

Hi Dan, I've enclosed very rare Stanley Ketchel letters written by him to the sporting editor of the Denver Rocky Mountain News, E.W. Dickerson, who was close friends with Ketchel. Dickerson was kind enough to share them with the Denver community in the sports section of the News. Dickerson was managing Harry Lewis at this time. I also believe this the same Dickerson who would later go on to be a famous referee, e.g. Tommy Gibbons vs. Georges Carpentier.

The first letter from 2/14/08 contains Ketchel's state of mind regarding his upcoming fight with Mike Twin Sullivan: how he will claim the MWC if he beats Mike Twin, his visit back to Grand Rapids, etc. Also the end of this letter contains his signature which has been the subject of debate for years in the collector community.

The second letter is from 2/18/08 as told by Dickerson, and his prediction for the fight with Mike Twin.

The third letter in full is from 2/26/08 with Ketchel saying how much easier than he anticipated it would be to defeat Mike Twin in Colma, CA. Last paragraph is great content on how he will celebrate. →

The fourth letter is from 4/29/08 with Ketchel describing his upcoming fight with Jack Twin, training at Millett's quarters, his admiration of Dickerson's predictions of past fights with Joe Thomas, Mike Twin, and now Jack Twin.

I would venture to say these are rare letters, since most research on Ketchel at this time concentrates on San Francisco and Grand Rapids newspapers, and not on Denver where he didn't fight.

Regards
Tom Scharf

KETCHEL WILL MEET BIG TWIN IF MAKES 154

Middleweight Says He Would
Rather Meet Papke First,
However, and Nail
Title.

STANLEY (YOUNG) KETCHEL, the Michigan lad who knocked out Mike (Twin) Sullivan in less than two minutes of fighting at Colma last Saturday, writes the sporting editor of The News, a former fellow townsman and friend, as follows:

"Dear Dick—Well, old man, it was a little easier than I expected. As I wrote you before the fight, I thought I would beat Sullivan and beat him easily, but scarcely hoped for it to be quite so soft. He did not hit me once. I had him from the first blow landed.

"Of course a fellow is lucky to get to a man so quick, but I have always figured that a man has as much chance to win in the first round as any other, and that it is foolish to take any risks by letting opportunities go by, no matter what round it is. As you know, I have won seven of my fights by knockouts in the first rounds, and I am going to win just as many more in one round as I can.

Will Meet Brother Jack.

"I simply figured that Sullivan could not hit hard enough to hurt me and, with that feeling, took the chance of going in regardless of what he had in stock, and got to him even easier than some of the easy ones in the days when I was fighting my way up. I expected him to land on me a few times.

"Jack Sullivan wants to fight me now, and nothing would suit me better, but he will have to fight at 154 or not at all. The dispatches said I outweighed Sullivan and made it appear that he gave away a whole lot of weight. Well, I was below the weight several days before the fight, and could have made 150 easily. Sullivan was not down to weight as soon as I was. He has been growing during the past year and I do not think he can fight lower than 150 and be good any more.

"If the public wants to see me fight Jack Sullivan and he will make the middleweight limit of 154 pounds, I am ready and willing to fight him. Still, I would rather take on Bill Papke next, for I think the public would rather see me fight him than any other man at the present time, and would recognize the winner of a contest between us as the middleweight champion.

Salting the Goods.

"We had a fine crowd and I am going to salt a good bunch of what I earned. I was a little foolish when it first began to come easy for me, but have had some of my eye teeth cut of late, and do not intend to throw away the best days of my life without having anything to show for it.

"I am writing this within a few hours after the fight, as I promised in my letter of last week before the fight, and will write more when I feel steadier. A fellow don't feel much like writing when he has been in training for weeks and has fought and won. He feels like celebrating the breaking of training, and that is what I am going to do just as soon as I put this in the mail box. Your friend,
STANLEY KETCHEL."

KETCHEL CONFIDENT HE IS THE MASTER OF MIKE SULLIVAN

Says It Is Safe Bet He Will Win in Less Than 15 Rounds.

STANLEY KETCHEL, the sensational young fighter who beat Joe Thomas twice, writes the sporting editor of The News as follows in regard to his contest on February 22 at Frisco with Mike (Twin) Sullivan:

"Dear Friend Dick—"Well, old man, I am back from my visit to our old home in Grand Rapids and have settled down to hard training. I expect to win with ease from Sullivan, but will take no chances by going into the fight out of condition. I understand Sullivan hasn't much of a wallop and no man can ever beat me who hasn't got that. No man has ever come anyway near putting me out and I was fighting middle and heavyweights when I was around Butte and weighed about 140 pounds. Can't see how any fancy boxer is going to be any danger to me in a bout of twenty-five rounds.

"I understand that Lewis beat Sullivan in Denver when you were managing Lewis. I am going to carry the fight to him from the start and it isn't going to last any longer than I can help. We are to weigh in at 154 pounds, four hours before the fight, and that will put me in the ring at my very best.

"After I beat Sullivan I am going to claim the middleweight championship and will be open to meet any man in the world at the limit of that class, 154 pounds ringside. If you stop to think about it, nobody has fought for the middleweight championship, who had a right to do so, since Fitzsimmons fought Jack Dempsey at New Orleans many years ago.

"I am feeling fine. Expected to stop over in Denver for a few days' visit with you on my way back to California, but they sent me my ticket over another route and I had to go that way. I suppose some people will say that I am picking a lemon in Sullivan, because he was knocked out twice by Gans, but I was willing to meet any of them and Sullivan was the only good man they could find of my weight who was willing to fight me.

"Papke and Kelly are the boys I want to fight, and I am ready for either of them just as soon as my fight with Sullivan is over. I challenged the winner when they fought in Milwaukee and was in hopes one or the other would accept. Neither one seemed very anxious to do it, although they both knew that they could get more from one fight in Frisco than from a dozen of those bush fights like they are fighting right along. I don't say they were afraid and I never said that they are dubs, as I was quoted as saying in some of the papers. They know their own business and if they don't want to fight me that is their business.

"Say, old man, but I had a great time

on my visit in Grand Rapids. I spent six weeks with the folks and it was the happiest six weeks in my life. My mother was so glad to see me that she cried all day the day I came home and, tough as I am, I did a little of it myself. Dick, I wouldn't go away from that dear old mother of mine for a day if I could have her with me in my business. She wor-



STANLEY KETCHEL.

ries about me getting hurt, but I made her think it was not near as bad as they tell about and she feels better about it now.

"I am going to settle down some of these days and she will be with me. Father was tickled to death to see me, too, but you know he don't say much. He is coming out to see some of my fights and is going to stop over in Denver to see you. Just put a bet down on me to beat Sullivan in less than fifteen rounds and you will win. I see where Naughton had a nice story in the Examiner about you and was glad to see it. They all say you are the best posted writer on boxing in that part of the country and you are well known out here. The Rocky Mountain News must be a great paper, from what they say about it. With highest regards, I am your friend.

Stanley Ketchel

PICKS KETCHEL AS THE VICTOR OVER SULLIVAN

Sporting Editor of The News,
After Sizing Up Both Men,
Says It's a Fifty to
One Shot.

SULLIVAN LACKS STEAM
BACK OF HIS WALLOPS

Michigander Able to Take All
the Punishment His Oppo-
nent Can Give.

Despite the fact that the match looks most one-sided, when it is remembered that Mike (Twin) Sullivan has twice been knocked out by Joe Gans, the lightweight champion, interest in the coming Ketchel-Sullivan fight seems to grow every day, and it is now apparent that it will be one of the best crowd-drawers of the year in Frisco, although it did look a very poor piece of matchmaking when first made.

The sporting editor of The News has received another letter from Ketchel, in which the former Michigander expresses the greatest confidence in scoring an easy victory, and ventures the prediction that he will score a knockout in less time than was scored by Joe Gans in his last meeting with Sullivan, that being in ten rounds in a St. Patrick's day bout at Los Angeles.

Ketchel is not in the least given to boasting; in fact, is a modest youngster and a most gentlemanly young fellow, besides being about the most handsome fighter who has reached top ranks in pugilism for many years.

Sullivan a Weak Hitter.

His argument is that Sullivan is a notoriously weak swatter for a top-notch; that he lacks in aggressiveness and is little more than a clever boxer. He argues that no such a fighter is dangerous to him, for the reason that he is able to take blows either to the jaw or body and not be affected by them when the same blows send other fighters into dreamland.

Sullivan, according to Frisco newspapers, has it doped out that Ketchel has been greatly overrated, and that all his record really consists of is his defeat of Joe Thomas, whom he refuses to recognize as the great fighter some people seem to consider him.

The bald-pated fighter who meets Ketchel has been seen in action in Denver bouts, and lovers of boxing here know he is simply a clever boxer; that he lets his opponent do the forcing and waits until the last round or two for a grand-stand finish in short bouts. As the bout with Ketchel is to be of twenty-five rounds, it is practically a fight to a finish when it is considered that any fighter who can reach Mike's paper jaw can land the money. Nobody attempts to figure Harry Lewis with Ketchel, yet Harry had Mike very groggy in a ten-round bout here last spring, and forced the fighting in every round.

It is true that Mike has shown better form in longer bouts than in the shorter sessions, as attested by his victory over Jimmy Gardner in twenty rounds, after Gardner scored a great lead in the first ten rounds.

STANLEY (YOUNG) KETCHEL



First photograph of the clever Michigan fighter in street clothes ever published in Denver. This photograph was sent to Ketchel's old friend and former townsman, the Sporting Editor of The News.

A Cinch for Ketchel.

In the opinion of the writer, it is a 50 to 1 shot on Ketchel to win the Washington's birthday bout at Frisco, despite the fact that it has only been made a 2½ and 3 to 1 shot, with Ketchel the favorite, in local poolrooms. I cannot see where Sullivan has a chance to beat the sturdy lad from Michigan.

His victory over Jimmy Gardner is the only one over a top-notch that Sullivan's record shows. He won a decision over Honey Mellody, and Joe Thomas sent Mellody into dreamland in eleven rounds, yet was no match for Ketchel. The Michigander is but a boy, yet from expressions from those who have seen him fight, he is one of the greatest of his weight and inches the ring ever has known. The best thing in all pugilism to look forward to at the present time is a meeting between Ketchel and Papke. Sullivan and Ketchel fight at 154 pounds, with the weighing in four hours before the fight. Ketchel's best weight, and pounds above Sullivan's usual fighting weight.

DAILY NEWS: DENVER, COLORADO, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1908.



Ketchel Is Confident of Defeating Twin Jack

Middleweight Writes Dick From His Training Quarters at Colma, Where He Is Getting in Shape for His Fight May 16.

By E. W. Dickerson.

My former fellow townsman and friend, Stanley Ketchel, writes as follows:

"Dear Dick--Well, old pal, I am in training for my fight with Jack (Twin) Sullivan, which takes place on May 9. You can bet all you have that I will be in the best of condition. Sullivan will have to be the better man if he beats me--that is all I can say.



E. W. Dickerson.

"I am working at Millett's training quarters at Colma, and I tell you it is the grandest place in the country for a puglist to train. Millett is turning fighters away every day because all the room available for training quarters is taken up. He is figuring on building new training quarters in the form of a hotel, to cost \$10,000, and when he does we will have a home. He is the best fellow in the world to look after the comfort of those who train at his place and seems to be lucky in having the winners here, too.

"I am getting in better condition for Sullivan than I ever have for any opponent. I expect him to give me a much better fight than his brother Mike gave me, still feel confident of victory, as I did before my fight with Mike. Jack may be stronger than Mike, but he is not a hard hitter and those clever fellows are duck soup for me.

"I expect to fight Papke in Milwaukee

after my fight with Sullivan and expect to win both battles, the one with Papke with ease. I saw Papke and Kelly box and can't see either one of them as world beaters. They are strong and tough and a bit clever, but I believe I have it on either of them in cleverness, and that I am as strong, and somewhat tougher. I do not say this boastfully, but it is the opinion I formed from seeing them work. I may be wrong--time will tell.

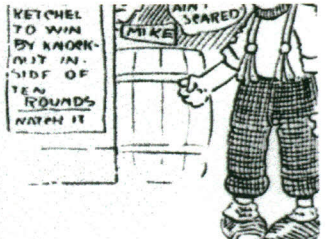
Has Some New Ones.

"I never have met a man yet who made me extend myself to the limit. I might have made shorter work of Thomas, but my seconds advised me to take my time and wait for an opening. Some of the writers say that I am only a haymaker, or something of that order. Never mind those stories. I am under cover with a bunch of stuff that the wise guys have not seen yet, and when I fight Jack Sullivan I will demonstrate what I can do.

"Heavyweight Joe Willis, Abe and Monte Attell, Johnny Franic, Dick Sullivan, Billy Slivers, Eddie Kelly and Jack McFadden are working out with me. Professor Moe is training me for this fight. Dick, you were the only one who had the right dope when I fought Thomas and knocked him out. You picked me to beat Mike Sullivan inside of three rounds, and now you pick me to beat Jack Sullivan inside of ten rounds. I hope you will be right on your dope this time, as you were before. The boys out here are still talking about the way you pick the winners.

"I will stop over in Denver sure the next time I go East, and will call on you. With highest regards, I am your friend,

"STANLEY KETCHEL."



MR KETCHEL GOT THE BEST OF MIKE AND NOW MIKE'S BROTHER JACK WILL TRY TO CLEAR THE SULLIVAN FAMILY HONOR