



# A Welshman in the Bronx: Tommy Farr vs Joe Louis

*Graeme Kent*

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## **A Welshman in the Bronx: Tommy Farr vs Joe Louis** Graeme Kent

When heavyweight boxer Tommy Farr travelled to New York in 1937 to take on World Champion Joe Louis, many predicted he'd be knocked out in the first round. But, by the end of the bout, he'd won the respect of boxing fans worldwide and booked his place in boxing history, where the Louis vs Farr fight is remembered as one of the greatest of all time. Farr was an incredibly brave, skilful fighter. "A Welshman in the Bronx" looks at the six week period leading up to the fight. Press conferences and publicity stunts became a daily routine for the bewildered 23 year old, as was the unwelcome attention of mobsters and gangsters determined to make money from his failure. But although the odds were stacked against him, he remained undeterred. At the weigh in, Louis asked how Farr had gained the distinctive scars on his back. They were the result of a mining accident, but Farr led Louis to believe they were gained from wrestling tigers, visibly unsettling his opponent. Farr took Louis the distance, but lost on a controversial points decision. He may have lost on the night, but Farr had boxed the fight of his life, winning the admiration of the boxing world, and setting him on a path that would see his extraordinary rise from rags to riches.

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