

Archie Moore Down Under: Part One

Moore meets Ron Richards

By Paul Cupitt (The Grueling Truth, October 2018)

MAY 1955: Archie Moore wraps his hand before training for his upcoming fight against Rocky Marciano. (Photo by: The Ring Magazine/Getty Images)

Archie Moore, “The Old Mongoose”, best known for his 10-year reign as Light Heavyweight Champion and dropping Heavyweight Champion Rocky Marciano in the second round of his title challenge in 1955, started out his career like so many other champions, as a struggling contender looking to force his way to the upper echelons of the sport.



Moore, born in Bennoit, Missouri, fought the early part of his career in Mid-Western cities like St. Louis, Indianapolis and Cincinnati, changing managers numerous times but often stealing the show from the main attractions with his performances in six and eight round preliminary contests. After headlining smaller shows in the Mid-West, Moore’s newest manager Felix Thurman brought him west to California in an attempt to advance his career. Despite losing one of his early contests to the experienced, heavy-handed southpaw ‘Bandit’ Romero over ten rounds, Moore scored eight victories on the west coast, including avenging the loss to Romero with an eighth-round stoppage, and returned home to St Louis to continue his career. Scoring five victories on his return to St. Louis, Moore then suffered a temporary setback, losing a ten-round decision to 100-fight veteran and former title challenger Teddy Yarosz, before heading back to San Diego. Moore’s second trip to California was less fruitful. His first fight against Jack Coggins was ruled a no contest due to neither man trying. Moore won the rematch over ten rounds but had another controversial ending in a fight with Freddie Dixon two months later that was ruled a technical draw after Moore ended proceedings with an uppercut that strayed low.

Moore returned to St. Louis but struggled to impress against the defensive minded Honeyboy Jones upon his arrival. Moore won the ten round decision but was suspended by the Missouri commission for six months (Jones for one year) for the poor showing. Moore returned to California but dropped a six-round decision to Shorty Hogue and his career appeared to be at a standstill. Moore left his manager Felix Thurman and signed his contract over to Jack Richardson.

Richardson had made a connection in Australia with Stadiums Ltd, who ran boxing in Australia with control of the main stadiums in every major city and had sent fighters under his management to Australia previously. Stadiums Ltd representative Charlie Lucas was in the USA in 1939 to look for opponents to give competitive bouts with two local middleweights Ron Richards and Fred Henneberry, who had already fought each other seven times and were in negotiations for an eighth bout for the British Empire middleweight title. Moore, looking for a way to further his career, left for Australia with his new manager looking to make a name.

Moore was to meet the Australian middleweight and heavyweight champion Richards upon his arrival but Richards’ rival Henneberry opposed this bout taking place until they had fought for the eighth time. Richards, ranked number four in the world by The Ring Magazine, had taken the domestic middleweight title from Henneberry in their seventh fight in 1936 with a tenth-round knockout and had defeated a number of American fighters since that victory, including future world light heavyweight champion Gus Lesnevich. Since being knocked out by Richards, Henneberry had toured the UK and had fought one bout in the USA, a draw over eight rounds with Georgie Abrams at Madison Square Garden. Henneberry had also defeated Ken Overlin and, considering he was three wins a piece with Richards (and one draw), Henneberry was determined for a tie breaker with his rival and worried that if Richards lost to an unknown American, it could damage the appeal of their fight.

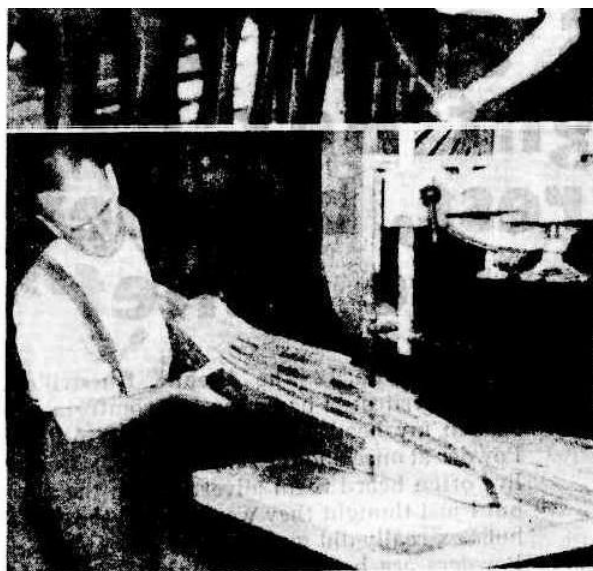
Moore arrived in Sydney on January 23rd and set up training camp in Megalong Valley in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney. With Henneberry and Richards due to clash on February 26th, Moore took time to shed the excess pounds he had gained on the voyage by doing six miles of roadwork each day in the mountains. Moore claims to have learned the technique that allowed him to still make the light heavyweight limit well into his 40s while training in Megalong Valley. A local Aborigine, who traded the secret for the red sweater that Moore was wearing, said that he was able to get his energy from chewing, but not swallowing, his meat. Moore reportedly kept up this practise for the remainder of his career.

By mid February Archie commenced gym work at Ern McQuillan's gym in Sydney and impressed local reporters with his workouts. Moore was temporarily booked to face Richards, whether he won or loss against Henneberry, a fortnight after the Empire middleweight title bout. Moore was in attendance for the Richards-Henneberry bout, in which Richards overcame a slow start to punish Henneberry in the second half in one of the best bouts seen in Sydney in years. Henneberry was out on his feet and covered in blood when he intentionally head-butted Richards in the eleventh round and earned himself a disqualification in front of 14,000 fans. It was the third time that Henneberry had been disqualified against Richards.

Archie was to meet Richards two weeks after the Henneberry clash, but Moore suffered a bout of gastric influenza which postponed the bout. Moore only wanted a short postponement but Richards signed to meet Puerto Rican boxer Atilio Sabbatino on March 18. Sabbatino, who Richards had previously fought four times, scored a surprise victory over Richards in January prior to Moore's arrival so Richards relished the chance for revenge. The new date for the Moore-Richards bout was the 8th of April, which would have left Moore out of the ring for four months, so he took a tune-up bout in Melbourne against former Australian welterweight champion Jack McNamee. Richards made short work of Sabbatino in Sydney, stopping him on a cut eyebrow in the third round.

Making an impressive showing in his long-awaited Australian debut, Moore felt McNamee out in the first round before starting his attack late in the opener, opening a cut over McNamee's eye with a lead before ripping in a left hook to the head and a right to the heart just before the bell. Moore continued to duck under the Australian's leads in the second and third rounds and worked the body almost exclusively. A left to the body put McNamee down in the fourth for a count of seven before the referee halted the contest at the conclusion of the fourth round with McNamee not in Moore's league.

The Australian media were labelling Moore as the most dangerous opponent Richards had ever faced after his showing against McNamee. The delays and recent performances by both men only built the anticipation of the bout. The contest would be twice more postponed, this time by Richards, who requested an extra week to ready himself after hearing of the skills Moore possessed. This was granted and the fight moved to the 15th of April but after that week had passed Richards requested another week. At this point Jack Richardson was threatening to take Archie home if Richards pulled out.



Air screws for R.A.A.F. Moth Minor training planes are being made by Mr. G. Adams, of Rosebery. Top: Finished screws being sprayed. Lower: Mr. Adams shaping the glued sections of a screw. He learnt his trade during the last war.



Stadiums Ltd told Richards he could only have an extra three days or Moore would be matched with someone else. Richards agreed to the new date and the much-anticipated fight would take place on the 18th of April at Sydney Stadium.

Moore hired his recent opponent Jack McNamee as his chief sparring partner and McNamee traveled with him back to Sydney where he drew a regular attendance for his workouts at Limutkin's Gym. While Archie worked out, his manager Richardson did all the talking for his charge. In one afternoon Richardson stated that Richards' best opponent Lesnevich "wouldn't lay a glove on Archie in 20 rounds," middleweight champion Ceferino Garcia was a bum and Moore would knock him out in three rounds and that if Ron Richards were to defeat Moore he should go to America and win the world middleweight title. Richards, however, was the more experienced man with well over 100 fights in his career and many of them over the 12 or 15 round distance and this, combined with his one punch power (particularly in his right hand), had many reporters tipping their local star to topple the import.

Richards was born on an Aboriginal Mission near Ipswich in south-east Queensland. His father was a skilled axeman and bare-knuckle boxer and Richards followed in his father's footsteps, both with the axe and the fists, fighting in boxing tents that toured agricultural shows in regional Queensland, facing all comers. Richards rose to prominence with a series of wins in 1932, claiming the state middleweight and heavyweight titles in 1932 before travelling to Sydney where he faced the stadium stars Fred Henneberry and Ambrose Palmer six and three times respectively (Palmer and Henneberry also fought each other three times) between 1933 and 1935.

Richards never defeated Palmer (also losing a fourth bout to him in 1938) and only scored two victories in his first six with Henneberry, both via disqualification. Despite these losses, Richards would earn his status as Australia's best drawcard thanks to his battles with Lesnevich, Ossie Stewart, Deacon Lee Kelly and the Alabama Kid, as well as his recent two victories over Henneberry, which gave him a 4-3-1 lead in their series. Both fighters made the middleweight limit at the 2pm weigh in on the day of the fight.

The crowd of approximately 9,000 were almost sent home early as the fight was almost ended in the opening minute. The two men came into close quarters and exchanged on the inside and as Moore backed off, Richards unloaded his potent right hand and put Moore on the deck. Archie was clearly hurt but was up at the count of six and survived Richards follow up assault by boxing defensively until the bell but was punished up close by Richards' uppercuts. In the second round Moore tried to establish his jab and managed to evade many of Richards' hard counter blows by keeping the Australian champion on the end of his punches, although he was punished when Richards was able to force the action up close.

Richards bloodied Moore's nose in the third round with his own hard jab and continued to build his lead on points with hard shots on the inside. Moore had success with his jab in the fourth and opened a slight cut over Richards' left eye. The eye was showing signs of swelling as he returned to his corner to end the fourth. The American had his range in the fifth and punished Richards with his jab. A pair of hard rights



landed for Moore towards the end of the round, but Richards returned with a hard right of his own which sent Moore back to the outside and the safety of his jab

A second cut, this one under Richards' right eye, was opened up in the sixth round and while Richards was having his own success with the jab, Moore was scoring the cleaner blows and seemed to have evened up the bout on the scorecards. Richards, perhaps sensing the urgency of his facial injuries, rallied in the seventh round and split Moore's lip with his own jab. Moore still landed his lead left frequently and made Richards' swings look wild and amateurish but in the eighth round another right hand from the Australian champion staggered Moore momentarily. Moore weathered the storm and regained control of the fight by the end of the round, punishing Richards with jabs and left hooks to the head.

Richards was fading in the ninth round and while he tried to land the equaliser, his blows were wide and wild, and Moore punished him with his left hand. The right eye continued to bleed and swell, and Richards could not move away from Moore's left hand or adequately protect his eye. Moore continued to damage Richards' eyes in the tenth round and referee Joe Wallis checked on Richards at the end of the round. After examining his injuries and speaking with Richards' corner, Wallis stopped the bout and awarded the win to Moore on a technical knockout.

After the bout Moore was asked by 'The Sun' how bad he was hurt in the first round when he visited the canvas. "I saw a thousand opponents, the ring seemed to tilt and I thought I was going to fall out of it. But I know that if there was one thing I would ever have to do in my life it was to get up off that floor. To me it was like fighting for the world championship. I was all strung up with the idea that I had to keep fighting."

Richards' manager Jack Munro claimed Richards was under trained and blamed Stadiums Ltd for forcing him to take the fight for the loss. "Ron was beaten because he was not in the best of condition. That may sound as if we are making excuses, that is not so. Archie Moore proved himself a great fighter and we give him every credit. Richards would have been fit for an ordinary fight but tonight's bout was one that required him to be in the pink. Stadiums Ltd forced Richards into the fight and must take their share of the blame for the result."

The attendance numbers were between 8,000 and 10,000 depending on the source, which was seen as small considering the build up to the fight. The repeated postponements were to blame for this but Moore's first performance in Sydney had made him into a draw and many were eager to see his return. While Richards was after a rematch once his eyes had healed, Moore stated he was eager to face other opponents prior to the rematch. The opponents were lining up too, with both Fred Henneberry and Atilio Sabatino issuing challenges to Moore in the days after his win over Ron Richards.



Archie Moore Down Under: Part Two

Archie Takes on Fred Henneberry

By Paul Cupitt (The Grueling Truth, October 2018)

Archie Moore sparring in Midwest Gym (Chicago): November 8, 1956.

Following Moore's Sydney debut, in which he stopped Australian champion Ron Richards after the tenth round due to a cut eye, Moore was matched with the Puerto Rican boxer Atilio Sabatino. Sabatino had split four fights with Richards since coming to Australia, winning one, losing two decisively and one on a controversial decision, however he had lost his two most recent bouts since the win over Ron. His first loss was in a return bout with the Richards, in which he was cut open early and stopped in three rounds due to the wound. This was followed by a controversial loss to Clarence Reeves, who fought under the name 'Alabama Kid,'



another American who had come to Australia 1938 but had proved such a success that he was yet to return. Stadiums Ltd originally considered matching Moore with Alabama Kid but were so shocked by the referee's decision to give the verdict to Kid that they thought Sabatino would be a better match for Moore.

The bout would take place on May 9th, again at Sydney Stadium in Rushcutter's Bay, with Stadiums Ltd confident that a bout between the two imports would draw a large crowd based on both men's performances against Richards. Moore had made himself into a local celebrity, something he very much relished in, and rather than return to the isolation of Megalong Valley where he did much of his training for the bout with Richards, Moore set up his training in Sydney, running along Sydney Harbour and sparring in the evening with Australian boxers Jack McNamee and Ern Clingan.

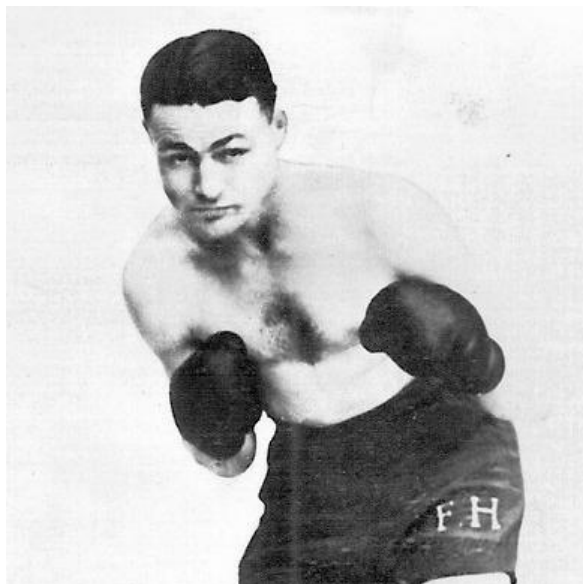
It was obvious from the opening bell that Moore was in another class from Sabatino, who was still ranked in the top ten middleweights in the world despite his two recent losses. Moore's 4.5lb weight advantage, combined with his superior ring technique and punching power gave him a noticeable edge in the early moments and a short right hand put Sabatino on the deck briefly halfway through the opening round. Moore continued to punish Sabatino for the remainder of the round but was unable to put his opponent away. The Puerto Rican had some minor success in the second round with his right hand, but it would prove his best moment of the fight as Moore tattooed him with his left hand for the remainder of the round.



Sabatino attempted to work Moore's body in the third to slow down the American but ate hard right-hand punches in return and was forced on the defensive half way through the round. Moore opened a cut over Sabatino's left eye in the final moments of the third and was in clear control heading into round four. Moore toyed with Sabatino in the fourth, blocking all his leads and hammering the Puerto Rican at will. A

left hook had Sabatino on unsteady legs, but he was game and stood up to the assault. The fourth was so one-sided that the Police Inspector ringside examined Sabatino after the round but allowed the fight to continue for one more round. The fifth was worse than the fourth. Moore punished a brave Sabatino with both hands and the Police Inspector stopped the bout at the conclusion of the round.

Former Australian champion Fred Henneberry, as he did after Moore defeated Richards, again challenged Moore post fight and stated that he felt he had the style to defeat Moore. Henneberry, once the main drawcard in Sydney after his sensational knockout over Jack Carroll (Henneberry was the last man to defeat Carroll, who retired as the number one welterweight contender in the world), was hooted by his hometown, mostly due to his most recent performances at Sydney Stadium. In his last three appearances at Sydney's main boxing attraction Henneberry had been disqualified, his most recent against Ron Richards (this was the third time he had been disqualified against Richards).



Moore took a short holiday, firstly in Megalong Valley but rather than return to Sydney, his manager Jack Richardson saw there was easy money to be made on his back of Moore's recent performances and reputation as one of the best foreign fighters to come to Australia, so Richardson took Moore around the country, willing to take on any opponent for a £100 purse. The first stop was Adelaide in South Australia where Moore accepted a bout with Australian middleweight prospect Joe Delaney. Delaney, originally from Maitland, had fought most of his career in Newcastle, north of Sydney, and had engaged in over 60 professional contests despite being only 19 years-old. Delaney had been unable secure a big fight at Sydney Stadium thus far in his short career and proved no match for Moore, who dispatched him quickly in the second round by a right hand to the solar plexus.

Moore and Richardson headed back to Melbourne and were told that there was money to be made in Hobart, Tasmania. They arrived in Hobart by plane on May the 22nd for a scheduled fight with the third man who was introduced as the opponent George Simpson, an American boxer who had been in Australia. Later on that week 'Simpson' was now introduced as New Zealand middleweight Tommy Jordan, and it was announced that he would fight Moore on the 27th. The two fighters gave an interview on local radio to advertise the bout where 'Jordan' stated that he had fought Maxie Rosenbloom, Len Harvey and Maurice Strickland. Richardson told reporters not to take a photo of Jordan and to only include Moore in the photo for the newspapers.

A huge crowd showed up, paying £1 for ringside tickets, to witness what was a one-sided affair. 'Jordan' was no match for Moore and was stopped in the fourth round. Moore and Richardson returned to Melbourne with plans to return to Sydney to face Ron Richards, who had just defeated Olympic champion Carmen Barth when the story broke that 'Tommy Jordan' was in fact a Melbourne preliminary fighter named Frank Lindsay. Lindsay had been hired as a sparring partner for Moore while he was in Melbourne and was then

CONSPIRACY CHARGE
**Double Change Of Name By
Boxer Alleged**
JORDAN-MOORE CONTEST

talked into fighting under the name Simpson in order to sell the bout to the Tasmanian fans, who they thought wouldn't know the difference. When they found out that someone in Hobart might know what Simpson looked like, Lindsay's identity was changed to Jordan. The fraud was discovered by local newspapers, who first contacted the New Zealand Boxing Council about Jordan's credentials then realised Lindsay had not been seen in or around his local gym since Moore left Melbourne and then sent

a photo of Lindsay to Tasmania to see if it was the man claiming to be Jordan was the man who they knew as Lindsay.

Stadiums Ltd Hobart boss George Gardiner responded to the story by suing Richardson and Moore for £1,000 but the allegations led to local authorities investigating the matter and Lindsay decided that he was happy to give evidence. Two months later six men, including Moore, Richardson (who had both returned to the United States by this time and wouldn't appear at the trial) and Gardiner, were charged with conspiracy to defraud the public and the case was heard by the local magistrate. Lindsay pointed the blame at Richardson over the course of the week-long trial and the magistrate dismissed the charges against Gardiner and found that Richardson and Moore, the two men who weren't present to defend the charges, were the brains behind the scheme.

The story wasn't widely picked up beyond the states of Tasmania and Victoria and did not do any more than minor damage to Moore's reputation. Moore returned to Sydney to face Richards, however Richards requested that the bout be postponed so he could be at his best for the rematch. Barth, who had just faced Richards, was originally suggested as an opponent but Stadiums Ltd went with Henneberry figuring the local crowd would rather see an Australian star in with the American and many picking Henneberry's fierce in-fighting could upset Moore's rhythm. The bout would take place on June 27 at Sydney Stadium.

Henneberry had been in training for weeks in the hopes that he would get the match with Moore and while Moore had more match-fitness, Henneberry was confident he had the style to beat the American. Henneberry, born in South Australia before relocating to Albury, had become one of Sydney's top drawcards through his battles with Jack Carroll, Ambrose Palmer and Richards, in which his aggressive tactics and short temper made for memorable bouts. Henneberry lost more than he won against both Carroll and Palmer but had Richards' number early in their series, winning three of their first six with a draw and the two losses, both coming via controversial disqualifications in fights that he was in control of. He was robbed the chance of knocking Richards out in their third fight when Richards pulled out with a broken hand, but he dominated their fourth and sixth fights in 1934 to score wide decision wins over his rival.

After losing to Palmer in 1936 Henneberry lost a seventh battle to Richards by knockout and his status as Australia's top middleweight along with it. A win over now World Middleweight Champion Ken Overlin was the only highlight among a run of inconsistent performances at which point Henneberry travelled to the UK and USA for a number of fights, the highlight of which was a draw with George Abrams at Madison Square Garden before he returned to Australia to battle Richards for the Empire middleweight title. Richards had agreed to face the winner of the Moore-Henneberry bout two weeks after its conclusion which only fuelled Henneberry's hunger to score the win over Moore.

Moore scaled slightly over the middleweight limit while Henneberry made weight comfortably on the afternoon of the bout. The 12,000 in attendance showed that the antics of Moore, Richardson and Stadiums Ltd in Hobart had not killed his drawing power, however with the fans in their seats and the final preliminary bout over, Stadium officials began to worry as Archie was yet to arrive at the stadium. He kept them waiting until 10 minutes before the bout was due to commence as his corner-man Ike Kutner wanted to keep him at his hotel for as long as possible so that he would be fresh. Moore showed up already dressed in his fight gear and with his hands taped and the bout commenced as planned.

Henneberry wasted no time and was determined to not let Moore get comfortable in the bout. He rushed in and forced the American to battle on the inside and Moore obliged him, and the pair fought at close quarters for much of the opening round. Moore did the better work with a pair of hard right hands over the top but Henneberry was busier and landed well to the body in the opening round. Henneberry kept the bout at close range in the second but Moore was again the sharper man, scoring with left hooks while Henneberry had success with his uppercut.

The bout continued in the trenches in the third round, but the Australian had more success making Moore miss and continued to work Moore's body. Henneberry clearly outworked the American for most

of the third round but a rally by Moore in the final stages of the stanza, in which he landed a hard-right hand to Henneberry's jaw, made the round difficult to score. Henneberry used his jab to surprising effect in the fourth which confused Moore, who had been happy swapping punches with the Australia on the inside, and Henneberry's surprising success on the outside frustrated Moore, who swung and missed wildly towards the end of the round. Moore came back successfully in the fifth with his own jab, which began to cause Henneberry's eyes to swell and completely neutralised Henneberry's attacks, and give him the clearest round of the contest.

The Australian went back to his earlier plan and took the fight to the inside in round six and started the round well, landing with both hands to the body. Moore once again took a minute to adjust to Henneberry's change of tactics but was landing with hard counters by the end of the round. In the final seconds Henneberry struck Moore with a left hook below the belt and referee Joe Wallis, the same man who had disqualified him in his last three appearances at Sydney Stadium, warned him between rounds for the infringement.

Moore came out to start the seventh and sunk his own left hook below the belt Henneberry went down. Referee Wallis immediately ruled the round to Henneberry and gave Henneberry time to recover. The doctor was brought to the ring to examine Henneberry after an elapse of five minutes in order to fight a screen in which to conduct the examination behind. The doctor completed his examination approximately nine minutes after the blow had been landed and, after consulting with the referee, they allowed Henneberry a further five minutes to recover. Four minutes later Henneberry announced he could not continue but due to a "no-foul rule" in the contract, Moore was awarded the fight on a technical knockout.

The newspapers berated the no foul rule in the days after the bout and were of the opinion Moore should have been disqualified. Moore disputed this and the ruling that the blow was low and felt he had Henneberry ready to go.

"I am terribly sorry the fight ended in this manner," Moore said from his hotel after the fight, "I feel disgusted, but not with myself. I don't think I hit him low. Henneberry was puffing badly and I don't think he would have gone another round. I was just beginning to warm up. I had scarcely perspired. At no time was I ever in danger, and it is just too bad that I was robbed of the chance of knocking him out."

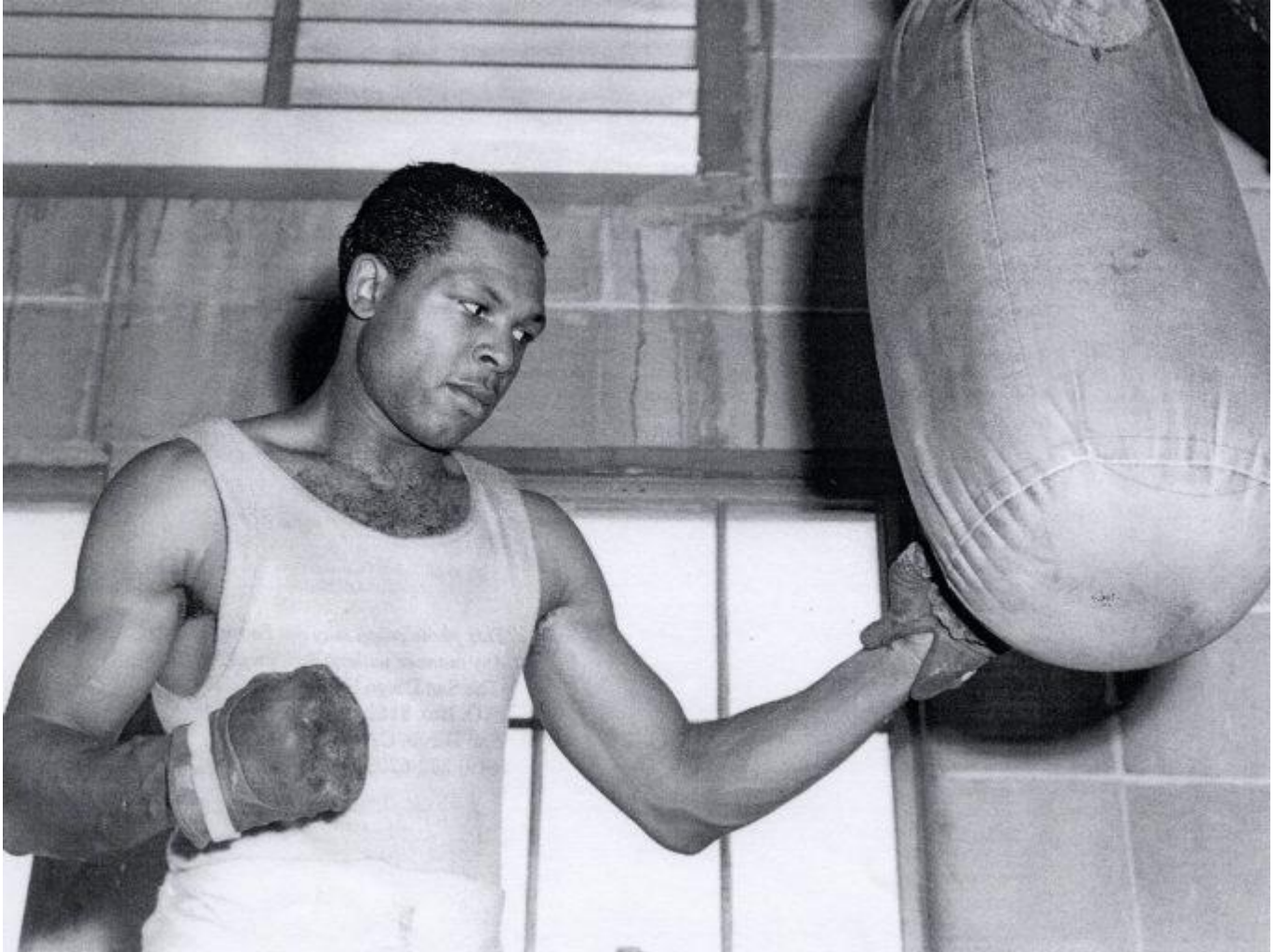
Henneberry stated that he felt Moore was on his way out when the blow landed and that he "would have beaten him easily" if not for the low blow. Reporters couldn't understand how Henneberry could be hurt with a low punch while wearing a foul protector in which Fred responded by offering reporters to put that theory to the test with him delivering the blows. Despite the controversial end to the bout, the gate was estimated at about £2,500, earning a solid payday for both men. Moore was looking to cash in on his fame in Australia and bouts with the Olympic champion Barth and the rematch with Empire champion Richards were planned for the coming weeks.



Archie Moore Down Under: Part Three

Moore rematches Richards

By Paul Cupitt (The Grueling Truth, October 2018)



Source: *The San Diego Union-Tribune*

Archie Moore resumed training immediately after the controversial ending to his fight with Fred Henneberry. Prior to the Henneberry bout Moore had already been matched with the American Olympic champion Carmen Barth, who had taken Gold in the 1932 Los Angeles Games. While Moore had come to Australia to make a name for himself, Barth had come to Australia hoping to breathe life back into his career after losing a 1938 title challenge against Freddie Steele, followed by back to back losses to end that year. Barth had been inactive prior to his trip to Australia and was no match for the Australian and British Empire champion Ron Richards in his Australian debut, losing a wide 12 round decision.

Fred Henneberry, meanwhile, had requested a return with Moore as he was still bitter about the way their first bout ended. Henneberry also said he was happy to meet Ron Richards for a ninth time while Moore dealt with Barth. The debate over the “no foul” rule that was used in Australia waged on with many thinking Australia should adopt the rules used in Great Britain, which would have seen Moore disqualified against Henneberry. Sydney Stadium referee Joe Wallis, who had a long running feud with Fred Henneberry and had disqualified him a number of times, was quoted after the Moore-Henneberry bout that the finish made him “look like a clown at a sideshow” and that he felt the medical examination that

prolonged the decision to award the fight to Moore was unnecessary and that he was “competent enough to give a decision promptly on a foul blow.”

Moore’s bout with Barth was to take place one week after the fight with Henneberry but it would be in the city of Brisbane in Queensland and would show Moore off to a new audience after his previous bouts in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart. While Barth was showing good form in his training exhibitions, after seeing Moore in action against Henneberry he requested more time before he met Moore, a theme that had been common during Moore’s trip to Australia. Moore was scheduled to meet Ron Richards in a rematch one week after fighting Barth so the bout with Barth was delayed until after the Richards fight and Moore’s trip to Brisbane was delayed.

The postponement of the Barth bout paved the way for Moore-Richards on the 11th of July again at Sydney Stadium. Richards had kept up his training following his win over Barth in May and was working with a new sparring partner to help prepare him for Moore, Jack McNamee. McNamee had worked as Moore’s sparring partner after he succumbed to Archie in Moore’s Australian debut and had sold his services to the Richards camp, claiming that he had inside secrets that could help Richards avenge his April loss to Moore. Richards was said to be in the best shape he had been in for years and his open workouts gave many locals confidence that he could upset Moore in the return.

While training for the Richards bout, Moore’s manager Jack Richardson left Australia, returning to the United States to try and negotiate a fight with world middleweight champion Ken Overlin. Richardson had received a cable from Overlin’s team stating that they were interested in defending their title against Moore, who earned himself the number five ranking in the world (according to Ring Magazine) after his wins over Richards, Henneberry and Sabatino. Not long after the departure of Richardson, Moore announced to the newspapers his intention to return to the United States following his bout with Richards and that he was not interested in fighting Barth or a return with Henneberry.



However Stadiums Ltd saw the future earning potential in keeping Moore in Australia and even offered to ship his wife to Sydney if he would stay for more bouts. Moore had married just days before leaving for Australia and his inability to bring his wife to Australia almost caused Moore and Richardson to sever ties before their partnership had begun. Stadiums Ltd had offered Moore good money to meet Henneberry in a rematch as well as the winner of an upcoming bout between Barth and another imported American Leon Zorrilla. There were also rumours circulating that an offer had been made to world rated middleweight Charley Burley to come to Australia and for Alabama Kid to return from New Zealand for a bout with Moore.

The offers tempted Moore to stay and there were reports that he was to travel to Brisbane after the Richards bout to meet the Barth-Zorrilla winner. Moore kept the fans guessing about whether he would remain in Sydney for more bouts or if the Richards rematch would be his last bout down under. Both Richards and Moore stated that they were in the best possible condition heading into one of the biggest fights ever staged in Australia. Both men made the weight in the afternoon before 12,000 spectators filled Sydney Stadium to witness the 12-round bout.

The bout started slowly. Moore was cautious not to walk into another right hand as he did in the opening bout and Richards sat off Moore, looking for opportunities to counter. Very little happened in the opening round, but Richards was the busier and landed well to the body when he threw. The Australian champion began to lead in the second, which played into Moore’s hands early in the round. Moore bobbed and weaved low beneath Richards’ leads and countered with short right hands to the side of the head on the inside. Richards, however, found his range midway through the round and countered a Moore jab with a

solid right hand and followed it up with more heavy right hands that forced Moore to retreat. The crowd were on their feet at the end of the second round as Moore barely weathered the Richards onslaught.

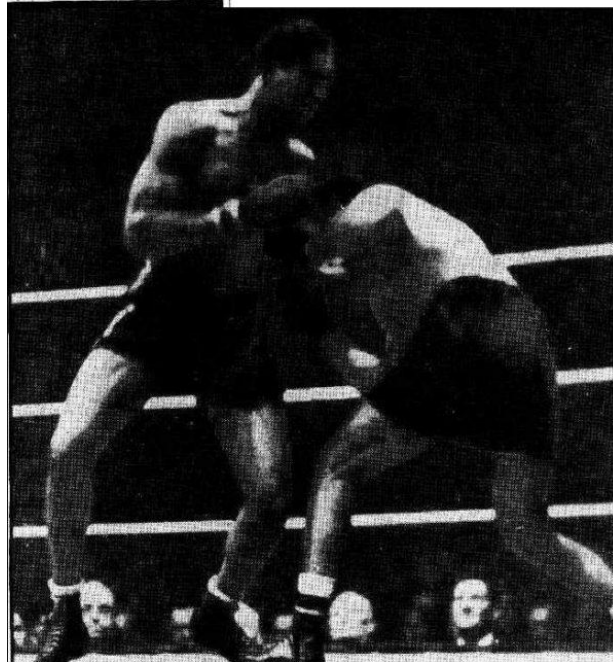
Moore continued defensively in the third round but he had recovered and was doing well making Richards miss but his left jab, while landing, wasn't landing with the same force that it did in the first fight. Archie's defence was better in this round and he caught many of Richards' right hands on his arms. Moore also had success drawing Richards in again in the third round where his short counter punches and sharper defence gave him the advantage. This continued into the fourth round and fifth as Moore gave Richards a lesson at infighting, scoring with both hands while making Richards miss. Richards returned to his corner with blood dripping from his nose after the one sided fifth round.

Having trouble with Moore's head movement, Richards began targeting Moore's body in the sixth round whenever the American crouched and although Moore had success countering, Richards landed solidly with his left hand to the body and had his best success since round two. Moore's jab continued landing in the seventh round but still without any great force. Richards continued to target his body. Moore was beginning to pull away on the scorecards and Richards came out in the eighth eager to even the fight up. A hard-right hand shook Moore early in the round but Moore stood on the inside and traded with Richards and was even getting the better of the action by the end of the round.

Richards went back to the body in the ninth round and a right hand to the heart landed solidly for the British Empire champion early in the round which began a spirited rally. Richards punished Moore's body with both hands for the duration of the ninth round and Moore was holding on and seemed relieved when the bell ended the stanza. Richards continued his assault in the tenth and although Moore had success with his jab and right hand, Richards' body blows looked to have taken their toll on Moore and his blows lacked the power that Richards' had.

Heading into the final two rounds the bout was in the air after Richards' success in the previous rounds and now it was Moore's turn to rally. Moore bobbed and weaved and took the fight to Richards for the duration of the eleventh round. Richards attempted to punch with Moore, but Moore was clever and buried his head into Richards' chest and shoulders to avoid Richards' swings and outpunched the local thoroughly to take round. The last round continued as the eleventh did and Moore's work-rate was too high for Richards, who was spent after his rally in the earlier rounds. Richards scored with uppercuts but was thoroughly outpunched by Moore, who scored combinations with both hands

TENSE MOMENT IN BIG FIGHT



RON RICHARDS, crouching low, hores in to get to close quarters with Archie Moore. An incident during last night's fight at the Stadium.

Moore v. Richards



Referee Joe Wallis breaking Ron Richards (right) and Archie Moore in the 10th round of their fight in Sydney on Thursday night, when Moore won.

and outpunched Richards by “at least four to one.” At the end of the twelfth-round referee Joe Wallis placed his hand on Moore’s head, the Australian custom for announcing the winner of the fight.

After the fight it was revealed that Moore had broken his left hand in the second round of the fight and it had “swollen up like a 6oz glove,” which explained why his jab wasn’t being thrown with the same force as it was in their first fight less than three months prior. Moore had nothing but praise for his opponent after the bout stating that Richards was the best fighter he had fought and the hardest puncher, and that he would have success if he came to America. Richards offered no excuses for the loss and was pleased with his effort and while he stated he thought he could do better again in a third fight, he was pleased with the experience he gained in the meetings with Moore.

After another sell-out fight Stadiums Ltd were even more eager to keep Moore in Australia. Moore’s hand was examined by a doctor the day after the bout and the doctor said Moore wouldn’t be able to punch with it for at least six weeks. While Stadiums Ltd offered to pay Moore’s expenses to remain in Australia, Moore received word from home that his wife was ill and that, combined with the broken hand, made the decision for him and he left for America less than a week after the bout with Richards. In his time in Australia Moore had defeated three men who had been ranked among the top ten middleweights in the world and only one of his fights had gone the distance. Despite his manager being in negotiations for a title fight with Ken Overlin upon his return, Moore would have to wait 12 years before he finally had his shot at a world title.

Both Fred Henneberry and Ron Richards’ careers dwindled after their bouts with Moore. The two men would fight each other two more times and Henneberry would again be disqualified in both meetings, leaving their final tally at 6-3-1 in favour of Richards, with five of Richards’ wins coming by disqualification. The final two bouts with Richards were Henneberry’s last. He retired from the ring to become a publican and lived until he was 86 years old in the small town of Dungog in New South Wales. Richards fought on until 1945 but his drinking habits diminished his abilities in the ring and his results were sporadic. Richards was broke a year after retiring and while he was intoxicated he was often beaten senseless by patrons of the bars he frequented. Richards was sent to the Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement by the Police after he was arrested for vagrancy and because they were worried for his health. He worked there as a carpenter for 17 years before he died in 1967.

