

the canvas. Ketchel then stepped back as Johnson rolled around for a few seconds before pulling himself up.

Johnson retaliated with a devastating right uppercut punch that toppled Ketchel like a fallen tree. The power of the blow carried so much force that it ripped out several of Ketchel's teeth. (These were later found embedded in Johnson's right glove.)

As Johnson's hand was raised in victory, the crowd erupted in a chorus of boos. Ketchel remained motionless on the canvas as his cornermen worked frantically to revive him. Ten minutes would pass before the middleweight was conscious enough to be assisted from the ring.

Despite the fact that Ketchel lost his bout with Johnson, it still gained him international fame. A rematch between the champions was assured.

In the months that followed, Ketchel moved his camp to New York City and engaged in several nontitle bouts. He fought a draw with Frank Klaus and went six rounds with Hall of Fame boxer Sam Langford. He then recorded knockouts against "Porky Dan" Flynn, Willie Lewis, and Jim Smith. In his last fight at New York's Sporting Club, he soundly defeated Smith. A reporter at ringside covering the fight wrote, "Ketchel rushed and hammered Smith all over the ring, cuffing him with lefts and rights. Ketchel used little defense, relying on the sledge-hammer blows that he could deal out with either fist. An overhand right flashed through Smith's defense and finished him. Laughing with joy over his win, Ketchel waved to the roaring crowd, hopped over the ropes, and left the ring, never to return."



Above: For a brief time, Ketchel kept company with the model Evelyn Nesbit. Below: Ketchel knocked Johnson down in the 12th round, but lost the fight.

