

DECEMBER 21, 1920

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CHAMPION JACK DEMPSEY DISAPPOINTED FIGHT CRITICS

Champion Did Not Create Favorable Impression by Victory Over Brennan. Failed Miserably to Line up to Reputation Earned by Defeating Willard.

The following are the comments on the Dempsey-Brennan fight on Tuesday night from the New York newspapers:

The Evening Sun says: "If Dempsey was doing his best Tuesday night it will be necessary to completely revise the estimates of him that was formed as a result of his victories over the glass-jawed Fulton, the slothful Willard, the cumbersome Morris and the host of third-raters that he sent to sleep. Instead of being proclaimed the greatest champion in ring history, his position will be a far more modest one."

"From first to last, the bout lacked sensational features. Even the knockout was less dramatic than such happenings usually are. It came after Brennan had been worn down and discouraged by the constant pounding of Dempsey's left in the clinches."

"Not once during the twelve rounds did Dempsey let fly a care-free, full arm swing, backed by the full power of his brawny shoulders. Instead he chopped and hooked and mugged and mauled. His blows were cramped and lacked power."

"Dempsey ever has been essentially a fighter. Tuesday night, when he was not cuffing in a half clinch, he was trying to box 'cleverly' at long range and making a sorry hash of it."

The Evening Globe says editorially:

"Bill Brennan—poor, foolish, rash Bill Brennan—he took the Dempsey punch and kept his feet, and so can other men. We breathe easier. This clay called Dempsey is even as other clay."

"The origin of the Dempsey legend is lost in the files of newspapers, which few will now consult. By a certain common miracle of ink and paper, an admirable boxer and stout-hearted fighter was promoted to be a superman. Other great reputations might shrink to the same modest proportions, maybe, if as bright a light was turned upon them as shone Tuesday evening on the arena in Madison Square."

SPORTING WORLD WONDERING

R. L. Goldberg, in the Evening Mail, says:

"At 11.30 Tues. night all New York was wondering. Today the whole sporting world is wondering. Jack Dempsey, halted around the world as the greatest fighting machine that ever held the heavyweight ti-

tle, met a reputed third-rater, belonging to the well-known school of hopeless heavyweights. The champion failed miserably to live up to the reputation he earned a year and a half ago when he knocked out the giant Jess Willard in Toledo with his death-dealing blows."

Hugh S. Fullerton, in the Evening Mail:

"Jack Dempsey, champion, and Bill Brennan afford an odd study. The men, so far as physical comparisons go, might be twins. 'What is the difference?' The only difference I can see is that Dempsey seems to have better co-ordination between brain, eye and muscle."

"Tuesday night, when the crowd fancied Brennan was slipping past or landing glancing fashion. The half-inch shift on the head of Dempsey rendered Brennan's wallops harmless, while in the close fighting Dempsey landed solidly with weak effect. Perfect co-ordination furnishes the clue to the difference between the men."

MUST SHOW GREATER SKILL
The Evening Post says editorially:

"To Jack Dempsey at Madison Square Garden last night there must have come the realization that he will have to show a higher kind of skill against Carpenter when the agile Frenchman gets ready to contest his title. Dempsey confesses to surprise that Brennan lasted to the twelfth round. It may well be that over-confidence did Dempsey no good Tuesday night. If that is the case, he may yet be gateful to Brennan for a useful reminder."

Vincent Tressor, in the Evening World:

"The knockout punch was not of the snappy or classy variety that puts a man flat on the floor for the count and then some. It was more of what might be regarded as cave-mannish. It is called the 'rabbit blow' in England, where it is now barred, as well as in Australia, and is so called because when a rabbit is captured the easiest way to kill him is to hit him a smart chopping blow on the back as he is held suspended by the hind legs. However, it retained the championship for Dempsey, and that's all that is necessary. It lacked everything of the sensational. The fight proved that neither Dempsey isn't as good as he was, or wanted to show that he can go a route if necessary. Anyhow, Brennan proved a big surprise."

Harry Cross, in the Evening Post says:

"Here was a Dempsey the crowd had not expected to see. All the sympathy that had been expressed for Brennan for the past few days was wasted. The champion was the one who needed the sympathy."

"The champion's blows had neither the velocity nor the fine marksmanship that sent Fulton, Willard and Mike reeling. To see the heavyweight champion of the world backing away from the attack of a challenger of Brennan's calibre was a far more surprising spectacle than the knockout."

LOST POPULARITY
Walter St. Denis, in the Evening Globe says:

"The fight gained nothing in the way of prestige for the champion. He lost some of his popularity by the fight, for the great majority of those present in the Garden take it for granted that what he showed is the best he has got, and that surely was nothing to compare with what Jim Jeffries, Bob Fitzsim-

Dempsey's Career

European Champion Will Take on No One Before. Big Mill With Dempsey

Jack Dempsey, whose Christian name is William Harrison Dempsey, was born at Manassa, Col., June 24, 1895. He is of Irish-Scotch extraction, with a touch of Indian blood in his veins. The champion, through his early life, followed a roving disposition and had a varied career. He started as a miner in Colorado, and his work in this line developed his wonderful physique. As his strength grew, Dempsey looked toward the ring, and the accounts of the use of his fists appealed to him. He engaged in several inconsequential bouts and finally dropped into a gymnasium in Colorado in which Jack Kearns was interested. Kearns discerned natural fighting qualities in the youngster and quickly took him under his care. A combination was formed on that occasion which has not been broken since. Kearns has acted as Dempsey's manager in all his ring bouts and is credited by the modest champion with having paved the way to the world's heavyweight championship.

Dempsey is disapproving to those whose conception of the ring champion depicts a careless, care-free type with no regard for anything except mere worship. Dempsey is modest to an extreme, quiet, unassuming, kind and thoughtful. He abhors the limelight and deports himself more like an overgrown schoolboy than a grown-up man constantly in the public eye. Early to bed and early to rise is the motto by which Dempsey lives. Manager Kearns frequently complains half heartedly about the champion's awakening at daybreak and starting the Victrola or player-piano in an adjoining room while the rest of the household is trying to slumber. Practically every morning Dempsey is off on a run through Central Park before many residents of the neighborhood are awake. It is this mode of living, with the exceptional care he takes of himself, which keeps Dempsey always in condition and his appearance clearly reflects his wholesome life.

Dempsey's bouts did not begin to creep into the record books until 1915-16, when the ring historians record that the Manassa heavyweight toppled over his rivals with remarkable regularity. Dempsey's early record shows seventeen straight knockouts, all of them in ten rounds or less and many of them in one round. The champion early manifested ability as a quick finisher.

Other great ones, who have gone before, showed them."

T. A. Egan, in the Evening Journal:

"No heavyweight champion in the history of the ring had the close call that Dempsey had Tuesday night. Overtrained, nervous and off his game altogether, the champion put up a very poor fight."

"He had left everything he owned in the gym. Brennan, the fellow the wise guys expected to see carried out after a round or two, surprised the crowd."

"The fight gained nothing in the way of prestige for the champion. He lost some of his popularity by the fight, for the great majority of those present in the Garden take it for granted that what he showed is the best he has got, and that surely was nothing to compare with what Jim Jeffries, Bob Fitzsim-

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Dempsey engaged in his first important bout in 1917, when he clashed with Jim Flynn, veteran Pueblo fireman, who knocked out Dempsey in one round. This occurred on February 13, 1917, but a year and a day later, Dempsey disposed of Flynn in one round, squaring the account. In the interim Dempsey had defeated Willie Meehan, Al Norton, Bob McAllister, Gunboat Smith and Carl Morris, in a series of bouts on the Coast. The following year he added Morris, Arthur Pelky, Bill Battling Levinsky, Gunboat Smith and Fred Fulton to his list of knockout victims. It was the victory over Fulton, in twenty-three seconds of a bout slated for eight rounds, at Harrison, N. J., July 27, 1918, which really sent Dempsey with a rush on the road to the championship. Negotiations for the match against Willard at Toledo the following year were immediately started and ended with the big Manassa boy the conqueror of the ring's biggest champion, in the almost incredible space of three rounds.

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DICKY DIPPY'S DIARY

TUESDAY: I WAS TELLING MISS BYRDE SOME OF MY HUNTING AND FISHING EXPERIENCES AT OUR CLUB DANCE LAST NIGHT. I HAD JUST GOT TO THE POINT WHERE I HAD CAUGHT THE BIGGEST FISH OF THE SEASON, WHEN SHE NUGGED ME AND SAID: "LOOK AT MR. MACAW OPPOSITE!"

I LOOKED AND SAW HIM INDULGING IN A TREMENDOUS YAWN! "WHAT ABOUT HIM?" I ASKED.

"NOTHING," SAID SHE, "ONLY I THINK HE HEARS EVERY WORD YOU SAY!"