan. Sullivan had just started to slip but in his time had defeated Burns, Burley, Schreck, Billy Squires and had crossed gloves with almost every top Middle and Heavy of that time. He should have added Marvin to his list of victories as he was well on top of their scheduled twelve round bout at the Armory in Boston, when a body blow doubled Hart up. He claimed a foul and referee Dan Donnelly agreed and awarded him the contest. Another six rounder with John Willie in a no decision affair closed out 1908.

1909 saw Hart score his last victory at the West Side A.C. McDonoughville, New Orleans over Tony Ross. Ross, himself, had been a leading contender, and had beaten Schreck and Gardiner. Marvin won on a thirteen round disqualification. Ross would fight world champion Jack Johnson three months later and would go on to record good wins over Frank Moran and “Sandy” Ferguson.

Mike Schreck broke Harts jaw in the third at Terre Haute before he was rescued by his seconds and he had his swan song against the big “white hope” Carl Morris in December 1910.





Swan song is hardly the appropriate word as Hart weighed a career high of 212 pounds to his opponents 235 and after been blasted to the floor he survived to the middle of the third before his corner mercifully called *finis* to his career.

After retiring, the former champion pursued his hobbies of plumbing and farming on his property on the Barnstown pike. He took particular delight in raising Plymouth Rock chickens. He also acted as referee at many boxing contests. In the later part of his career, he operated a tavern at 466 East Market Street in downtown Louisville. Marvin was not blessed with any children and passed away at his Fern Hill home, after an illness lasting nine months, on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1931. Reportedly, he died of an enlarged liver and blood pressure problems. He is buried with his wife Florence who died in 1967, in Resthaven Cemetery six miles south of Louisville.

Marvin Hart was a modest man and very underrated today, both in contrast to Louisville's other more famous heavyweight champion.

The epitaph on his headstone says a lot. "Champion Heavyweight Boxer of the World 1905 to 1906. A friend of countless hundreds. A man among men, an ideal of children, a clean fighter whose example will continue to inspire the coming generations."

Sources: Marvin Hart-The fighter and the Man by David Nicolaou. (Boxing Illustrated, May 1973)

Contemporary Newspaper Articles 1900-1911

**Article dated 2 July 1905**

**HEAVYWEIGHT FIGHTERS**

**BOTH CONFIDENT**

**OF VICTORY**

**Root and Hart Have Put Finishing Touches on Training**

**And Await the Gong**

No lust limbed gladiators of ancient Rome ever battled for the laurel leaves of victory, who were finer specimens of vigorous manhood than Marvin Hart and Jack Root. These two young men, trained to the hour, upon the eve of battle both confident of victory, present an interesting problem, which the numerous sporting men who are now in the city are trying to solve and many of them are backing their opinions with their coin.

When the men respond to the gong tomorrow afternoon they will be truly fit for the fray. Each has a large following and from the unbiased view point, it looks like anybody's fight.

Root arrived here yesterday morning fresh from his four weeks of training near Ogden and a select few saw him at his gymnasium work at Wheelmen's hall yesterday afternoon. The Chicago man is fast. He is strong and has a punch that worked on the punching bag, looks fully as effective as any delivered by his opponent from the Blue Grass state.

Root is lighter by twenty pounds than Hart, but what he lacks in weight he certainly makes up in speed. He strips as a well trained athlete. His shoulders are muscled and the sinews of his arms and legs are like whipcords. He has no ounce of superfluous flesh upon his agile frame. He is truly speaking trained to a fine point. His footwork is great and he is as quick as a cat and one has but to see him to appreciate the perfection to which the body of man may be brought. Root is fifteen inches larger around the chest than he is about the waist.

**MEN EXCHANGE COURTESIES**

When Root arrived Marvin Hart sent word to him that he was perfectly welcome to the use of the gymnasium during the hours which had been set aside for his training program. The Chicago man, glad of the opportunity after his twenty-four hour ride on the train to get out and limber up his muscles, spent two hours at hard work during the afternoon. He then went to the hotel, where he renewed acquaintances with Jeffries and a number of ring followers who are in the city.

## **HART IN GREAT SHAPE**

The big Kentuckian, with his trainers, aside from a short spin on the road today, have completed their preparations for the fight. Hart's eye-and skin are as clear as fresh air and exercise will make them. During the last five days he has developed a great deal of speed, indeed particular attention has been paid to the boxing feature of his program. McCormick stated yesterday that he expected that Hart would win the fight within a few rounds as he is in shape to set a whirlwind pace. It may be said that any one who sees the fight Monday will get their money's worth, as both the participants are noted as aggressive mix it up fighters.

## **WILL NOT RETIRE**

When the Rod-Hart match was made the eastern papers announced a statement from Root saying that if he won the championship he would retire at the end of the year. Root yesterday repudiated the statement with the observation that his victory would place him in a position to defend the title for some time and that he would remain in the ring as long as he was able to defend the title.

Marvin Hart declares that he will fight all of them If he is successful in Monday's fight.

"I don't know Just where the fights will come from," said Hart, discussing the matter yesterday, "as I .have already beaten all the big ones, but time will bring new men into the business, and there will be plenty of work for a champion to look after in the future."

## **ROOT HAS HIS OWN GLOVES**

Lou Houseman, manager for Root, Yesterday submitted a pair of gloves owned by his man for the Inspection of the officers of the club. Hart consented to Root wearing his own gloves and the padded mitts were locked in the safe at the Golden Hotel and will not be touched until the day of the fight, when they will be submitted to Referee Jeffries for his inspection and approval.

## **ABOUT THE ARTICLES**

The men agree to be at the ringside at 2 o'clock on Monday afternoon and fight for 35 and 66 per cent of the \$5000 purse offered by the club, or \$1750 to the loser and \$3250 to the winner. Jeffries has been agreed upon by Houseman and McCormick as referee for the fight. Lou Houseman will hold the watch for Root and Albert Updike will officiate for Hart. Both men will wear light bandages on their hands and fight with five ounce gloves. The fight will be to a finish under Marquis of Queenbury rules, which call for three minute rounds with one minute rests and ten counts down to constitute a knockout.

## **TIMEKEEPER**

Frank Shortell, superintendent of the Nevada, Tonopah and Goldfield Mining and Development Company, will probably officiate as official timekeeper. In response to an invitation to act in this capacity Mr. Shorten yesterday wired the officers of the club stating that he would accept the offer and would be here on the morning of the fight.

### **Reno Gazette 3 July 1905**

It came in the twelfth round. For a little over eleven rounds the glistening bodies of the two fighters had swayed back and forth. To the nonpartisan spectator neither seemed to have any advantage. Root was bleeding at the mouth and Hart was bleeding from the nose. The hot sun had sapped the strength of both. Root, fast and shifty, was jabbing at Hart. Suddenly, like a young ox, Hart rushed at his foe. His left shot straight for the chin. His right swung with tremendous force for the kidneys. Both blows landed. Root went to the floor, his face twisting and his body writhing. Vainly he tried to stand. The cheers of the crowd smote hastily upon his clanging ears. Over at the side the timekeepers marked off the seconds with the remorseless of fate. Jeffries, standing over Root, followed then count. One more heroic effort Root made. His hand reached up and clutched at the ropes. It was a futile trial. What the spirit ordered the flesh refused to do. He fell back to the floor. It was the tenth second. A new world's champion was proclaimed.

### **Victor greets Vanquished.**

Thunders of cheers broke loose as Jeffries pointed to Hart, and called him victor. Root, staggering and dazed, was helped to his corner by his seconds. From the opposite corner Hart, his face ablaze with happiness, broke from his joy-crazed followers and rushed to his defeated foe, "Hello, Jack, old man," he shouted., "Put it there. You fought a good' fight."

"You Got Me, Marvin."

Root put out his hand wearily. The daze of that awful blow in the stomach was still upon him. All he knew was that his seconds were fanning him, and that his week's of hard training and his hopes of championship had been shattered in the twinkling of an eye. Finally he smiled. "You got me that time, Marvin," he said. "It was an awful blow".

### **Battling Nelson's Views.**

"Our man was winning all along," said Battling Nelson, Root's second. "He was fighting a better fight than Hart, until that last punch came. I believe that if they ever come together again Root will whip him."

### **Houseman's Opinion,**

"It was a good fight," said Lou Houseman, Root's manager. "I think Root had the best of it until that fluke blow came along. It was a fluke, and that's all you can call it. However, Hart put up a surprisingly fast fight, and showed his ability to take severe punishment.

### **Hart's Trainers Happy.**

It was a jubilant crowd that gathered in Hart's stuffy little box that the athletic club had built and called a dressing room. Barring an abrasion of the left shoulder, and a swollen lip, there was not a mark upon his body. Working over him were McCormick and Jack Roberts.

### **Ready for the World.**

"I am satisfied but am not surprised," said Hart. "I told you it would not go over fifteen rounds. I am ready for any man in the world now, barring negroes." "Why, he's hardly scratched," said Jack Roberts. "Look at him. Isn't he the lad that can fight? Did you ever see a man fight cleaner than he did? His hands were always up at Jeffries' order. He could go on now and fight forty rounds and not feel it."

### **Hart the Favorite.**

Through the fight the sympathies of the crowd seemed to be with Hart. This was largely because of the fact that he had trained in Reno and Reno people made up the largest portion of the crowd. Just before the fight began, the betting turned slightly in Hart's favor. One man went through the crowd offering Hart money at one hundred to eighty, but could not find a taker.

Long before the crowd ceased coming it was reported that in the arena there was already an \$8000 crowd. Many people came after that, enough to swell the total receipts to about \$12,000. The promoters, Senator Livingston, and Joe Egan, and the Reno Athletic Club, were well pleased with the size of the crowd, and will probably pull off more fights in the same arena in which Jack Root met swift defeat this afternoon.

"It was one fight in years," exclaimed Manager Joe Egan. "A better one never occurred, from the tap of the gong until Root went down it was a struggle between the two best men in the ring today. Personally I did not want to see either man defeated, but one had to lose and I think the best man won."

### **Livingston is Pleased,**

Senator Livingston, who pulled off the contest, is the best pleased man in the city this afternoon with the possible exception of Marvin Hart. "I had no favorite," he said, "but it gives me great satisfaction to know that the fight was on the level and that the people are satisfied. The fight was one of the fiercest I ever saw and compares with the great battle between Jim Corbett and Bob Fitzsimmons at Carson City." Senator Livingston stated that other fights would probably

follow this one, and that Nevada would become the sporting center of the country.

RINGSIDE, RENO, Nevada, July 3.

—The fight for the relinquished heavyweight championship of the world between Jack Root of Chicago and Marvin Hart of Louisville will be attended by about four thousand people. The people have paid all the way from two dollars to ten dollars each for seats to see the battle. There was a liberal sprinkling of women in the attendance. The men stepped into the ring about twenty pounds apart. In weight, Root scaling 170 while Hart weighed 190. The feature of the fight aside from the battle itself is the initial appearance of James J. Jeffries, retired champion of the world who is to act as arbiter for which function the Las Angeles boilermaker received one thousand dollars.

Corbett, the stakeholder is at the ringside with the club's five thousand dollars in his pocket. This is to be split on the basis of 65 per cent to the winner and thirty five per cent to the loser.

Before entering the ring James Jeffries awaited upon both men and stated that he had retired for good from the ring and that the winner of this fight is entitled to the name of heavyweight champion of the world. The following message was received by Jack Root from John L. Sullivan at Oakland, California: "In case you win I, on behalf of Jim McCormick, challenge you to fight for a two thousand five hundred dollar side bet."

Considerable time is being wasted in adjusting the gloves, the crowd meanwhile is sweltering in open arena. "Battling" Nelson has been introduced and relieves the tedious wait come by agreeing to fight Britt to a finish in this ring. Jack Johnson and George Gardner have both challenged the winner

## THE BATTLE BY ROUNDS

### **Round 1**

Rush into a clinch, Hart lands right to head. Root countering to jaw. They run into a clinch. Root starts jabbing left. Hart lands straight right to head. Root lands left to Hart's head. Root sends right to body. Root sends left to jaw and left to body. Root jabs jaw and they clinch. Root lands on Hart's jaw. Root sends left to jaw and left to body, Root uppercuts. Clinch. Hart lands right to jaw. Root lands right on jaw. This round was about even.

### **Round 2**

Root landed *left* hard to jaw. Repeats it and rushes into clinch. Root landed right to body and uppercut the body, Hart and Root exchange lefts. Rushed into clinch. Root shoots left over right to jaw of Hart. Root crossed right to head hair, Root getting to Hart's body and they clinch. Root missed hard swing and Root kept poking left to Hart's body. Root missed vicious right swing. Hart landed left hard to body. Root round.

### **Round 3**

They rushed to clinch. Root landed left hard to jaw and Hart returns hard to body with right. They clinch. They Indulge In rough infighting. Root lands left on Hart's jaw. Hart missed a vicious right swing.

Hart landed right hard under heart. Hart is fighting desperately. Root Hart landed hard right to kidneys. stomach. Root landed hard right to jaw. They are clinched. Root sends left to body. They exchanged lefts to jaw. Honors about even. Both men fighting desperately.

### **Round 4**

Both men appear very fresh. They exchanged lefts to jaw. landed left to Jaw and ducked vicious Hart landed hard on kidneys. Root uppercuts. Root put hard left to jaw. Root landed hard right swing to Jaw. Root landed left and right Jab to Hart's jaw. They clinched and in the break Root put left to jaw. Desperate In fighting. Root puts right to jaw. Hart put hard right to body. Clinch. Root puts left swing to Hart's heart. Hart swings wildly. Hoot put left to jaw. Round about even.

### **Round 5**

Root put left to mouth. They exchange lefts to body and clinched. They clinched. Hart landed right swing but went wide of mark. Hart put right to jaw. Clinched. Root put left to head and right to Jaw. Hart hits body hard with right and they clinched. Boxing in clinches. Hart landed right- and left swings to head and Root uppercuts to body. Root landed left to body. Root missed vicious right swing to Jaw. Root puts right to jaw and left hard to body. This was Root's round.

### **Round 6**

Root landed right to body they clinched Root lands to body and they clinched. Root lands to body Hart puts right to kidneys.Hart lands right swing to body and Root retaliates with left to body. Root swings left to jaw, repeats it and right to body. Hart puts left hook to chin,they clinched and both held on hard. Root put left to jaw .Root receives Hard left to chin and right to head.Root upper cuts to body.Hart missed left right swing. Root landed hard left to jaw, clinched.hart puts hard right and left to body.Root goes to Body with both right and left. .This round equally divided.

### **Round 7**

Root puts left to body and they clinched.Root put left to jaw.Hart put hard right and left to jaw. Hart pounded kidneys.fighting hard, Root sent to stomach. Hart landed vicious right swing to side of head. They clinched. Root put right to head. Hart put stiff right hook to heart. Root landed left to jaw and ducked vicious swing for head. Root put hard right to Hart's heart and receives stiff Jab to jaw. Hart landed right swing to body Root knocks Hart down with a terrific right just as the gong sounds. A claim of foul is made for Hart, but Jeff declines foul and orders men to continue. Gong saves Hart.

## **Round 8**

Hart comes up fresh and boxes into clinch. Root doing very clever foot work. Both men fighting for body. Hart's nose bleeding. They indulge in rough infighting. Exchange left hooks to Jaw Clinched. Root lands hard right to body. Clinched. Hart lands hard to jaw. Fighting in short against all rules and Jeffries had to break them. Root landed hard to body. Root put left and right to jaw, but Hart hangs on gamely. Root rights and lefts to head. Root landed terrific right swing just as gong sounded. This was Root's round.

## **Round 9**

They exchange left and rush into a clinch, both hanging on. Hart put right hard to jaw and Root put left to nose. Hart landed right jab to stomach. Root lands left hook to jaw. Root jabs stomach hard and put right to Jaw. Hart pounded kidneys. Root put left jab hard to stomach. Clinched Hart put hard right to stomach and jaw and right swing to kidneys. Root put left swing to kidneys Root ducks right swing and puts left to jaw. Hart made a spurt In this round and had a slight lead.

## **Round 10**

Clinched. Hart put hard to jaw. Hart puts right to body. Both miss right swings and clinch. Root put left hard to jaw and right to stomach. Clinched. Root lands stiff right uppercut to chin and ducks a swing. Root puts straight left to body. Hart lands right swing to Root's neck, rocking him. They fight into a clinch. They exchange rights to body. Boxing in and out of clinches. Root put left to jaw as the bell sounded. Honors about even,

## **Round 11**

Root jabbed Jaw and they clinched. Hart put left to Jaw and missed right to head. They exchanged swings and clinched. They fought into a clinch. Root swings to body and landed hard left on jaw. Root landed right and left to head and left to stomach. Root pounded stomach with both right and left. Hart landed hard right swing to kidneys. Root put left to chin and right body. Root drives left to stomach and receives left to body.

## **Round 12**

They fought to a clinch. Hart landed with left to body, Root ducked out of a swing. Hart missed swing to head and received right to ear. Root lands left lightly to head, they clinched. Root uppercuts hard to face. Hart wins with hard right to pit of stomach.