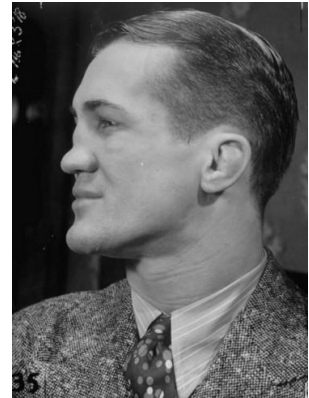


Boxing Ringside with Bobby Franklin

What Do You Call A Fighter With 65 Losses? If Its Fritzie Zivic You Call Him Great

Fritzie Zivic, the Croat Comet, had a career record of 231 fights with 157 wins, 65 losses, and 9 draws. He scored 81 kayos, and was stopped only 4 times. Today's fans would focus on those losses and say Zivic couldn't have been very good. Well, a few things should be considered. First is whom did he fight. Another is how often did he fight. Also, how frequently were his matches. Take the year 1938, for example. Fritzie fought 22 times in that one year alone. He fought Charley Burley twice that year, winning and losing a decision.



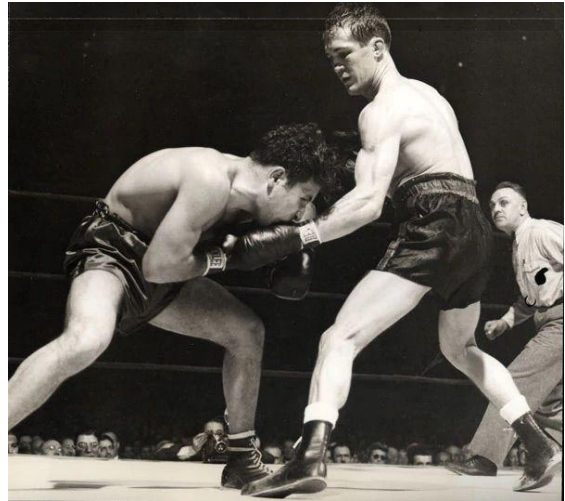
Jack Zivic (left) with Fritzie

The following year he fought 20 times. In 1940 he climbed through the ropes 17 times, and in 1941 he slowed up a bit, going at it 14 times. Those 14 bouts included a stoppage of Henry Armstrong from whom he had won the World Welterweight Title the previous year, and the first of two fights he had against Sugar Ray Robinson.

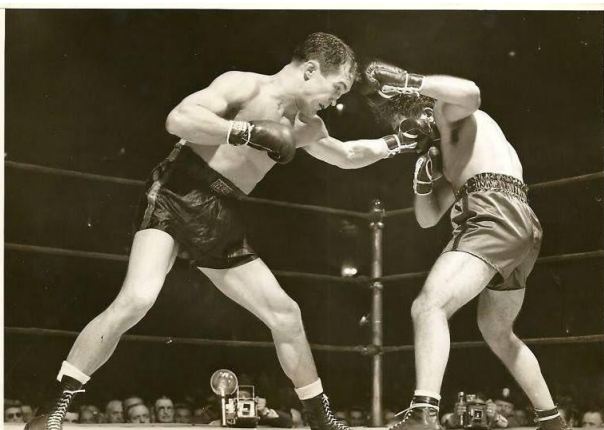
Zivic fought from 1931 until 1949, a total of 18 years. To put the comparison in context with champions in more recent times, if I were to write a story a week about each one of Fritzie's fights it would take me four and a half years to cover all of them. On the other hand, if I was writing about Floyd Mayweather's career it would take less than one year.

The list of great fighters Zivic fought is a long one. He ducked nobody, and anyone who stepped into the ring with him knew they were in a fight.

Here's a partial list of his opponents: In Addition to his fights with Sugar Ray Robinson, Henry Armstrong, and Charley Burley, Zivic took on Kid Azteca, Jake LaMotta, Cocoa Kid, Tommy Bell, Bob Montgomery, Beau Jack, Izzy Jannazzo, Lew Jenkins, Al Bummy Davis, Sammy Angott, Billy Conn, and Lou Ambers. Nobody, and I mean nobody today, takes on anything near that quality of opposition. Nobody fights anywhere near that often. And nobody comes close to being as tough as Fritzie Zivic.



Zivic lands on Jake LaMotta

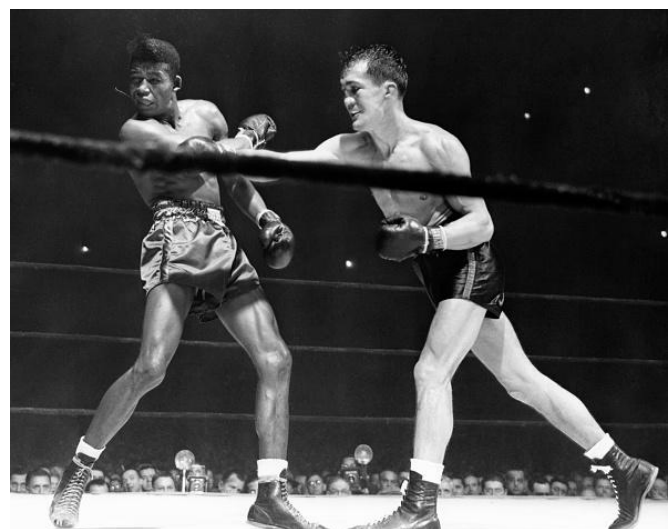


Fritzie steps in with a jab against LaMotta

Boxing ain't baseball. The stats don't tell the whole story. Sure, Fritzie lost that many bouts, but look who he took on. Look how he did in those losing battles, and then look at the people he defeated. There is no question Zivic is so far ahead of those fighting today that it would be criminal to match him up against any of them if he were still with us. Context is important when looking at history. This is especially true in boxing.



Beau Jack lands a right on Fritzie



Zivic landing on Robinson