

COOPER BEATS ERSKINE

The long saga of Henry Cooper and Joe Erskine went a stage further at Nottingham Ice Stadium. Cooper (on the right here) defending his British and Empire Heavyweight titles.

Promoter Reg King was right in predicting that the fight would draw a capacity crowd, though this was the 5th time these gladiators have met in the professional ring.

Cooper was facing a skilful boxer in the early rounds, but Erskine soon lost his speed, and then it was the old story - the Welshman was cut over the left eye.

They worked hard on that eye in Erskine's corner at the end of round eight. Full of pluck he came out again but with hardly a chance.

Erskine's eye was worse than ever, though he still wanted to go on. To save him further injury Referee Frank Wilson decided to stop the fight; Unknown to the crowd Cooper had fought with a hand damaged in training. Joe Erskine required hospital treatment for that eye. Though Cooper once again had the Lonsdale Belt, his prospects of ever getting a crack at the world title seem dim. But anyway, Henry keep going.