

BEFORE FIGHT GONG RINGS

How Different Pugilists Act Prior to Entering Ring

JEFFRIES SULLEN AND RESTLESS

Sullivan Brave and Proud—Corbett Nervous as a Cat—Dempsey on Edge—Mysticisms Smith's Temper—Burns Cool.

Prize fighters, who are obliged to have as much or more courage than great generals, are affected in different ways before important glove contests which demand from them personal gameness, a clear, quick, thinking brain, a clever generalship and remarkable physical endurance.

Big Jeffries, the "fight" he won the heavy-weight championship of the world from Bob Fitzsimmons at Coney Island, was retreating for a couple of hours at a roadhouse near by before entering the arena.

"Come, Jim, let's take a stroll," said Dempsey finally, when he found that his man could not sleep. Jeff slowly moved himself to a sitting position on the side of the bed and buried his face in his huge hands.

John L. Sullivan before his battle was the personification of confidence and pride. He always believed that he could knock out any man on earth. Even the night he met his Waterloo at the hands of Jim Corbett Sullivan was as proud as a peacock and as brave as a lion.

"How long do you think the fight will last?" asked Johnson gravely.

"Oh, I'll knock that dude's head off in half a dozen rounds," replied John L. in his deep voice.

"Don't be too sure, John," said Johnson. "Remember Corbett is a mighty clever fellow and he may fool you."

"Have no fear, Charlie. It will be short and sweet. I never felt more confident in my life. Get all the bets on me you can," thundered Sullivan as he stood up and answered the call to the ring.

Mike Donovan, the veteran pugilist, who trained, coached and seconded Corbett for this fight, declared afterward that Genesman Jim was the most nervous, restless man he had ever handled.

Corbett could not sleep well for many nights before the battle and was obliged to have a physician for a week previous, so great was his nervousness.

One of the most deceptive pugilists in point of appearance before climbing through the ropes was the lamented Jack Dempsey. He was a hard and faithful worker for all of his early miles, particularly. He never failed to get to the scratch trained to the second. Dempsey was not a really sturdy fellow and suffered considerably from stomach trouble.

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