

# FIRST HAVANA TRAINING CAMP PICTURES OF JOHNSON AND WILLARD



First—Left to right—Johnson limbering; second, Tom Jones, manager of Willard, putting gloves on his protege for a bout with Jim Slavage; third, Johnson in street costume; fourth, the Big Smoke boxing with Dave Mills; fifth, Willard skipping the rope.

BY JOHN R. ROBINSON

Famous Sport Critic and Manager of Battling Nelson

HAVANA, April 2.—Here is a fight in which a man's favorite blow will be about as useful as if it was left home on the piano or out in the kitchen!

Christy Mathewson had a favorite—the fadeaway; Joe McGinnity had his slow, creeping, underhand "Old Sal;" Bat Nelson nearly killed opponents with his left hook to the liver; Kid McCoy had the famous cork-screw left; others have had certain freak deliveries or properties in their athletic catalogue that aided them in turning out bank accounts and meal tickets.

But none of them ever beat Jack Johnson's uppercut.

It was his stock in trade. With it he knocked out opponents when he got ready, after giving the public a run for its money first... off almost tore Burns' head off with it; jarred Jeffries to sleep, ripped and tore Frank Moran; pelted Jim Flynn, and injured the anatomies of numerous other opponents.

But always has Johnson schooled that uppercut to be used on a man of his own weight. His judgment of distance wit it has been perfect—when the man is no taller than Johnson himself and its effect has been deadly.

Judgment of distance is one of the finest properties a fighter can possess. In fact, it is an absolute essential for a champion. Johnson, if he never had anything in his fighting chest but his judgment of distance and his uppercut, would be a great ringster.

Now, however, comes Johnson with the uppercut of years, trained to land on men of six feet in height, and finds himself up against a man five inches taller. The uppercut must travel

five inches more than ever it did before. It must carry the same force to the chin of the gigantic Willard that it did to the squatty Jones or Jim Flynn.

Ring critics here say that the uppercut will be practically useless when the pair meet in Havana April 5. They believe it will lose its sting in its journey upward, and that Willard will have no trouble in keeping away from it.

Following are some of the opinions of well known American sporting men now in Havana. These opinions are taken after the men in question have looked over both fighters in their training work:

**Battling Nelson**—I believe Johnson will win, but there is so much about Willard to recommend him that I am not going to take a chance of betting against him.

**Jack Curley**—Nothing to this fight but Willard. He will knock out Johnson sure.

**Captain Cushman A. Rice**—I saw Johnson fight in Paris, and while Willard is wonderfully conditioned, I look for Johnson to win.

**B. A. Rosenthal**—At first I could see nobody but Johnson. Now, after looking Willard over, and realizing his tremendous power, I can see nobody but Willard. He will knock out Johnson sure.

**George Munro**, former fighter—Johnson will win. He knows too much for the white hope.

**Leo P. Flynn**—Johnson easily... Willard never will have a chance.

**A. G. Vanderbilt**—I looked at both men, then made a small bet of \$1400 against \$600 on Johnson. That speaks for itself.

**Dan Dougherty**—The swaying of sentiment from day to day seems to have affected me, too. I believe I will bet on Willard, inasmuch as I am not certain the negro can reduce to his proper fighting weight.

## SEEK TO PREVENT JOHNSON'S BOUT WITH SAM McVEY

HAVANA, April 2.—Discussion today between the fight promoters regarding Jack Johnson's proposed exhibition bout with Sam McVey led to some sharp exchanges.

This bout is advertised to take place Saturday in the stadium. Jack Curley, Harry Frazee and others are urging Johnson to cancel it for fear of injury to himself 48 hours before he is scheduled to go into the ring and battle with Jess Willard for the world's heavyweight championship.

Johnson is stubborn. He says he will carry out this program and that he is eager to ascertain just how good he is. Every man of the city interested in the fight is exerting his influence on Johnson today.

A large force of clerks was at work the best part of last night in allotting and distributing tickets. No less than 1000 complimentary seats will be given out. Out of more than 70 press representatives who will be about the ring more than 30 are from the United States.

The ring, it was decided today, is to be about 19 feet inside the ropes with a two foot extension outside.

Threatening weather today again interfered in a measure with the training work of the two men. Heavy rains last night left the roads wet and slippery and as a result the early morning work was short and slow.

## STACKLEY STARTED FIRE BURNING UP FAMILY

OTTAWA, Ill., April 2.—David Starkey, according to Sheriff Davis, has confessed that he started the fire which last Saturday destroyed his house and burned his wife and baby to death. Starkey is said to have confessed that he attacked his wife before firing the house. No motive was given.

## BUTTE FALLS BUBBLES

Miss Miller, who teaches the Tanager school, was in town Saturday. John Sieler went to the valley Tuesday.

A party was held at the home of Viola Hughes Saturday. Cake, sandwiches, pickles and oranges were served. The following were invited: Kathleen Sieler, Earnestine Fredinburg, Melba Morris, Thelma Woods.

The man from Derby who bought the Gopert ranch moved on it Saturday.

The Ladies Aid met with Mrs. H. D. Mills Wednesday to tack a comfort for Mrs. James.

Noma Stewart, Glenna Alberts, Merrill Stewart, Wilma Morris, Margaret Sears, Earnest Alberts and Sam Hughes attended a party at the home of Cecile Peeler from 2:30 to 4:30 Saturday afternoon. Fruit, jello, cakes and candy were served.

John Moore went to Eagle Point and Medford Tuesday.

Mr. Grammy bought a Jersey cow from Dr. Emerson last week.

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