

# Book Review

IN THE RING WITH

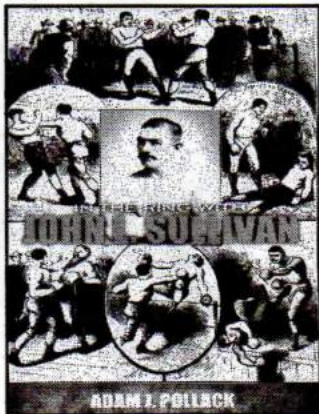
## JOHN L. SULLIVAN

By Adam J. Pollack

Win By KO Publications - 490 pp.

By John and Alex Rinaldi

Professional and amateur boxing judge and referee Adam J. Pollack is terrific writer. He also knows how to jam a book filled with historic details and ring action to produce an entertaining, fast-paced and informative read.



After writing such wonderful books in the past on James J. Corbett, Bob Fitzsimmons, James J. Jeffries and Marvin Hart, along with a pair of books on Jack Johnson, Mr. Pollack has outdone himself with his biography of the legendary John L. Sullivan. The tome is a knockout from start to finish.

We are huge historians and there have been plenty of fine books written about the famous 19th Century pugilist Sullivan, but Mr. Pollack's book gives readers insightful recollections of Sullivan's battles, exhibitions and stage appearances, that his treatise is the clear champion of Sullivan books!

Reading Mr. Pollack's book takes the readers in an H.G. Wells Time Machine and drops them off in the late 1800's. The bygone era comes to life in vivid colors. Never has Sullivan's bouts been chronicized to such a degree as

in this simply superb book.

Mr. Pollack takes the readers on Sullivan's journey to his first big win over John Flood in 1881, which earned him a shot against heavyweight champion Paddy Ryan in 1882. From there on, Sullivan becomes a fighting champion battling all comers, including, not only leading contenders, but also local toughs who wanted to earn around \$50 to last three rounds with the king of pugilists.

Although Sullivan is regarded as a bare knuckle champion, which he was, readers would be quite surprised that he mostly fought with gloves. John L. not only put boxing on the world stage as the most popular sport on the planet, but similarly revolutioned fisticuffs by single-handedly having bouts fought with padded mitts.

Mr. Pollack writes about all of this. What makes the author's work so authentic, is that he gives many versions by different ringside reporters of the time of the contests. He thus turns his quill into a paint brush as he paints a picture of a fascinating figure and his times.

The author gives plenty of facts and figures on Sullivan's battles, lifestyle, personal appearances and numerous theater engagements.

In a book full of standouts, Mr. Pollack's description of Sullivan's bouts with Jake Kilrain and James J. Corbett take the spotlight. The author writes brilliantly on Sullivan's training for both epic contests and the reader is made aware of the sharp contrasts in the way John L. prepared for each bout, which explained their eventual historic outcomes.

Mr. Pollack skillfully fleshes out not just John L. Sullivan the fighter, but the flawed individual he was. This is a marvelous book that can be purchased from Amazon and [winbykopublications.com](http://winbykopublications.com).

**Highly Recommended!**