

Max Schmeling Trains for the Boxing World Championship (1932)

Abstract

This short clip from a 1932 newsreel shows the heavyweight boxer Max Schmeling (1905-2005) training to defend his world-championship title against the American boxer Jack Sharkey, whom we also briefly see training. Boxers attracted tremendous amounts of media attention throughout the Weimar Republic, and one of Schmeling's earlier bouts, in which he won the European light heavyweight championship in 1927, helped to usher in the era of live sports broadcasts on the radio. That victory catapulted Schmeling to fame, and he traveled to New York the following year to take on the best American fighters. While there, he met and quickly teamed up with the manager Joe Jacobs, who knew how to create publicity around Schmeling and insisted that a photographer accompany him wherever he went. On June 12, 1930, Schmeling took on Jack Sharkey for the world title for the first time, a fight that Schmeling won when officials disqualified Sharkey for an illegal low blow. Schmeling, now the first European ever to become world heavyweight champion, managed to defend his title in 1931. He lost his 1932 rematch against Sharkey, however, the bout for which both fighters were training in these film clips. Schmeling fought his most famous bout several years later, on June 19, 1936, against the seemingly unbeatable African-American boxer Joe Louis. Schmeling managed to beat him, though, a victory that the Nazi regime touted—in spite of Schmeling's reservations—as proof of the “superiority of the Aryan race.” In a rematch two years later, Louis knocked out Schmeling in the first round.

Source

Speaker: Max Schmeling has to defend his world title on June 21. Here you can see him training. His opponent, Jack Sharkey, is also training hard.

Source: *Deuligton-Woche* No. 23 (clip), Deulig-Film AG, 1932. Bundesarchiv Filmarchiv Filmwerk ID: 57503.

<https://digitaler-lesesaal.bundesarchiv.de/video/57503/635395>

BArch

Recommended Citation: Max Schmeling Trains for the Boxing World Championship (1932), published in: German History in Documents and Images, <<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/weimar-germany-1918-1933/ghdi:video-5186>> [March 16, 2026].