

Robinson Knocks Out Turpin In Tenth Round of Title Bout

American Boxer Regains Middleweight Crown When Referee Halts Action Before 61,370 at Polo Grounds

By JAMES P. DAWSON

Ray Robinson brought the world middleweight championship back to America last night.

With a savage attack in the tenth round, he knocked out Randy Turpin, gallant British fighter to whom he had lost the title in London two months ago.

Amid the roars of a crowd of 61,370 fans who had paid record receipts of \$767,630 to see the spectacle at the Polo Grounds, Robinson battered Turpin into such a helpless state that the referee, Ruby Goldstein, stopped the battle after the tenth round had gone 2 minutes and 52 seconds.

At that time, Turpin was an open target, unable to defend himself from the blazing drives of a merciless foe who was smarting under the terrific blows the Englishman had landed in two previous rounds.

The British defender had been floored early in the round by a right to the jaw for a count of

nine. When he arose, Robinson, going all out for victory, battered his rival to the ropes, ignoring blood which streamed from an old cut above his own left eye, intent only upon the complete destruction of the man who had dethroned him last July 10.

Loosing a barrage of rights and lefts, Robinson raked his foe about the head, face and body.

Randy tried to cover against the blows. He crouched behind up-raised arms and gloved fists in an attempt to ward off the stunning punches to the head and jaw. Robinson then shifted his attack to the body and with wicked smashes of the right to the ribs, brought down his rival's guard. Then he pounded his head again.

It seemed that Robinson would fight himself out in this frenzied outburst. But he got home clean with a right to the jaw, and then another. Randy sagged. It seemed

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he would fall. Then Referee Goldstein stepped between them and Turpin was knocked out for the second time in a career that goes back to 1946 and through forty-five engagements.

Because he wasn't actually counted out this bout will probably go into the records as a "technical knockout," but that will be misleading. Actual counting over Turpin would have been a mere formality had Robinson withheld his fire long enough to let the defending champion fall. And Turpin would have gone down but for the fusillade of blows that pinioned him to the ropes, rendered him helpless and brought a dramatic finish to a bout that had attracted more international attention than any ring battle since Joe Louis polished off Max Schmeling in a brief round back in 1938.

Turpin was collapsing like a deflated balloon in the arms of Referee Goldstein, but he tried, instinctively, to protest the interference and fight his way clear. His legs buckled. Goldstein took a firmer grasp on the helpless fighter, holding him as he would a child until Turpin's handlers scrambled through the ropes to lead the beaten warrior away.

A squad of police moved quickly into the ring under Inspector Cornelius Lyons. They blocked the four sides of the ring against the possibility of intrusion by excited fans.

Turpin was soon restored to his senses and walked to the center of the ring where Robinson was acknowledging the thunderous roar of acclaim which rang out over the scene. Smilingly, gripping the hand of his conqueror, the hand that had battered him from under the valuable ring title he held so short a time, Turpin posed for pictures. This over, he was led out of the ring amid an ear-splitting cheer from a crowd which was paying its tribute to a fighter who went down giving his best.

The cheers for Turpin were followed by a mighty roar for Robinson, who had dissipated the idea that he was no longer the sparkling, capable boxer of yore with this thrilling, highly dramatic return to the heights.

Referee Goldstein said after the battle that when he stopped the bout he was certain that Turpin was a beaten fighter.

"He couldn't go on. The punches were coming fast and furious. He might have been seriously hurt had I let it go further."

Tribute to the Winner

George Middleton, Turpin's manager, was stunned by the knockout.

"I think it was a great fight," he said. "I'm disappointed at the result, of course. But I think Robinson showed he has the punch many people thought he'd lost. I don't want to make excuses. But, perhaps the humidity hurt Randy. It was kind of close after the mountain air we've been used to, you know. But that is not offered as an excuse. Randy lost in a great fight. Robinson is a great fighter. He beat a great fighter tonight."

All middleweight attendance and receipts records were shattered by this battle which finds Robinson the third man in the long history of the 160-pound division to regain the title. The crowd of 61,370 exceeded the 60,071 which turned out for the last heavily attended battle here, the first Joe Louis-Billy Conn heavyweight championship in 1941. It dwarfed the 44,266 which saw the second Louis-Conn clash in 1946, without, however, threatening the receipts for that match which drew \$1,925,564 at a \$100 "top" ticket price.

The receipts, amounting to \$767,630, gross will send this fight into the \$1,000,000 class, the ninth in ring history. To this box-office figure \$250,000 will be added from the sale of motion picture and theatre-television rights. There will be the added income from a percentage of the picture which will accrue to the International Boxing Club, Inc.

Some Balm for Randy

Robinson will collect 30 per cent of all the net receipts for his victory. Turpin's wounds in defeat will be assuaged by 25 per cent of the net. In each case the boxers will receive the largest purses of their careers.

From all corners of this country, from Canada and England, boxing followers and sport adherents came to this battle, attracted by a struggle that captured the public fancy as had no international ring event since Jack Dempsey engaged in Tex Rickard's first \$1,000,000 fight in the 1921 clash against Georges Carpentier in Jersey City's Boyles' Thirty Acres.

Turpin gave his best last night but it was not good enough. He faced a different Robinson than the shopworn tourist who went down to defeat in London. The Robinson who battered his way back to the heights was the Robinson of old, sharp as a razor's edge, master of boxing finesse, alert, and conditioned for the test of his life.

The great crowd left the arena convinced of the Harlem Negro boy's ring greatness. In the crowd were figures of international prominence, led by General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, innumerable stars of the entertainment world, leaders in finance, industry, the arts and professions, political leaders and society folk.

Champions, past and present, in many sports fields were among the onlookers. Gene Tunney, Joe Louis and Ezzard Charles were three former holders of the heavy-weight title present, along with the current titleholder, Jersey Joe Walcott; Sandy Saddler, world featherweight champion, was there, as was Jake LaMotta, former world middleweight titleholder.

This gathering set attendance and receipts records for a ring championship below the heavy-weight class. Until last night the mark was the 49,136 who paid \$461,789 to see the light heavy-weight championship bout between

Jack Delaney and Paul Berlenbach back in 1926.

Only two other middleweight champions have lost and regained the title. Stanley Ketchel, the "Michigan Assassin," regained the crown from Billy Parke in 1908. Tony Zale did it in 1948 when he stopped Rocky Graziano.

There was some confusion outside and inside the arena before the fight. Fans arriving late had to fight a way through the struggling masses that blocked the entrance gates on two sides. Eighth Avenue on the east end of the ball park was almost impassable. The ramp leading from the speedway entrance on the west side of the plant was blocked so thoroughly that mounted police were sent there to straighten things out.

There were several thousand fans trying to buy the last 200 tickets an hour before the title bout entered the ring and that added to the mix-up.

Inside everything was all right until the late-comers were jammed trying to get to the field, where there were 15,000 seats which sold at \$30 per copy at the box-office and \$130 per copy at the speculators.

Leap From Dugout Roof

Leaping upon the roof of one of the baseball dugouts, these fans started jumping down on the field in waves. This encouraged similar leaping by ticket-holders whose seats were in the stands. It was strenuous work for a hastily summoned group of special police to restore order.

But, when the main fight started, every seat in the place was occupied and the overflow was standing back of the ringside rows on the field and in the rear of the lower stands. Many were turned away for the first time since Jack Dempsey knocked out Luis Angel Firpo, the Wild Bull of the Pampas, twenty-eight years ago, in the same arena.

The ring battle was a thriller, as had been expected. It ended as the majority predicted it would. Robinson was the favorite at odds of 5 to 11.

Younger Man Beaten

Before the battle there was a disposition in some quarters to regard Robinson as past his peak and that he would be unable to withstand the attack of the 23-year-old Englishman, a warrior less used up in a five-year career than Robinson in eleven years of campaigning. Robinson is 31 years old.

True, Turpin had battered Robinson into defeat in fifteen rounds in London. But many thought that Robinson had taken the London assignment lightly and that his preparations for that bout were inadequate. They recalled, too his tour of the Continent, which was more or less a lark.

Before that London fight Robinson had been regarded as "the greatest fighter, pound by pound, the ring has ever known."

To all this, Robinson gave the answer last night. He was the old Robinson, trained to the minute, determined to prove that the things they used to say about him were true.

He boxed skillfully. He was careful not to let Turpin swarm all over him, not to let the defending champion take the lead at any stage of the battle.

On this writer's score Robinson swept the first seven rounds. He seemed to tire after the seventh, however. In the eighth and ninth Turpin repeatedly beat Robinson to stiff, powerful left jabs, crashed right-hand drives to the head, hammered the body with solid rights.

Early in the tenth a head-on collision re-opened the wound Robinson suffered in the London battle. Like a wounded stag, Robinson ripped into his foe. Two minutes later he was champion again.

Official score cards on the bout varied. Referee Goldstein had the bout even on rounds at four, four and one even. Joe Agnello, a



judge, had Robinson in front, five rounds to four, and the other judge, Harold Barnes, had Robinson leading, five rounds to three, with one even.

Elkins Brothers, Washington, D. C., heavyweight, and Aaron Wilson, Knoxville, Tenn., were the principals in the eight-round semi-final, in which Ray Miller was the referee. Brothers weighed 191½ pounds and Wilson 192.

A slugging match from the outset, the bout ended dramatically in 2 minutes 31 seconds of the eighth round when Wilson knocked out Brothers with a left hook to the jaw. The left hook pulled victory out of defeat for the Tennessean, for at the time he was staggering from the effects of a left hook to the jaw which Brothers had landed.

Mike Spataro, Bronx featherweight, knocked out Johnny Caro, a borough rival, in 1 minute 42 seconds of the first round, in the opener. Caro went down and out under a left hook to the jaw. Spataro weighed 123½ pounds and Caro 128½.

In the second bout Billy Hazel, Harlem lightweight, disposed of Jay Parlin, Philadelphian, in 2 minutes 49 seconds of the third. Parlin sank several left hooks to the body and was through for the night when Referee Ray Kazak stepped in. Hazel weighed 137¾ pounds and Parlin 135¼.

