

HOW OLD FIGHTERS TRAINED

Six Months of the Most Gruelling Work Not Unusual.

DEAD TOUGH MUGS IN VERY FACT

After "Black Draught" it Was the Practice to Harden Hands, Faces and Bodies for Bare Knuckle Encounters.

NEW YORK, April 17.—"It was nothing unusual for prizefighters of the old school to train hard for three months in preparation for a bout," said an old New York sport at a training camp in Westchester the other day.

"Some of the old fighters took six months even to get into condition, putting themselves through a severe grueling that would make the present day pugilists ill and weary. The first thing an old timer did was to take that awful physic known as the 'black draught,' composed of senna leaves, bruised ginger and licorice root. This was put in a half pint of water and allowed to stand by a fire for three hours, then strained, and when cooled the following morning, sal volatile, tincture of senna and tincture of cardamom were added.

"Then it was corked up tight and put in a cool place, after which a fighter took a wingglass of the stuff every morning and evening. It was a horrible thing to take and hardly fit for a meal.

"The old fellows used to have to harden their hands, faces and bodies when they fought with the raw 'uns in order to make the skin as tough as a rhinoceros hide to withstand the blows from bare knuckles. This was a long, tedious job. Many fighters used a mixture of rock salt, lemon juice, vinegar, horseradish and whiskey. It took two months of rubbing with this stuff before the skin got good and hard for a severe mill.

"There was no lively bag to punch in those days. Instead they used a big heavy bag weighing about 300 pounds, filled with sand, which hung within a foot of the ground on the end of a long rope. Punching this ungainly bag was slow, hard work, yet a fighter kept at it for a couple of hours until he was exhausted in body and limbs.

Daily Round in Training.

"The road work in the old days also was the limit. The fighter often went from thirty to fifty miles a day in the broiling sun with his tongue hanging out for the want of a drink. He usually ran five miles, then walked five, and so on until he wound up at his training quarters completely fagged out. Here is a day's training schedule in olden times:

- 7 a. m.—Got up and took a smart run for three or four miles.
7 a. m.—Rubbed down with alcohol and drank a glass of sherry and egg.
7 a. m.—Rested for one hour.
7 a. m.—Breakfast, generally consisting of two mutton chops or a small steak, tomatoes or celery and tea.
7 to 10 a. m.—Dumbbells and clubs for half an hour.
11 a. m.—In the road for a ten-mile walk and run.
12 p. m.—Light rub down.
12 p. m.—Dinner. Soup, chicken or roast beef or boiled leg of mutton with boiled onions, green peas, corn, bottle of Bass' ale or glass of sherry, fruit, but no pies or puddings.
12 p. m.—Sparting with trainer and punching sand bag for one or two hours.
12 p. m.—Twenty-mile trot on the road until 6 or 7 p. m. then a rub down.
7 p. m.—Supper. Cold lamb or fish, celery or water cress, and tea; a very light meal.
8 p. m.—Short stroll for a mile or two, then a light rub down.
9 p. m.—To bed for eight hours' rest.

"This was about the way Feenan, Morrissey, Sayers, Yankee Sullivan, Jim Mason, Tom King, Hyer, Colburn, McCool, Aaron Jones, Jim Donno, Ned O'Baldwin, Tom Allen and a bunch of the old fellows got into condition in the days of hard fist battles when fighters were not afraid of tough work.

Don Donnelly a Dancer.

"The great Irish flatie hero, Dan Donnelly, who whipped Cooper and other English fighters on the Curragh of Kildare,

"77" Humphreys Seventy-Seven breaks up Grip and COLDS

"Winter lingering in the lap of Spring" develops a fine crop of Colds, causing an increased demand for "Seventy-seven." Careless people change their garments too soon and Colds are the inevitable result.

"A dose of "Seventy-seven" taken at the first chill or shiver will break up the Cold, 25c, or mailed.

Humphreys' Homeo. Medicine Co., cor. William and Ann Streets, New York.



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S. HIRSCH & CO. KANSAS CITY, MO.

J. A. Sampson, Gen'l Sales Agent, Omaha.

Advertisement for Piles medicine, featuring a small illustration of a person and text: 'Guarantee To Cure Piles... I have made Piles...'

Intercollegiate Champions '07-'08, '08-'09



Standing: Isham, Cleveger [Coach], Viguain. Sitting: Meyer, Swan [Captain], Simonds, Kuns. NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY BASKET BALL TEAM.

had his own peculiar methods in training for a mill. Donnelly kept a popular porter house in Dublin, where all the leading sports of the country got together, for Dan was a great favorite in his day. They crowded the champion's bar when he was preparing for a battle just to see him exercise.

"One of his great stunts was to drink gallons of water and then jig in large rooms upstairs until the sweat ran from his body in streams. He kept the jiggling up for hours, too, to the great delight of his admirers, who came from miles around to see the endurance of the wonderful Irish pugilist. Dan, like many other good fighters, fell a victim to the bottle and passed in his checks before he reached middle age after a strenuous career in the prize ring.

"Jim Mace was a faithful trainer and never entered the ring unless he was fit and well. He seldom drank, and at the age of 70 now he is wonderfully well preserved.

"Sully a Poor Trainer. The hardest man to handle while training was John L. Sullivan. During his ten years of success as champion I never saw him but once in what I would call good form, and that was when he was pitted against Herbert Slade, the Maori, in Madison Square garden in 1888. Mace had imported Slade from Australia with a flourish of trumpets, and as Sullivan knew that Jim was a shrewd judge of fighters he decided to take no chances. So John L. got into fine condition under the careful handling of Joe Goss and Pete McCoy.

"Slade lasted only three rounds before Sullivan, who was fit to fight for his life that night. When he got big and fat Sullivan became slow and lazy, and consequently did not want to work. Billy Muldoon got the credit for putting him in fine form for his long fight with Jake Kilrain in 1889, but Sullivan was hog fat, clumsy and like an elephant on that occasion. Muldoon worked hard enough to get Sullivan right, but they were not on the friendliest terms all that time and John L. frequently threatened to wallop the famous health artist. In fact, nearly all of Sullivan's training was farcical, for he generally did as he pleased and worked as little as possible.

"Fitz a Real Worker. Fitzsimmons was one of the hardest workers I ever saw while training. He was always restless and on the go. It was natural for the Cornishman to work and train as for a duck to swim. Why, he used to wear out half a dozen bears, punching them like a wild man hour after hour. He was on the road bright and early, and with his remarkable speed and stamina he used to run his trainers' heads off.

"To stop at some blacksmith's shop and make a bunch of horseshoes was real fun for Robert. In his boxing boots and quarters he generally wore down several husky fellows, for it was impossible for him to box light and easy. I saw Fitz every now and then get half soaked with gin fizzes and other fancy drinks, but the next morning he was up with the jack and out on the road for a five or ten-mile run, returning to his quarters fairly dripping with perspiration.

"Then he took a cold bath and showed up for breakfast like a new man, glowing with health and in great spirits. When some other fellow in the camp drank too much at night and had a big noodle in the morning Fitz used to laugh and say:

"Why don't yer run you're bloomin' 'ead haff like me?"

"This is what made Fitz a wonderful fighter, because he was always in the finest fettle. Even when Bob was out of training he was always on the jump, working away at something that provided plenty of exercise. If he couldn't do anything else he jumped in and did a lot of sweeping, cleaning and household work to beat the band.

"When he was the heavyweight champion of the world I used to see him cook a big dinner for his family, wash the dishes, dust and beat the rugs, make the beds and do other chores about the house.

"Big Jeff is Lazy. I see where Jim Jeffries says he is a great worker while training. That may be true, but he always seemed to me to be lazy, as if training was a hardship for him. He lacked the dash and spirit that willing workers show and always went at the task in a half-hearted way. I used to think he was one of the slowest bag punchers I ever saw, and when he started out on the road he was generally in poor humor, plodding along like a man going on a disagreeable errand. He seldom broke into a smart run or showed any enthusiasm in his work.

"Jeff said recently that he made it a practice of getting up at 5 in the morning when training for a mill. I often found him in bed at 10, for Jim is a great sleeper and loves to stay in bed in the morning.

He's one of those fellows who usually get up with a groch, and for the first half hour he's on his feet he isn't a pleasant person to meet. After a cold bath and a rubdown Jeff thaws out and after a good breakfast he's all right, ready to take or play a joke. The boilermaker does his road work shortly after breakfast and comes back as hungry as a bear and with a terrible thirst.

"But he knows that drink of any kind will put on flesh, so he gorges his throat and swallows as little fluid as possible. An hour after luncheon he may bang the bag and exercise with the medicine ball half an hour. Then he takes another rest before sparring a few rounds, when his day's work is practically at an end. In the evening Jeff eats a big dinner, after which he is in fine humor and spends a few hours chatting with his cronies, junting and dogs being his favorite topics. But the big fellow seldom discusses the fight for which he is in training. He doesn't care to keep it in his mind all the time.

"It's true that Jeff has never entered the ring out of condition. He's too careful to take a chance. Why, even when he agreed to face such a second-rater as Jack Munroe he framed faithfully and was in fine form for that one-sided affair. The boilermaker has the big bump of caution, and you can bet all your coin that he will not face Jack Johnson unless he's in prime condition and knows that he can go the route necessary to win back the championship.

"I know that Jeff dreads the hard work he'll have to do to get right for the big oop, for he detests training and would rather fight half a dozen battles than go through a course of spouts to get fit. Jeff realizes, too, that the task will be tougher than ever now that he's been out of the game four years and has, of course, grown that much older. Jeff's plenty of time so that he can work himself into form, but nobody can hurry him, for he's one of the slow but sure kind of fellows.

"Little Jim Driscoll's Wap. What a peculiar little man Jim Driscoll is while training! The English featherweight champion is a sort of go-as-you-please chap in his work. Driscoll has knocked the tar out of all traditions by his odd methods. He's like the Quaker, who waits for the spirit to move him. This little Johnny Bull does his work when and how he feels like it, with no particular system. One morning he'll be up with the blooming robins bright and early, sprinting on the road, while probably the next day he'll take it easy, eating breakfast in bed like a lord. But Jim always does the same amount of work each day, even if it takes him until midnight to finish his quota. He's not one of those early to bed and early to rise boys. He may go to the theater one night and spend the next working like a beaver in his gym, punching the bag, swinging the medicine ball, skipping the rope and boxing at top speed. Jim declares, however, that he never shirks hard work and does not need the services of a trainer to coach him.

"Another little fellow who is still more erratic in his training methods is Aurelio Herrera, the Mexican, who has done some tough milling in the far west. He smokes cigarettes constantly while preparing for a mill, varying the monotony with big black cigars. He trains hard one day and lays off the next. The Mexican eats anything and everything and has no regular system of working for a battle. If he had followed some steady plan I think he would have been a far better fighter, for he's certainly shown that nature has been very kind to him when he's taken such chances with himself.

"Old-Timers the Best. If you will take the trouble to look over the history of pugilism I think you'll find that the best fighters were the best workers while in training. The old timers used to say that a course of long, severe training was a better test of a man's gameness than a contest in the ring. Jack Dempsey, Jim Corbett, Tommy Ryan, George Dixon, Joe Choynski, Jim Carney, Danny Needham, Joe Goddard, Peter Jackson, Frank Slavin, Solly Smith, George Dawson, Tom Tracey, George Lavigne, Frank Erne, Jimmy Barry, Alce Greggs, Young Mitchell, Billy Myer, Jimmy Britt, Abe Aitel, Joe Gans, Dick Hyland, Terry McGovern, Paddy McFarland, Leach Cross, Battling Nelson, Stanley Ketchel, Willie Lewis, Tom Sharkey, Joe Walcott, Jack Jackson and a host of other great fighters have all trained faithfully and have always entered the ring fit.

"No fighter ever took such chances as Jack McAuliffe when he was lightweight champion. The morning of the day he met Billy Myer at New Orleans in 1902 Jack was ten pounds overweight and Dick Roche, his backer, was so enraged that he was going up to the Olympic club, declare the match off and forfeit the \$5,000 he had up, but McAuliffe wouldn't hear of such a thing, declaring that he'd be in the ring that night at weight and wallop Myer into Sleepyville. And so he was! He went out on the road that morning, worked off the ten pounds and got into the ring that night looking all to the good.

"McAuliffe put up such a great fight that Myer, who never had a look in, was knocked out in the fifteenth round. Jack knew when to quit, too, and gracefully handed over the lightweight championship belt to George Lavigne. McAuliffe never had a decision against him—a remarkable ring record.

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