

BOB BAKER IS QUITTING

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Bob Baker, the heavyweight contender from Pittsburgh, is no longer a contender for the heavyweight boxing crown.

Well, hefty Bob has declared himself out of the tussle. He made the declaration last Wednesday night in Chicago, shortly after he had been severely punished by Eddie Machen, the up and coming young heavyweight from the West Coast.

Baker was bubbling with confidence prior to the 10-rounder in Chicago stadium. He saw Machen as a stepping stone to a step up the ladder in his quest of a heavyweight championship bout. But Machen, a young hard-punching heavyweight, proved to be a good persuader with his hard lefts and rights to Baker's head.

In fact, Machen did such a good job that Baker's face was swollen almost out of recognition. His right eye was almost closed tight, and the left was swollen. There was also a mouse beneath Baker's right eye.

It was just a few years ago that Baker was walking hard and talking loud. He had run up a string of straight victories, and many of the boxing experts were touting him as the logical successor to Rocky Marciano.

But then Baker lost the touch that had made him a feared man in the ring. He was beaten in a number of bouts, including a defeat by Tommy "Hurricane" Jack-

son. And before you could say Willie Mays, Baker was going down hill, and the slide had been greased.