

New Look For Aquinas Bouts

By WHIT JOHNSON

The Annual Mission Bout sponsored by Aquinas Institute will have a new look this year and some longtime fight fans will find it somewhat nostalgic. After 17 years in the "big leagues" the Mission Bout will return home to the Dewey Avenue school. Since 1947, when the Bouts returned to Aquinas gymnasium, they have been held, first, at the old Sports Arena and, more recently, at the Community War Memorial. This year they will be in the Aquinas Auditorium.

The Cinderella story of the Bouts started some 27 years ago when a pair of classroom batters put on the gloves and the rest of the school turned out to watch. Dr. Nicholas Luppig, Jerry Flynn, John Mastaglio and Max Russo could tell a lot about those early days of Aquinas boxing because they were in it right from the beginning.

Over the years the Mission Bouts have contributed thousands of dollars to Catholic Mis-

sions at home and abroad. Beneficiaries have spanned from Africa to China. In between have been contributions to Ethiopia, Mexico, Texas, the Philippines and Formosa. And most of the recipients have been Aquinas graduates.

That's where the money goes. But Frank "Hunk" Vadas, who is in charge of whipping the fighters into shape, talks about what the Bouts do for the boys.

"These Bouts really make us out of boys," Hunk says. "I think that's the real satisfaction I see in my work with the kids. We've noticed at Aquinas that the boys who fight in the Mission Bouts are among the best behaved in the school. And that goes for after they graduate, too. When a boy knows how to defend himself, he doesn't have to be one of those loud-mouthed wise guys going around with a chip on his shoulder. The Mission Bouts know how to fight. And they don't have to prove it either."

The Bouts have come a long way during the ensuing years.

In 1940 the champion of the school was Moses Landry. The late Moses, who was killed in World War II, won the heavyweight crown in a division over Elmer Nacca that year. Last year Elmer's son, Joe, walked off with the heavyweight championship.

By 1947, the Mission Bout crowds were up to 1,400 for the finals and a new location was needed. The Sports Arena answered the need until the War Memorial was opened. By 1957 the crowds numbered more than 5,000.

Although the attendance was down to 3,000 in 1962, the Bouts reached new heights with the debut appearance of four fight greats: Sonny Liston, Mickey

Harold Weaver, general chairman; Rev. Mark Linka, O. Carm, moderator of the Men's Club of Mount Carmel; sponsors of the night: Al Kelley, Hobart College football coach; Jack Froino, Auburn sports enthusiast; and Leo Pinckney, sports editor of the Auburn Citizen-Advertiser.

Annual McQuaid Cage Clinic Set

McQuaid Jesuit High School's Sixth Annual Basketball Coaching Clinic, slated for Saturday, April 4, will feature Paul Walker, the Middletown, Ohio, coach who helped develop pro star Jerry Lucas.

Clinic directors George Morgan of Monroe Community College and Ken Jones of McQuaid are currently receiving reservations from all over Western New York for the 9 a.m.-4 p.m. session with one of the country's top scholastic trainers.

Walker is considered the dean of Ohio's coaches, with 28 years of experience. The first 17 of them at Middletown. It was back in '53 that Lucas came along to start a 781 game winning streak that stands as the high spot of Walker's career.

His teams have taken seven state championships while compiling a 340-99 win-loss mark. Five of the titles have been in the AA Division, where no other coach has won more than three.

Walker, Jersey Joe Wolcott and Carmen Basilio. All four world champions took their turn as third man in the ring.

And so in 1964 the Mission Bouts find another location and this time it is back home. Maybe it is the death of Benny (Kid) Parisi, maybe Casius Clay has undermined boxing's glamour whatever the reason, the crowds have flitted and there is no need for the Memorial.

But this doesn't mean there is any less enthusiasm among the youngsters at Aquinas. This year a record number of boys turned out to take part in the boxing program. So many, in fact, that the finals will be held on two evenings, April 3 and 4.

Rev. John Neary, C.S.B., mission moderator and former Mission Bout champion, says, "It does these boys a lot of good to know they can take care of themselves. Hunk Vadas has them in good shape. He does wonders for them."

Also playing a major role in training fighters this year is Father Neary's brother, Mr. Emmett Neary, a Basilian scholastic and one of Aquinas' all-time great fighters. In 1956 and 1957 he successfully defended his crown and was proclaimed outstanding Mission Bout boxer. Following graduation he enrolled at St. Michael's College in Toronto and became Canadian Collegiate Champion.

When Lou Spicotto enters the ring on April 4 he will be yet another in a long succession of Aquinas students who have one purpose in mind: to win an Aquinas Mission Bout championship, one of the most coveted prizes in the large and happy kingdom of boys who participate in amateur boxing in the Rochester area.

Washington - (RNS) - President of diocesan Councils of Catholic Men pledged their groups to work for civil rights, federal aid to education and the elimination of poverty and other social ills facing the nation.

They also agreed to promote more interreligious meetings in an effort to understand the "other man's point of view."

The actions were taken by the President's Conference of the National Council of Catholic Men which met to plan the renewal of lay groups in the light of the Second Vatican Council.

Other steps taken by the lay leaders included: agreement to seek the integration of all Catholic organizations and institutions within each diocese, planning of lay conferences to explore racial issues, and other "open house" meetings in which laymen can express their views on various issues.

High School Section - White Division: 1st place - St. Margaret Mary Rochester; 2nd place - St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester; 3rd place - St. Salome, Rochester.

High School Section - Blue Division: 1st place - Sacred Heart, Rochester; 2nd place - Holy Rosary, Rochester; 3rd place - Holy Family, Auburn.

Elementary School Section - Yellow Division: 1st place - St. Monica, Rochester; 2nd place - St. Mary's, Auburn; 3rd place - Holy Family, Auburn.

Elementary School Section - Pink Division: 1st place - Sacred Heart, Rochester; 2nd place - St. Michael's, Newark; 3rd place - Holy Rosary, Rochester.

The competition was directed by Helen Smith of the Rochester CYO staff.



More than 700 attended the annual Mount Carmel Sports Night program Sunday night featuring Rocky Marciano, retired undefeated heavyweight boxing champion of the world. A few of the many who were present: Left to right: Mayor Maurice I. Schwartz; Art Foster, Mount Carmel Athletic director; Marciano;

Rocky Marciano Featured At Auburn Sports Dinner

Auburn - About 700 persons crowded Mount Carmel High School Gymnasium, Auburn, for the annual sports dinner, Sunday evening, March 22. Guest speaker was the former-world heavyweight champion, Rocky Marciano. Marciano gave a round by round description of the Clay-Liston fight and answered questions from the crowd regarding the fight and his personal career.

At the conclusion of the program Harold J. Weaver, general chairman, thanked the guests down because he felt it unfair to the fans to make a comeback just for money.

He said that he thought a Patterson-Clay match would be a good one.

Billy Hasselt, former Notre Dame All-America basketball player and NSA star, served as master of ceremonies.

After brief welcoming remarks by Mayor Schwartz, MC Hasselt introduced the guests at the head table.

Taking a bow were Bob Shawkey, former New York Yankee pitcher and manager; Arthur (Babe) Granfield, runnerup to the World Record Billiard championship last week in New York City; Reco Piro, ex-Catholic University football star and now offensive line coach at Syracuse University; Jim Narce, Syracuse U. fullback and National Inter-

In the elementary all star game the taller white division stopped the green division all stars 44-25. The green stayed fairly close until foul trouble hurt them late in the game. Jim Brady had 17 points for the white team and Jimmy Delequarda scored 8 pts. for the green squad. In the final, Dick Bell netted 13 points to lead the western All Stars 63-42. Dick Bell netted 12 points for the losers.

After the games the awards banquet was held in the spacious McQuaid cafeteria where Rev. Eugene McFarland presided over the awarding of the stars and trophies were awarded for the league champions, cheerleaders and diocesan tournament champions. Sacred Heart and St. Thomas had the edge on taking trophies home.

Joe Gioia was general chairman. Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Sarr were in charge of banquet arrangement. This affair was a fitting climax to a season in which over 1500 boys and girls participated in both basketball and cheerleading.

The freshman individual record also went by the boards, with Henry Enders hitting for 235 points. Enders also led the squad in rebounding, tied with Joe Connolly for shooting percentage (45.5), and was second to Connolly in assists, 52-42.

The Pages had a 149 season under Jim McCartney, with Jeff Cillanick, Larry Compa, Mike Rhodes, and John Koller giving Enders and Connolly plenty of assistance.

Engagement - Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Joan E. Roach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Roach of Ridgeway Ave., to Daniel J. O'Sullivan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. O'Sullivan of Electric Avenue. A June 27 wedding is planned.

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