

# World's Greatest Wrestler

## Frank Gotch

**F**rank Gotch's wrestling career began on April 2, 1899 and continued until his retirement in 1913.

On April 2, 1899 Gotch won his first professional match in the Russell Opera House in Humboldt against Marshall Green.

Gotch became the American Champion on January 27, 1904 in Bellingham Washington with his win over Tom Jenkins.

Gotch became the World Wrestling Champion on April 3, 1908 at Dexter Park Pavilion in Chicago with his win over George Hackenschmidt.

Gotch defended his World title in the famous rematch with George Hackenschmidt on September 4, 1911 at Comiskey Park in Chicago

Gotch's vital statistics released on Sept 11, 1911 after the match with George Hackenschmidt (*Hackenschmidt: 208 lbs*):

- **Weight:** 196 lbs • **Height:** 5' 11"
- **Reach:** 73" • **Chest:** 45" • **Waist:** 34"
- **Hips:** 42" • **Thigh:** 22" • **Calf:** 17 1/2"
- **Biceps:** 15" • **Forearm:** 14"
- **Wrist:** 7 1/4" • **Ankle:** 9" • **Neck:** 18"

Having wrestled hundreds of matches Gotch is known to have lost only 6. Gotch remained undefeated after winning his world champion status.

*"It is gratifying to me, of course, to hold the undisputed world's title. I am glad it is held in America, glad that I brought it here. But I mean my life to be more than a mere wrestling exhibition. I expect to be an Iowa farmer all my life, and make my life worth something. I hope that every year may find me a little better man in some way than I was the year before.*

*I want to be a good citizen and a helpful, useful man."*

*Frank Gotch*

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World Wrestling Champion

1908-1913

