

BOX!

Round 4 • Fall 2008

The official newsletter of the CT Boxing Hall of Fame

Gene Tunney heads up Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame inductees

By Sherman Cain, *Journal Inquirer*

Gene Tunney, one of the most storied heavyweight champions in boxing history, heads up the 2008 class of inductees for the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame.

Joining Tunney in the 2008 class are former professional fighters "Tiger" Ted Lowry, Larry Boardman and Bernie Reynolds. Being inducted for their extensive involvement in amateur boxing are Lou Bogash Jr. and Roland Pier.

The fourth annual CBHOF induction dinner will be held on Friday evening, Nov. 28 at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville.

The CBHOF board of directors debated the notion of inducting Tunney into the Nutmeg State Hall of Fame for several years. Tunney's boxing resume was hardly in question. He compiled an 81-1-3 record, beat Jack Dempsey twice, including the famed 'long count' bout in 1927. He was Ring Magazine's first ever fighter of the year in 1928. Tunney was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1980.

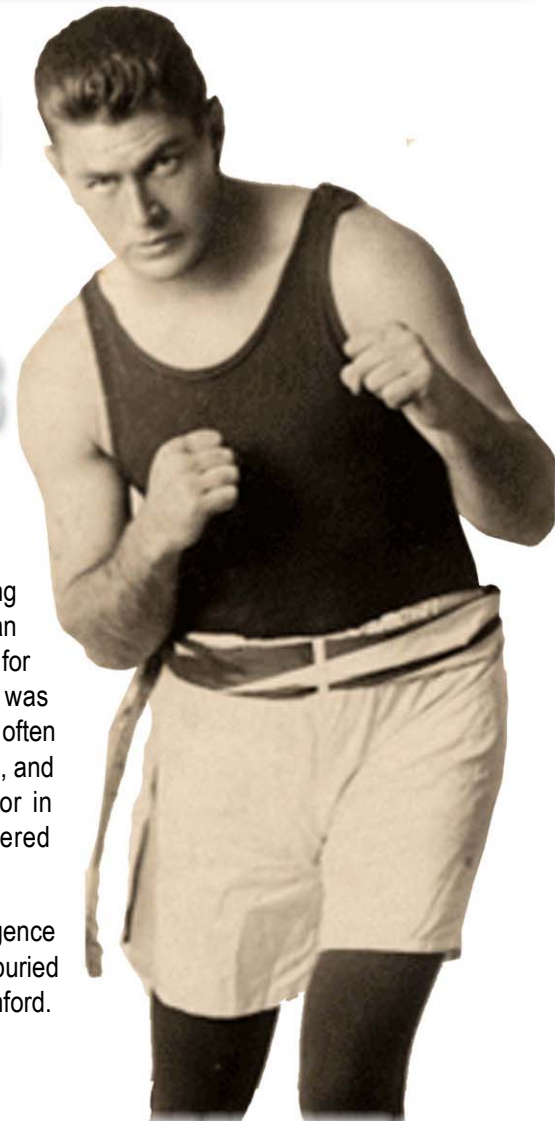
There was a question of residency as Tunney was born in New York. As has been noted in Jack Cavanaugh's book "Tunney," however, "The Fighting

Marine" moved to Stamford upon retiring in 1928. Tunney lived on 200 acres in an old colonial. He resided in Connecticut for 50 years until his death in 1978. He was active in the Connecticut political scene, often campaigning for democratic candidates, and he once pondered running for senator in 1946. It is clear that Tunney considered Connecticut his home.

Tunney, who was known for his intelligence and who often quoted Shakespeare, is buried at Long Ridge Union Cemetery in Stamford.

Lowry twice fought Hall of Famer Rocky Marciano during his 12-year career, taking Marciano the distance in both bouts. Marciano later would acknowledge that Lowry was one of his most difficult opponents. Lowry also fought Reynolds three times while compiling a 67-67-10 record. Lowry won once, lost once and had a draw with Reynolds.

Continued on page 4



**CONNECTICUT
BOXING
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**4th Annual Induction Dinner will be held
Friday, November 28 at Mohegan Sun**

Boxing Hall finds a home



*Mohegan Sun
provides space
to immortalize
state's elite*

By Sherman Cain, Journal Inquirer

MOHEGAN INDIAN RES. — Mary Ann Martin beamed proudly while holding granddaughter Savannah Grace as they gazed at one of the plaques on display during the unveiling of the home for the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame on Thursday, June 12.

Martin's father was the late Vic Cardell, who spent much of his youth in Windsor before embarking on a successful pro fight career that eventually led to him being part of the 2007 CBHOF class of inductees. Cardell always kept close ties to the area where he grew up. For several years, Cardell's gloves hung on a wall at the VFW Smalley Brothers Post 6123 in Windsor Locks.

Now, his plaque hangs in a Hall of Fame.

"I think it's a wonderful place for our kids and our father's grandkids to come and see," Martin said at the unveiling. "It's wonderful that

it's a way to keep our dad's name alive."

The Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame was founded in 2004, but had yet to establish a permanent home until Mohegan Sun officials offered space on the concourse in the Mohegan Sun Arena. The CBHOF has had three induction dinners.

The current home for the Hall of Fame will contain the plaques for each inductee, memorabilia and a video server will run 24 hours a day that will show footage from several of the inductees as well as prominent fights that have taken place at Mohegan Sun, including the epic first battle between Micky Ward and Arturo Gatti.

The unveiling was by invitation only. Family members of inductees, close friends of inductees and ardent boxing fans were among the invited guests.



"It's a nice showcase here to have the Hall of Fame. People can come to a world famous casino, attend an event, and then stand across from the Hall of Fame."

Johnny Cesario Jr. of East Hartford, the son of 2007 inductee Johnny Cesario, was as proud as any of the siblings whose fathers are enshrined in the state boxing Hall of Fame.

"It's a great place for Dad to be remembered," said the younger Cesario.

Stu Rosen, an avid boxing fan from South Windsor, marveled at the new CBHOF home.

"It's absolutely phenomenal," Rosen said. "We're lucky to have this. The fight footage adds a lot to it."

Part of the footage shown on Thursday involved Duke doing what he did best, teaching young amateurs the art of boxing. Duke was acknowledged as the greatest amateur trainer in New England history. He died in 2006, but he has three daughters who are thrilled about the legacy their dad left behind.

"I think it's a great memorial tribute to all the fighters," said Diana Guerrero, Duke's eldest daughter. "It's one way to continue all the legacies."



"I think it's a great memorial tribute to all the fighters...it's one way to continue all the legacies."

Diana Guerrero, Daughter of 2005 Inductee, Johnny Duke



The only drawback to the location of the Hall of Fame is that you have to be attending an event in the Mohegan Sun Arena to see it. The hope is that down the road, the CBHOF will be moved to an area more easily accessible to the public.

On Thursday, however, no one was complaining about the site.

"I'm so proud that my father has been honored and is on display for all to see," said Amelia Saunders of Andover, one of five of Cardell's daughters. "Personally, it's great to that that my father is being recognized. I'm very happy that the Connecticut Boxing Hall of Fame has a home."



Class of 2008

Continued from page 1

Lowry would later become known for his extensive work with amateurs in Norwalk, where he resides. Lowry has received honors from several prominent political figures for his work with young fighters. During World War II, Lowry was a member of the all-black 555th Parachute Battalion, which became known as the "Triple Nickels."

Boardman was once the No. 2 lightweight in the world while compiling a 45-10-1 record. Boardman is known as the man who sent Hall of Famer Sandy Saddler into retirement. Saddler, who had legendary bouts with CBHOF inductee Willie Pep, lost a unanimous decision to Boardman in April of 1956. That was one of only 16 losses Saddler had in 162 bouts. Boardman was born in Marlborough and lived most of his life in Connecticut before retiring to Florida.

Reynolds, a heavyweight from Fairfield, compiled an impressive professional record of 52-13-2. He started his career 12-0 and won 27 of his first 28 bouts. He fought some of the toughest heavyweights of his era, including Marciano and Ezzard Charles, both of whom were world champions.

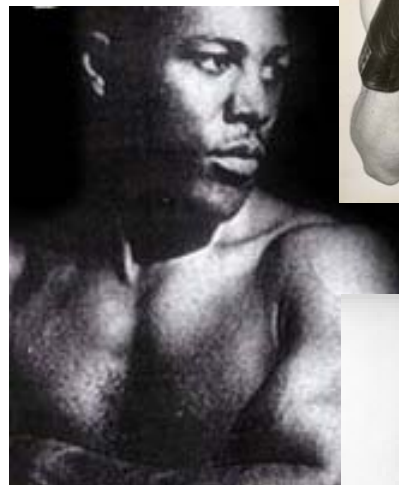
Bogash has long been a popular figure in Connecticut because of his work as a judge, referee, and heading up the state's amateur organization for several years. Bogash was a judge for the first Marlon Starling-Donald Curry world welterweight title bout in 1982. It was a controversial split decision that went Curry's way, but Bogash scored the fight for Starling, also a CBHOF inductee. Bogash's father Lou Sr. was inducted into the CBHOF in 2006. The induction of Lou Jr. will give the CBHOF its first father-son tandem.

Pier has been involved in amateur boxing in the New London area for more than 60 years. Pier, who will be 79 in October, has long been associated with the Whaling City Boxing Club and is known to be an ambassador for the sport.

Ticket information for the Nov. 28 induction dinner may be obtained by calling Mike Murtha at the Mohegan Sun at 860-862-7586 or 860-862-7583 or by calling Sherman Cain at the Manchester Journal Inquirer at 1-800-237-3606 (ext. 321).



Larry Boardman



"Tiger" Ted Lowry



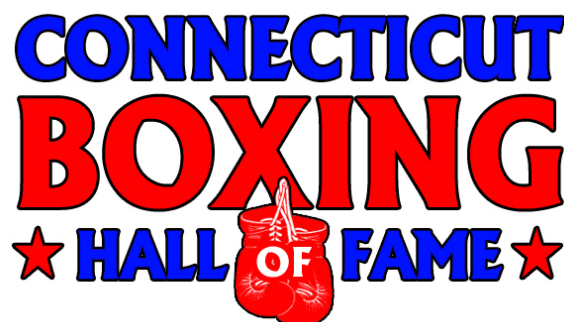
Bernie Reynolds



Gene Tunney



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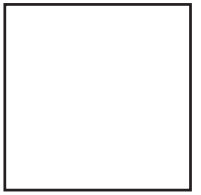
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CONNECTICUT BOXING ★ HALL OF FAME ★



Mark your calendar:
2008 Induction ceremony
to be held Friday, Nov. 28, 2008
at Mohegan Sun.
 Call 203.930.0434 to reserve your tickets today!

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