

Armstrong, Lomax, Moore Sued in Fight Default Case

Boxer H. Armstrong Sued for \$23,750

Henry Armstrong, triple-champion boxer who at one time was one of the biggest drawing cards in fight history, this week was being sued for \$23,750 in Superior Court here on the charge that in 1943 he backed out of a scheduled match. Named in the suit along with Armstrong are his two backers, George Moore and Lucius Lomax.

The case was argued Monday and Wednesday before Municipal Judge Edwin L. Jefferson, temporarily assigned to the Superior Court. Judge Jefferson heard the case without a jury. It was expected the hearing would be concluded Wednesday, and that a decision would be rendered in the near future.

DENIES CHARGE

Att'y Jerry Giesler, representing Armstrong, denied the accusation

against his client, asserting that the fight had been called off by the California Boxing Commission. He stated further that both Armstrong and his backers had offered to go ahead with the bout, but that the commission had refused to permit it.

The suit for damages was filed in 1944 by Promoter Joe Lynch, who charged that Armstrong had side-stepped a championship fight

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Armstrong

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with Luther "Slugger" White for the lightweight crown. The money asked in the suit is the amount Lynch claims the match would have earned for him.

In August, 1943, approximately one month before the scheduled Armstrong-White match, Armstrong boxed "Sugar" Ray Robinson in New York.

FIGHT PANNED

That fight was not well received by spectators. Sports writers panned it, and boxing circles were in a turmoil.

The California Boxing Commission, taking cognizance of the bad publicity, called a meeting here to thrash out all questions raised. They reportedly carried out an extensive investigation, and it was at this meeting that, according to Giesler, Armstrong and Moore both offered to go ahead with the Slugger White bout.

The case has been pending in the local courts for several years, being postponed from time to time by various requests for a continuance.

Armstrong at one time held three boxing championships simultaneously — middleweight, lightweight and welterweight. He retired in the late '30s, but staged a comeback in 1943. In 1944 he again quit the ring, and has not been fighting since that time.