

# AD WOLGAST WHIPS BATTLING NELSON

Champion Lightweight Fighter  
Blind and Helpless in Forti-  
eth Round.

## REFEREE AVERTS KNOCKOUT

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 22.—His face battered to a pulp, his eyes closed, covered with blood, and staggering helplessly about the ring, Battling Nelson, conqueror of Joe Gans, was saved from a knockout in the fortieth round of his fight with Ad Wolgast to-day when Referee Eddie Smith humanely stopped an unequal contest, which was held in Richmond Arena, near here.

Nelson, game to the last, stood in the centre of the ring, and though he could hardly raise his hands, begged to be allowed to continue. He was led to his corner heartbroken.

In the opposite corner of the ring the new lightweight champion of the world, Ad Wolgast of Cadillac, Mich., was lifted to the shoulders of his trainers while the big crowd cheered.

Only once did Nelson have a chance. In the twenty-second round, with a stinging right cross to the jaw that staggered Wolgast and, before the round closed, he dropped Wolgast in the middle of the ring with a similar blow. Three seconds were tolled before Wolgast regained his feet. The crowd prepared to leave the arena as the word went from bench to bench that another boy had fallen victim to the wonderful durability of the Dane. But in the next round Wolgast recuperated and from then on, slowly but surely, wore Nelson down.

For twelve rounds before the finish Nelson seemed bewildered and his blows were delivered as though his arms were stiff. From the thirtieth round Nelson could hardly see or hear. The left side of his face had lost all semblance of its former contour. He staggered and hung on. In the thirty-seventh round he was all but out.

In the thirty-eighth round John Robinson, Nelson's manager, wanted to throw the sponge into the ring, but Abdul the Turk, another of the seconds, tore it from his hands and threw it into the trainer's bucket. Robinson protested, on the verge of tears, that his man was beaten. When the fortieth round came Referee Smith asked Nelson if he wanted to quit. Nelson, unable to talk, merely shook his head negatively. After thirty seconds of the fortieth round had gone and as darkness was beginning to creep over the scene Referee Smith raised Wolgast's glove, and the new lightweight champion was made.

Wolgast outgeneraled, outboxed, and all but outgamed Nelson. After the fight Wolgast scampered out of the ring like a schoolboy and galloped through the mud to his training room. Nelson was taken out on the arms of his seconds. As he was carried through the crowd he was cheered for the grit and gameness he had displayed.

Referee Smith made the following statement:

"Wolgast fought Nelson at his own game and beat him fairly and squarely. Nelson complained at times of Wolgast's butting, but I paid little heed, as it was simply the case of one battler getting the worst of a game where both were equally guilty.

"Both men fought the same, but one had youth, the power to come back, vigor, life, and all that goes with it, while the thirteen years of fighting through which Nelson had gone had sapped his strength and left him without the old snap, dash, and stamina."

Wolgast said after the fight:

"My fight to-day was like a training bout. Only once did he bother me, and that was in the twenty-second round. Nelson hurt me more by butting me than anything else, and I felt queer for just a few seconds. I cannot say anything as to my future plans, but I am ready to give deserving lightweights a chance."

When Nelson was able to talk he said:

"I am sorry they called the fight off when they did. I think I could have stayed the forty-five rounds, but I have no complaint to make."

### The Fight By Rounds.

ROUND 1.—Nelson swung his left high on the head and a moment later planted a solid left to the face. They fought at close range at a fast clip. Wolgast stood with his back against the ropes and played the Battler with short-arm jabs on the face. Nelson forced the fighting, landing right and left on the jaw and face. Wolgast, maddened, fought back fiercely, landing several powerful wallops on the champion's jaw and nose. It was an even round.

ROUND 2.—Nelson started the round with a left smash to the face, and forced his man against the ropes. Wolgast swung two powerful lefts to the face and a right and left to the jaw at close range. Nelson's lip bled slightly. Both exchanged rights and lefts to the face. A right swing by Nelson opened up a cut under Wolgast's right eye that bled slightly. Nelson took the fight to his opponent, but was met with two hard lefts to stomach and a right to the jaw. Wolgast had a shade the better of the round.

ROUND 3.—Wolgast shot in three straight lefts to the face. Nelson rebuking him with a right swing fairly on the jaw. Wolgast smiled, and they mixed it against the ropes. Nelson brought the blood from Wolgast's nose, crossing him with a vicious right. After some wrestling Nelson forced his man against the ropes, but Wolgast covered up and smothered neatly. Nelson was doing the majority of the work, and both men slowed up considerably. The round was even.

ROUND 4.—Nelson piled on top of his man and the Milwaukeean fought back fiercely. Nelson staggered Wolgast with a left uppercut to the jaw, followed with left and right swings to the body. Wolgast fought back gamely, playing for the head and body. Nelson and an antagonist against the ropes and tried to land a knockout punch, but Wolgast was too elusive. Wolgast landed twice with the right on the face, and then they fought at close range. Wolgast's right finding the stomach and his left landing on Nelson's jaw. Wolgast's eye was swollen as he took his seat. Both men bled from nostrils at the close of the round, which was even.

ROUND 5.—Nelson forced his man around the ring and delivered a telling right smash on the jaw, to which Wolgast responded in kind, lifting Nelson in the air. They went at it like a pair of bull terriers, and both men were cautioned for butting. The round ended in a furious exchange, Wolgast having the better of it.

ROUND 6.—Wolgast talked to his seconds as Nelson battered away at him. After Wolgast had landed two rights to the jaw and a left swing to the same place, Nelson closed in and an exchange of short-arm rights and lefts to the head followed. Nelson swung a hard right to the jaw, which the Battler duplicated a moment later. Wolgast backed into his own corner and scored on the stomach with a tremendous left that sent the crowd howling. A moment later he sent in another to the same place. The round closed with the honors in favor of Wolgast.

ROUND 7.—Nelson appeared to have slowed down a bit. Wolgast swung two lefts to the face and a midring rally followed, the men exchanging right and left swings to the head. Wolgast met the oncoming Battler with two uppercut lefts to the jaw, and an instant later swung twice with right to the face and left to the body, meanwhile covering up cleverly. Nelson sent Wolgast almost through the ropes with a left smash to the jaw. They mixed it in the center of the ring, Wolgast bringing a fresh stream of blood from the champion's face. As the bell rang Nelson swung a hard right over the heart. The round was fairly even.

ROUND 8.—Nelson rushed in, planting his right solidly on the jaw. He forced the pace, but was met with a straight right and left to the face. Nelson never faltered, however, and kept Wolgast constantly at work covering. Nelson started the blood flowing from his man's nostrils as he chased him about the ring, landing several times with the right and left to the face. Wolgast sought a haven against the ropes, with Nelson slugging away unceasingly. Wolgast looked tired at this stage of the contest, and his blows seemed to have lost some of their sting. The round closed with Nelson enjoying a good lead.

ROUND 9.—Wolgast broke ground before the Battler, and another time he reached Nelson with right and left to the stomach. Finally they mixed it fighting at a furious clip, each landing on the face and jaw. One mix was a repetition of the other. Nelson forcing his man back, Wolgast trying hard to stop the pace leader. Wolgast uppercut to the jaw with his left, and a moment later cut open Nelson's ear with a right swing. Nelson danced to his corner with the blood streaming from his injured ear. Nelson had a shade the best of it.

ROUND 10.—Nelson forced the pace, constantly backing his opponent against the ropes. Wolgast in a corner got backed fiercely, but the champion was not to be stopped. Time and again Wolgast landed, but Nelson never faltered. Wolgast peppered the champion's face with left and right, and finally crossed with a terrific left to the jaw. Nelson never winced, all the time compelling Wolgast to step back against the ropes. Nelson again danced to

his corner at the sound of the bell. Nelson's round.

ROUND 11.—Wolgast outboxed the champion, but could not make him break ground. Nelson mercilessly waded in, unmindful of the constant tattoo that Wolgast beat against his face and jaw with short-arm hooks and jolts. Wolgast swung right and left to the jaw. The bell ended the round with Wolgast hammering away at Nelson's jaw and face, landing almost at will. Nelson's face was a mass of blood as he took his seat with the honors of the round against him.

ROUND 12.—Wolgast was cautioned to let go by the referee. Nelson forced the pace as usual, Wolgast meeting him with several hard left swings on the jaw. Nelson apparently was determined to tire the Milwaukeean out, but meanwhile he received fearful punishment. Wolgast flaying with right and left with almost pendulum precision. Wolgast seemed to gain confidence as the men roughed it, head to head against the ropes. Wolgast never let up and again started the blood flowing from Nelson's face with a series of right and left punches.

ROUND 13.—As the men toed the mark, Nelson's lips were puffed and his mouth and eyes swollen. They mixed like tigers, Wolgast landing repeatedly on the body and jaw, with Nelson fighting wildly and spitting blood. Wolgast literally cut the Battler's face to ribbons, but still the Dane came on for more. Nelson wrestled his man against the ropes, Wolgast covering up. There was a temporary lull in the battle, after which Wolgast swung right and left to the body.

"The worst beating the champion has ever received," said old-time ring followers, as Nelson's seconds worked over his damaged face during the minute's respite at the end of the round.

ROUND 14.—Wolgast looked much the fresher as they came up. He flung his right hard to the face and followed with left and right to the body. Nelson's face was badly swollen. Wolgast fought fiercely, talking the fighting right to the Battler. Nelson almost forced Wolgast through the ropes, and then assisted him to the centre of the ring. Wolgast smiled and shook the champion's hand warmly. Wolgast then hooked his left twice in quick succession to the jaw, and followed it with a straight right to the face, and the bell ended a rather tame round.

ROUND 15.—Betting now even money. They whaled away ineffectively at one another, both displaying more caution than in any previous round. Nelson then wrestled his man about the ring, only to be rewarded with a left uppercut on the sore mouth. Nelson, disappointed badly, continued to force the pace, all the while the target for Wolgast's well-timed swings. Nelson missed a terrific swing that was labeled knock-out, and this taught Wolgast that he had better be careful. It was another tame round.

ROUND 16.—Wolgast swung several times over the kidneys and they roughed it. Nelson reliving the lion's share of the punishment. Wolgast kept pegging away with right and left to the jaw and finally a tremendous drive caught Nelson's jaw. Nelson never wavered but closed in, exchanging punch for punch. Nelson swung left and right to the body, and forced his antagonist against the ropes, landing several times with right and left to the jaw. Nelson went to his seat dancing.

ROUND 17.—Wolgast backed away, Nelson throwing himself at him with great vim. Wolgast met the onslaught with right and left swings to the body. Nelson fought hard and never stopped. Finally Wolgast swung a terrific right to the jaw and then shot in a half dozen right swings over the champion's sore ear. Nelson received a hard uppercut on the jaw, causing the blood to flow afresh. The men fought every inch of the way.

ROUND 18.—"How do you feel?" asked Nelson as the men came up.

"As if I were punching a bag," was the quick rejoinder of Wolgast, with which he waded in, landing right and left on Nelson's sore mouth. Wolgast slipped to his knees in his own corner, but was up in a jiffy. He covered up, with Nelson battering away at him, but failed to land. Wolgast apparently staggered the champion, sending in several vicious right swings to the jaw. Wolgast deliberately butted the champion with his head and was quickly rebuked by Referee Smith. The crowd hissed, and the round ended without damage.

ROUND 19.—The men came up almost as fresh as at the beginning. Wolgast time and again jabbed his left to the face, Nelson fighting back fiercely, but ineffectively. They battled about the ring, Nelson all the time the aggressor and never relenting, and Wolgast slowly breaking ground and playing for the face and jaw with short-arm jolts. Wolgast staggered the champion with a succession of powerful rights to the jaw. There was no giving way with Nelson, and as the round ended he tripped to his seat. One round was practically a repetition of its predecessor.

ROUND 20.—They slugged and roughed it from one end of the ring to the other. It was the same old story—Nelson forcing and Wolgast retreating and peppering the champion's badly swollen face. Wolgast planted his left to the jaw with much force as the round ended. It was a tame round.

ROUND 21.—Nelson opened the round with a vicious straight right to the jaw and Wolgast sought refuge in a clinch. Nelson then planted right and left on the jaw and Wolgast almost backed to the ropes. They milled it to the centre of the ring without inflicting damage, and then exchanged rights to the face. Wolgast swung a hard right to the jaw, Nelson countering with a right cross to the same place. The bell ended a round of tame milling.

ROUND 22.—Nelson staggered his antagonist with a clean right drive to the stomach. He followed his advantage, landing right and left to the jaw and body. A right swing sent Wolgast to his haunches. He was up quickly, but staggered about the ring. Wolgast stalled for half a minute and both swung fiercely at each other. Nelson tried with all his might for a knockout, but failed. Wolgast's seconds gave him whisky as he took his seat. It was all Nelson's round.

ROUND 23.—Nelson went right after his man, and Wolgast fought back gamely. He swung twice to the Battler's jaw with right, and then a hard rally in the midring followed, both landing telling punches. Nelson appeared to be much the stronger of the two. He shot his left hand to the jaw, Wolgast retaliating with left swings to the jaw. Nelson tried for a knockout, but Wolgast covered up cleverly and closed into a clinch. The round ended without damage. Wolgast again was given whisky during the minute's intermission.

ROUND 24.—Wolgast came up fresher. Nelson forced him from one end of the ring to the other, Wolgast in the meantime swinging viciously to the jaw with right and left. Nelson only shook his head and then shot a hard right to the jaw and left swing to the face. Wolgast hooked his right to the jaw. Nelson countering with a left hook to the body. Wolgast slowed up perceptibly and the crowd yelled "Fight, fight." The round ended tamely.

ROUND 25.—Nelson dropped his man against the ropes, but his swings were badly directed. They exchanged savage lefts to the face and Nelson crossed his right to the jaw. Wolgast set his backers cheering by scoring thrice on the jaw with hard right swings. Soon after he duplicated this performance, but Nelson never wavered. Wolgast appeared to be tiring at this stage. The crowd sent up a great cheer when they realized that Wolgast had lasted the twenty-five rounds.

ROUND 26.—They wrestled to the centre of the ring and refused to break. Then they battled head to head, Nelson almost closing Wolgast's right eye with a straight left. After some struggling at close quarters, Wolgast swung a powerful wallop to the Battler's face and the Dane went to his corner spitting blood.

ROUND 27.—Wolgast changed his tactics at the start of this round. He rushed in close and took the fighting to the Dane. Fighting shoulder to shoulder, each landed on the face. Nelson's left eye was almost entirely closed at this stage. Wolgast clipped Nelson solidly on the jaw with his right, and the spectator's cheered. Wolgast closed in and played for body, but his efforts were blocked, and Nelson broke it up with a stinging right to the face. Wolgast's round.

ROUND 28.—Nelson came up with left cheek badly swollen. They fought at a hot pace, locked in each other's embrace, and were cautioned to break. Breaking, Wolgast swung twice with right to Nelson's sore face, and at close range swung left and right to mouth, starting blood. They slowed up considerably and frequently fought to a clinch. Nelson went to his corner on a trot. No damage.

ROUND 29.—Wolgast rushed, jabbing Nelson with one arm, and fought to land on the body with the other. He finally landed several swings over the kidneys and twice shot his left to the face. Nelson unhooked a left that caught Wolgast over the heart and the latter winced and groaned. Nelson caught his man straight on the jaw as they rushed to close quarters, and then followed a succession of clinches. Breaking they exchanged terrific left swings to jaw and then fought to another clinch in which position they were at the close of the round.

ROUND 30.—As the men came up for this round Nelson's left eye was completely closed. The men roughed it, Nelson hitting rather low. The crowd yelled its disapproval. At close quarters Wolgast drove right and left repeatedly in the stomach and Nelson covered up. Nelson then sent a terrific right to the jaw and missed a similar blow. Wolgast swung a right to the jaw and the champion broke ground for an instant. Nelson returned with a right smash to the chin.

ROUND 31.—Nelson trotted to the centre of the ring and Wolgast landed several short-arm jolts to the stomach, following them with a right swing to the chin. Nelson fought more carefully. Wolgast swung a hard right to the sore cheek, after which both rested in a clinch. Breaking Wolgast swung twice with his right on the jaw and he danced away as the Dane rushed after him. Wolgast had the advantage of the round.

ROUND 32.—The men came up slowly and immediately closed in, volleying at each other's stomach, with Wolgast landing frequently. Suddenly Wolgast swung with his right, catching Nelson flush on the mouth, and a stream of blood followed. Nelson presented a gory picture as the blood covered him from head to foot. The round ended in Wolgast's favor. He no longer failed to mix it with the champion, and appeared to gain confidence as the battle progressed.

ROUND 33.—In a clinch Wolgast drove three rights to the stomach and with his left peppered away at Nelson's damaged eye. Wolgast then swung two rights to the same place and Nelson was half blinded. His blows were wild, and he found it difficult to locate the Milwaukeean. They mixed it, and Wolgast planted two hard rights full tilt in the stomach and Nelson clinched. Nelson could see with one eye only, the other being out of commission. It was all Wolgast's round. Nelson's efforts to land were feeble.

ROUND 34.—Both came up quickly and had to be pried from a clinch. Both were offered

at evens at this stage, with no Nelson money in sight. Wolgast peppered the Battler's sore face, and varied this with right and left short-arm rips to the stomach. Nelson seemed to have lost all his vim, and seldom made any determined effort to land. The men closed in and Wolgast started blood spouting from the champion's mouth, with two well-directed jolts. Wolgast's round.

ROUND 35.—Nelson was a sight as he came to the centre of the ring. All life seemed to have gone out of him, and although he forced matters all his efforts were devoted to stopping the blows of his adversary. Wolgast started, his arms going in whirlwind fashion, landing without return on the Dane's stomach. Wolgast staggered the champion with a terrific left swing to the jaw, and Nelson appeared to be going to pieces gradually. Wolgast smashed with right and had the champion groggy from a succession of rights and lefts to the jaw. The bell rang in the nick of time, saving the champion from what looked like certain defeat.

ROUND 36.—Nelson came up weak. He waded in, but could not see Wolgast. The latter danced around the champion like a jumping-jack, sending in punch after punch. Nelson almost tottered into a clinch, but Wolgast fought warily and took no chances of the Battler's stalling. Wolgast played for body and head alternately, but his blows were not strong enough for a knockout. Nelson almost fell into his chair as the round ended.

ROUND 37.—Wolgast took no chances, apparently fearing that the champion was faking weakness. Wolgast jarred Nelson with three right punches to the jaw and Nelson could hardly come back. They met in mid-ring with Nelson swinging like a babe and Wolgast landing with good clean punches. Nelson's ability to stem the tide was a wonderful exhibition. Wolgast almost sent the champion through the ropes with a right smash to the jaw. Nelson tottered about the ring helpless and Wolgast sent in smash upon smash and the bell rang, saving Nelson from a knockout.

ROUND 38.—Nelson was a pitiful sight as he staggered to the centre of the ring. Wolgast appeared to be in no hurry to complete his work. Robinson at this stage tried to throw up the sponge, but the other Nelson seconds took the sponge from him and threw it in the bucket. Nelson to all intents and purposes was a beaten man and it required the use of all his senses to stave off or prolong inevitable defeat. Both men were covered from head to foot from the Dane's blood and the arena soon became a shambles. Wolgast peppered away at the disintegrating champion, the crowd yelling itself hoarse for the Milwaukeean to finish his man and the agony. Their cries were mingled with expressions of pity for Nelson. Betting two to one in favor of Wolgast.

ROUND 39.—Wolgast appeared loath to put in the finishing punch. He jabbed incessantly at the Battler's anatomy, and again the blood flowed in a stream. Nelson tried to make a last rally, but it was only for a fleeting moment, and he again quickly subsided and scarcely could hold his hands up. Wolgast almost sent Nelson to the floor, landing blow after blow on the defenseless champion's face.

Ring followers said that never had they seen such an exhibition of gameness as displayed by Nelson. Referee Smith said he would stop the fight in the next round if Nelson's seconds did not.

ROUND 40.—Wolgast backed away, looking for an opening for a final blow. He smashed the beaten champion on the jaw with a right, putting all his remaining strength in the blow. Nelson tottered and was on the point of collapse when Referee Eddie Smith stopped the fight and gave the verdict to Wolgast. Nelson tried to shake the hand of his conqueror, but was so weak that he was nearly dragged to his corner.