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# Little Chocolate — Big Success

by  
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Although he died in abject poverty in 1909, only three short years after ingloriously losing his last official boxing match to Monk the Newsboy in Providence, Rhode Island, George Dixon left a record, in many ways unequalled by the best in boxing history. He was ranked by the late Nat Fleischer, boxing's number one expert and editor of *Ring Magazine*, as the greatest bantamweight who ever lived, retiring undefeated at that weight. He won world titles in the paperweight and featherweight divisions as well. These weight classifications fluctuated during his career, between 98 and 120 pounds. Dixon initiated his career in 1886, at five feet one half inch and eighty-seven pounds. When he retired twenty years later, he had grown to five feet three and one half inches and was just over 120 pounds. "Little Chocolate" compiled his record during the days of skin tight gloves, seventy-round bouts and managers whose primary function seems to have been to book fighters into as many bouts as circumstances allowed. In one not too atypical week, Dixon fought twenty-two times.

Dixon started his career in Halifax sixteen years after his birth there in 1870. Like his later counterpart, the great Sam Langford, he moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where he quickly made a name for himself. He overcame prejudice towards Blacks and boxing in general to reach pinnacles which can only be truly evaluated when considered relative to his contemporaries.

George Dixon will stand for a long time as one of the men largely responsible for the breakdown of fallacious reasoning which credits one race with an innate superiority in all things. The effect of any single figure on history is impossible to determine. Little Chocolate enjoyed success way out of proportion to his anatomical dimensions, except perhaps his heart. While it may be deemed a trite statement, it says it all.