

# The Twins With The "Socks" Appeal

HENRY AND HERMAN, HERMAN OR HENRY, YOU CAN'T TELL  
THEM APART—BUT, HOW THEY CAN SOCK

By SIDNEY GERARD

**H**ENRY and Herman were the nice names the proud parents of the Perlick twins tagged on the cherubic, smiling faces, looking up from their crib.

"Nize baybees ven they shleep," cooed Mama Perlick lovingly as he gazed fondly on the sleeping cherubs.

But oh what the boys who have fought Henry and Hermie have dubbed them. Hitters both, they rip and tear from gong to gong. It is, therefore, little wonder that the Perlick twins are constantly busy, fighting as often as twice a week.

Now get this, friend fan. Henry and Herman, look alike, dress alike, and better yet, fight alike, to some extent. Now what is going to happen if Henry has to fight Herman for the title? Just supposing the referee had to give a decision at the end of the contest? How would he know who is who and which is which? How would the judges score the fight?

Central, please, put in an urgent call for King Solomon. His wisdom is sadly needed in a case of this kind.

But to get down to real facts—the Perlick twins can fight, and experts who have watched them in action are predicting a bright future for the Kalamazoo pair.

There is a difference, however, in the pair. There always is in such a case. Twins, though they may be alike in every respect, and the Perlicks are no exception, differ somewhat

when it comes to boxing or fighting, take your choice. The funny thing in fighting twins is that one is always better, perhaps just a wee bit better, than the other.

It's been that way since the days of Old Mike and Jack "Twin" Sullivan, the Boston pair of other days. Those two baldheads could fight, and they could box, too; but then again, the Sullivan twins flourished in the days when a fellow who essayed to earn his livelihood by means of his fists encased in a padded glove had to be quite an artisan, and had to work at it and not merely regard it as a pastime. Those were the days before fouls were made much of and everything went. It's hard to think what the present day powder puff boy fighters would have done in those days, but that is drifting from our main field under discussion.

Even at that, Jack outgrew Mike, and consequently because of his advantage in weight, was the better fighter, but not proportionately better, let it be here understood, for we don't want to start a controversy with a bunch of old time fight fans, but better by right of might and weight.

The nearest comparison to the Sullivan twins are the two Perlick boys. They, however, are almost at par in weight, both tipping the scale at about 135 pounds. Yet it's hard to tell which one is which. But—anyway—it's the one they have labelled Herman who is the better fighter of the two.



Both Henry and Herman Perlick have met with unusual success in the ring.

As we have said, the Kalamazoo pair are quite busy. In this past spring and current summer they have in fact been frequent performers in rings in and near New York City, where they have built up quite a following. The two always appear on the same card. They don't fight each other, but always on the same card. One never appears without the other. It is this fact that has helped build up their popularity. Whatever the two boys may be lacking in fighting ability they make up in showmanship, at which they are experts.

But how come they are always on the same card? Well, the answer is simple. It's Herman who carries Henry along. Herman can always get a fight. He is a consistent winner, a good boxer, heavy puncher, and gives the fans a run for their money. It is Herman's ability that also keeps Henry busy. Henry does not meet such powerful opponents as Herman and does not win so consistently, but he doesn't have to as long as Herman keeps on doing the good work for the pair.

In business arrangements the pair work independently although under the same management. Because Herman is the better of the two he has made more money than the other brother.

Of late there has been a decided improvement in the work of both boys. This can be ascribed to the fact that they have gone under the wing of a new and capable manager. Johnny Kilbane, the former champion. Their work since going under the Kilbane banner has shown a marked improvement. Herman has learned a lot of the old master's tricks and is speedily putting them to use in the ring. Even Henry, the weaker member of the combination, is showing how much he benefited under the tutelage of Johnny.

The rejuvenation of the Perlicks was especially shown by Herman the night he met Jack Kid Berg, the English Hebrew windmill. Berg is probably one of the best in the ring today. This was the second meeting of the pair. The Britisher has improved considerably since their last meeting and was an overwhelming choice over the American lad. It is true Perlick blew the decision to Berg, but he covered himself with glory in that fight. Jackie admitted after the contest that it was the hardest fight he had ever engaged in. Perlick tired toward the end of the fight. Had he been able to retain his stamina just a little longer he would have romped off with the decision that night and the junior welter crown now held by

Berg.

And don't forget that this same boy, Herman, not so long ago put a wonderful scrap against Sammy Mandell, the champion. It is true he lost, but it takes a bushelfull of good fighting to beat Sammy. The champion is not taken in camp so easily. Perlick is good but at this time not good enough to lift the lightweight crown.

The lightweight division is beginning to regain its old popularity and favor and no little credit can be placed on the heads and fists of the Perlicks. They have put new life into the division. It is refreshing to note that they are tireless and busy fighters. Furthermore, they are not foul artists and put up a fair scrap either way you look at it. They give and take-and let it go at that. In fact this writer has seen both boys hit low on several occasions, accidentally perhaps, but others have taken the easy way out and

claimed the fight while the Perlicks after such blows went harder at their tasks. For that and that alone they deserve the unbounded support of fight fans.

The twins are a rugged pair and can stand a lot of rough work. Henry prefers to stay in close and mix at close quarters. He hardly jabs at all while the other brother, Herman, uses a beautiful left jab and is at the same time a clever in-fighter. Both boys are especially effective against the speed demons, such as Berg, and it was for that reason that Herman put up such a splendid battle against the English lad.

Aside from their fighting ability the Perlick twins are ex-

actly similar in everything. They accentuate the striking resemblance between them by wearing the identical style of clothes, down to the minutest details, hats, shoes, ties, shirts, socks, collars, canes and cuffs match in every respect. They are superb showmen. They dress in loud, oh, so loud, raiment, and are well known along the Rialto of New York. They are popular with show folks and attract a large part of the show world public to their fights.

Herman told us that they have been offered big sums to tour in vaudeville. They were tempted for a while to take up the offer, but Kilbane, their mentor, objected to this move, saying that vaudeville, the stage, and boxing do not mix well. So for the time being the twins have to forget the stage and devote their undivided attention to the boxing gloves and the roped arena.

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The Perlick twins, Henry and Herman are hard to tell apart.

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To point out the kind of showmen these boys are it bears mentioning that when they are introduced together from the ring to crowds at other fights, as frequently as is the case, they usually pull some little stunt or other that comes under the head of "showmanship" with the boxing fans.

The two fighting brothers have popularized Kalamazoo, Michigan, and make no mistake about it. Kazoo is just as proud of its pair of speedy mitt merchants as it is of the fact that it is on the main line railroad and only but three short hours from the Windy City.

Just to give you an idea that the Perlicks don't pick their opponents we'll list some of the better fighters they have met and beat in most cases.

Herman has fought Armando Santiago, Solly Seeman, Harry Kid Brown, Jackie Kid Berg, twice; Sammy Price, Joe Goodman, Ray Kiser, Sammy Mandell, lightweight champion; Bruce Flowers and many others of note.

Henry has fought Clicky Clark, Armando Santiago, Fay Kosky, Tony Herrera, Sammy Price, Joey Medill, Marty

Silvers, Benny Duke, Vic Walters, Herry Lenny and many others.

There are no set-ups in the list of any of the fighters the two have met.

The pair were born on April 20, 1908, at Baird, Nebraska. They both scale alike for fights, their height is identical, five feet, five and one half inches for each. All told the two boys have engaged in about 125 fights, split about evenly between them. Only on very few occasions has one appeared on a card without the other.

If you enter the arena when either one of them is fighting it is almost impossible to find out which is which. If you inquire which one of the Perlicks is on they will answer "H. Perlick." The "H" stands both for Henry and Herman.

There is only one person who can tell them apart at all times and that is Mama Perlick. Most of their friends have learned a safe way of knowing which one of the two is which. One is wealthier than the other by a gold tooth—Henry. That is the best way of identifying him and telling him apart from his twin brother. Look for the gold tooth to know which is which.