

AD WOLGAST WHIPS BATTLING NELSON

Champion Lightweight Fighter
Blind and Helpless in Fortieth 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 flayed 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 fighting 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 forced his 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 on 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 centre 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, the face was met with a straight right, and he left to the face. Nelson's right was met with a straight right, and Nelson's right was met with a straight right, and he left to the face. Nelson fought constantly at work covering, mauling several times with the right and left to the face. Wolgast sought a haven against the ropes, and Nelson slugged a haven against the ropes, and Nelson's right was met with a straight right, and he left to the face. The round was even.

ROUND 9.—Nelson forced the pace, and the Milwaukeean fought back, but the champion in as corner to be stopped. The men exchanged rights and lefts to the face, and again Nelson landed, but Nelson never failed to land a right to the jaw. Nelson never wince

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