
The son of immigrants from Barbados, Walcott became a professional boxer in 1930. He won the heavyweight title in 1951 only after losing two title bouts to the aging Joe Louis (including a controversial decision in New York City on Dec. 5, 1947) and two to Ezzard Charles. With his knockout of Charles he became, at age 37, the oldest-ever winner of the heavyweight title. Walcott's professional career, interrupted by several retirements, extended from 1930 to 1953. During those years he had 69 bouts, winning 50, 30 by knockouts. His bout with Marciano in 1952 was considered one of the most exciting heavyweight championship fights of all time. After retiring from the ring, Walcott organized youth programs and served as a sheriff and athletic commissioner in New Jersey.