

"Off The Cuff"



Fans 'Thumbs Up' To College Boxing

By ART BENNING

In a way it's not too far from one corner of Rec hall to Lou Stillman's Gym in New York city, but in other ways the two are far apart.

Many of the same things are found at both. An elevated ring with velvet coverings over the ropes that stretch between the four padded posts, mirrors along the walls, mats on the floor, a row of heavy canvas bags swinging from chains, and the lighter bags in another row, the rubber mouthpieces, the little stools, and buckets, and yards of tape, the skipping ropes, the helmets, the gloves with the long laces, and the sweat.

These are the things that are common to both. But what you don't see in Rec hall during sparring sessions is the heavy pall of cigar smoke, and the hangers-on whose lives revolve around the squared ring, and the characteristic trademarks of the ring—the high cheekbones, the mashed noses and ears, and the piled up scar tissue.

Practice At Rec Hall

Here, instead, you see young fellows with clean-cut faces going through the routines of training. Limbering up and shadow-boxing on the mats, three minutes on the light punching bag, making it rattle like a machine gun, and then doing it all over again until it's time to step into the ring for three rounds.

All this goes on at Stillman's, too, but it isn't the same. The training done by the Nittany Lions is just as serious, and the blows hurt just as much, but the purpose behind it all makes it different. At Stillman's it's all for money and for yourself. It means three meals a day if you get the breaks, and keep getting them.

On west campus it means a chance to represent your school and be a credit to it. It means good clean competition through the week, and if you can outbox your mates, a chance to do the same thing the next weekend against some guy who is doing his best for his school, also. And you know that nobody's out to maim you. The rules are made for you, not merely to restrict you. You both wear protective headgear, you automatically take a nine count if knocked down, you both wear 12-ounce gloves with a webbed thumb which helps prevent eye-gouging, and a cut automatically stops the fight.

College Boxing Rising

At the University of Virginia during 28 years of collegiate boxing, two broken jaws were the most serious injuries incurred. At San Jose State college in California, more students go out for boxing than for any other sport. One major university has already made boxing a required activity

for all physically able freshmen and sophomores. College boxing is on the upgrade.

Collegiate boxers must wear shirts, which keeps the upper body warmer and muscles less susceptible to injury, besides protecting the skin. Most college coaches encourage the use of petroleum jelly to lubricate the skin, permitting tissue to spread, not tear. Skin burns from glancing blows are minimized.

The school mitemen's hands are bound with gauze, not wrapped with adhesive tape as in professional fights. Only enough adhesive is used to secure the gauze.

The ring itself is styled to protect the collegiate boxer. The mat underneath is two inches thick, not one, as in many professional rings. The apron outside the ropes is wide enough to catch a fighter who falls through ropes, not letting him tumble into the spectators.

Coach Anti-Pro

In other college sports, coaches are glad to see their proteges signed by professional teams. Not so with boxing in most cases. Boxing coach at De Paul university, Paul Mall, who gained all his ring experience at Penn State a number of years ago, has this to say to his boxers:

"Intercollegiate boxing aims to train college students for healthy competition in an intercollegiate sport, not for a career in the professional ring. It aims to make of the participants gentlemen in the ring as well as outside of it. No outside fights are allowed. When you fight your last collegiate fight, remember that you are through with the fight game. I say that for your own good."

And yet, for all its clean record, collegiate boxing draws the fans. At present, professional boxing is at a low ebb, both in material and at the turnstiles. But at the same time colleges are reporting ever-increasing crowds at their dual meets. Maybe the fans like the substitution of skill for gore.

Anyone who has been such skillful collegiate boxers as Idaho's Herb Carlson, present NCAA champion at 165 lbs., and Miami university's NCAA runnerup at 175 lbs., Carl Bernardo, knows that it is more thrilling to watch them in the ring than to see a rough-house, free swinging bout where the objective is to win at any cost.

Boxers Eye Unbeaten Syracuse

When you're at the top, everyone wants to knock you off. That's the situation the Syracuse boxing team faces this weekend when the Nittany Lions move into the Orange camp to do battle Saturday night.

For 'On Top' is where the Orangemen are right at the moment, at least on paper. They are unbeaten. They are the champs until somebody better comes along. Eastern champ last year, Syracuse lost two good men via graduation, and another who gave up his ring career, but still has a "name" lineup.

Crandell Still Around

You recognize such names as Marty Crandell, former heavy-weight national champion; Ben Dolphin, national runnerup in the 145-lb. class; Jim Huba, Eastern champ at 125-lbs.; and George Kartalian, who almost slugged his way to the Eastern crown at

175-lbs. Dolphin, out with an injured hand, will be ready to battle it out with Penn State's John Albarano this weekend at 145-lbs.

At present, that looks like the top bout of the evening, with 125-lb. clash between State's Sam Marino and Syracuse's Huba, a close second. Above the 145-class, the Lions will have tough going. Jim Palmiotto, who injured his nose in the opener last year and didn't see action again, can fight at either 155 or 165. Bill "Mad-dog" Miller switches with him at these weights, depending on the calibre of the opposition.

Kartalian Improved

Kartalian, a slugger who knew next to nothing about boxing style last year, nevertheless nearly won the Eastern title at 175-lbs. This year Crandell has taken him under his wing as pupil and sparring partner, and may have improved his already dan-

gerous punch.

Crandell, who walked off with the Athlete of the Week award two weeks ago at Syracuse after KO'ing Army's Jerry Hart, seems to be well along the comeback trail. As a sophomore Marty bowled over all competition in taking the national title. Last year, something went wrong. But he did manage to be runnerup to State's Chuck Drazenovich in the Eastern finals.

At 135-lbs. Simmons will probably go along with sophomore Ed Martin, although another soph, Ed McBride, could fill in almost as well. Either will draw the rather dubious honor of meeting the Lions' unbeaten, untied Frank Gross.

Tom Coulter got the nod against Catholic U. last week in the 130-lb. clash. Either he or Norm Mosberg will oppose State's Jimmy Barr.

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Lou Lamie May Smash Two Penn State Basketball Marks

Captain Lou Lamie, who is pacing the Penn State basketball squad in the scoring column with 213 points in 14 games (not including last night's game with Pitt) is almost sure to break one State cage record this season and stands a good chance of smashing another.

The Nittany jump-shot artist needs only 29 points to set a new three year scoring mark and with 8 games remaining on the schedule, 87 to set a new one season high. Last year, Marty Costa cut the cords for 299 markers to establish the Lion record.

Average 15.2 Per Game

On the eve of the Pitt contest Lamie was averaging 15.2 points per game. Should he hold that average through the rest of the schedule, the Lion captain would end the campaign with 334 points, well over Costa's effort.

Lamie's scoring twin, Ted Panoplos, who in 15 games has tossed in 202 points, also stands a slim chance of breaking Costa's mark. Panoplos was averaging

13.5 before the Pitt game and should he also keep his average through the remaining games, he would end up with 310 — 11 better than the record.

Hardy Williams stands third in the Lion scoring race with 129 points, averaging 8.6 per game. Tiny McMahan and Junie Moore are deadlocked for the fourth spot with 102 points apiece.

High Team Total

As a team, the Lions have scored 887 points for a 59.1 average in 15 games while their opponents have counted 787 for a 52.5 average.

SETBACKS: After their win over West Virginia last Saturday, the Nittanies were rated number three in the tri-state ratings by the Pittsburgh Press... Just before the tip-off of the second half of the Bucknell game in which State had frozen the ball most of the first half, and led 5-3, a leather lunged Bucknell fan shouted, "If Penn State gets this tip-off, I'm going home because the game is over."

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