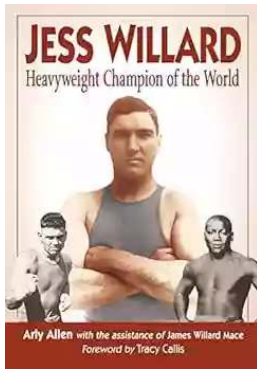


Jess Willard: The Undisputed Heavyweight Champion of the World (1915-1919)

When it comes to the world of boxing, many legendary fighters have left an indelible mark on the sport and become icons in their own right. One such fighter is Jess Willard, who, during his reign from 1915 to 1919, became known as the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. Standing at an impressive 6 feet 6 inches tall and weighing over 240 pounds, Willard's physical stature and skill inside the ring were awe-inspiring.



Born on December 29, 1881, in St. Clere, Kansas, Jess Willard was originally a farmer by profession. However, his passion for boxing led him to pursue a career in the sport, and little did the world know that they were witnessing the birth of a boxing legend.



Jess Willard: Heavyweight Champion of the World (1915-1919) by Sarah Lampkin(Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 8081 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 299 pages



The Rise to Greatness

Willard's ascent in the boxing world was nothing short of remarkable. It was in 1915 that he faced the reigning heavyweight champion, Jack Johnson, in a historic bout that would define his career. This match, which took place in Havana, Cuba, lasted an impressive 26 rounds, and despite facing several knockdowns, Willard demonstrated his unparalleled resilience and emerged victorious with a knockout punch that ultimately dethroned Johnson.

From this point onwards, Willard became the face of the heavyweight division and went on to defend his title against some of the most formidable opponents of his time. His bouts were eagerly anticipated by fans across the globe, as each fight showcased his immense power, agility, and unwavering determination.

A Champion Inside and Outside the Ring

While Jess Willard's bouts inside the ring were mesmerizing, what truly set him apart from the rest was his character outside of it. Willard was known for his humility, sportsmanship, and respect towards his opponents. He refused to engage in trash talk or indulge in theatrics that some fighters of his era were

known for. This made him a role model for many aspiring boxers and endeared him to fans around the world.

Willard's reign as the heavyweight champion came to an end in 1919 when he faced an up-and-coming fighter named Jack Dempsey. The bout, which infamously became known as "The Battle of Toledo," saw Willard succumb to a relentless barrage of hits from Dempsey, leading to a technical knockout in the third round. Despite the defeat, Willard handled the loss with grace and dignity, cementing his status as a true champion both inside and outside the ring.

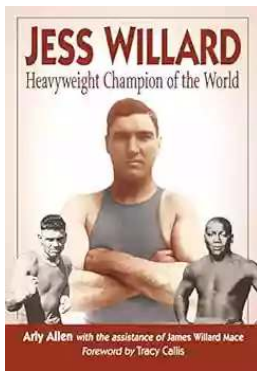
The Legacy of Jess Willard

Although his reign as the heavyweight champion was relatively short-lived, Jess Willard's impact on the sport of boxing cannot be undermined. He paved the way for future generations of heavyweight fighters, proving that size and power alone were not enough to dominate the ring. His technique, resilience, and unwavering spirit continue to inspire boxers to this day.

After retiring from boxing, Willard returned to his farming roots and lived a quiet life in Kansas. He passed away on December 15, 1968, leaving behind a legacy that will forever be remembered in the annals of boxing history.

Jess Willard's rise to greatness and his reign as the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world from 1915 to 1919 will forever be etched in boxing history. His battles inside the ring were a testament to his physical prowess, determination, and resilience. Yet, it was his humility, sportsmanship, and respect for his opponents that truly set him apart from the rest.

Although he faced a crushing defeat at the hands of Jack Dempsey, Jess Willard's legacy continues to inspire fighters to this day. He will always be remembered as a true champion and one of the greatest boxers of his time.



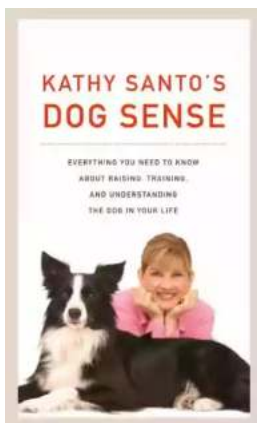
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Jess Willard, the "Pottawatomie Giant," won the heavyweight title in 1915 with his defeat of Jack Johnson, the first black heavyweight champion. At 6 feet, 6 inches and 240 pounds, Willard was considered unbeatable in his day. He nonetheless lost to Jack Dempsey in 1919 in one of the most brutally one-sided contests in fistic history. Willard later made an initially successful comeback but was defeated by Luis Firpo in 1923 and retired from the ring. He died in 1968, largely forgotten by the boxing public. Featuring photographs from the Willard family archives, this first full-length biography provides a detailed portrait of one of America's boxing greats.



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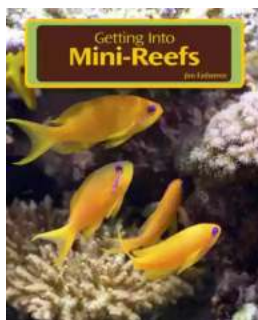
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