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**JOE BECKETT HAS
POWERFUL PUNCH**

His Rise to Top Ranks in English
Boxing Like That of Jack Dempsey

(New York Times.)

Joe Beckett, the newest sensation in English boxing circles, has attained his great standing in somewhat the same manner that Jack Dempsey has reached his present status. Both had their ups and downs before arriving at the top, and then each vaulted into a championship by quick and decisive defeats of titleholders of abnormal physique and supposed invulnerability.

Beckett is no newcomer to the ring game. Before the war began he engaged in many bouts in England with no little success, but he never attained any such rating as has been his since his two-round victory over Frank Goddard at the Olympia about a month ago. His next bout is to be with Georges Carpentier, according to present plans, and his admirers see a victory here, and then a bout with Jack Dempsey for the world's heavyweight championship.

Goddard, who frequently had been compared to Jim Jeffries because of his remarkable physique, was regarded by ring followers in England as invincible. The feeling toward him was something like that which many held in regard to Willard before Dempsey met him at Toledo on July 4. It had been said frequently of Goddard that no man could hurt him and that his prodigious strength was a guarantee against a knockout or severe punishment. Keen critics, including Eugene Corri, the noted referee, had been satisfied that Goddard did not know what fear was. With all these attributes conceded to him, it is not strange that the decisive victory of Beckett made the latter loom up as a superman.

The new English champion stands about six feet in height, is deep chested, has massive shoulders, and his general appearance carries the impression of tremendous strength. That he has tremendous punching power he quickly demonstrated in the bout with Goddard. Like Dempsey at Toledo Beckett was all over his man before the first round ended, though he did not succeed in putting his heavier opponent down as Dempsey did. But the outcome was foreseen in that opening round. A left sent Goddard down for eight seconds, soon after the second round began, and it was not long before a right and left ended the battle. It was a revelation to some 15,000 onlookers that anybody could in such brief time dispose so completely of the idea of Goddard's invulnerability to attack.

According to Eugene Corri, Beckett looked the winner as soon as he put up his hands. He did not get by without taking a stinging himself, but this appeared only to make him battle all the harder. It had been believed that Goddard, somewhat slow of foot, had no master at the infighting game, but that idea was quickly dispelled when the two came to close quarters. Beckett ripped in short jabs and uppercuts which carried convincing evidence of his punching power.

Beckett had gone through the experience of being on the losing canvas when the two seconds were tolled. He met Goddard late last year, soon after the signing of the armistice, and was knocked out by the Samson of the ring, as Goddard had been termed by some of the fight followers of England. But before going down to defeat Beckett had shown his ability to punch by dropping Goddard to the canvas. Then in the interlarded boxing tournament Bombardier Wells got a decision over Beckett, but the latter came back in a later bout and stopped the Bombardier. As for his match with Carpentier, the great strength of Beckett and the fact that Carpentier had been out of the game for so long lead to the belief that Beckett should win. Like the noted Frenchman, Beckett was in the air service during the war, and this might indicate that conditions should be equal. On the other hand, it must be considered that Carpentier had reached a high plane in the boxing world before the war began, and hardly can be considered as improving. Beckett, in his recent bout with Goddard, showed to better advantage than ever before, according to keen critics who had seen him in action in practically all his bouts. Carpentier never was noted for his ruggedness, while Beckett is unusually so. A long distance analysis of this bout shows Beckett at a decided advantage if he is anywhere close to the ringster that Englishmen contend he is.

Naturally Americans smile at the thought of Beckett being a match for Jack Dempsey. The terrific punching power of Willard's conqueror is rated as being beyond that of any other man in the ring. But the decisive manner in which England's new champion stowed away another giant, who was only 23 years of age and not in his late 30's, may indicate that Beckett, too, is a marvel with the punch. He might prove a much stronger and more capable opponent for Dempsey than the followers of Colorado Jack believe him to be.

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1919

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