

BENNY ROSS

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

1921-1930

In the 1920's when Buffalo was one of the leading fight towns in the nation, Benny Ross was one of the city's most prominent boxers. Born Samuel Rosenberg, he called himself Benny Ross so his parents wouldn't know that he was boxing.

After quitting high school during World War I, 16-year old Benny enlisted (under age) in the U.S. Navy, and served on the USS Michigan and USS Minnesota. It was when he was on shore leave in Philadelphia in early 1919 that he learned to box at Philadelphia Jack O'Brien's gym, under the tutelage of Frankie Brown, a leading featherweight contender.

Upon his discharge from the Navy, Ross fought from 1921 to 1930, having over 100 bouts here in old Broadway Auditorium, Bison Stadium, Miller's Hall, and around the nation. He fought all the leading light heavyweight contenders, including 7 bouts against Hall-of-Famers. Some of his more memorable bouts were against Tommy Loughran, world light-heavyweight champion, Slapsie Maxie Rosenbloom, another world 175 pound titleholder; and the great Tiger Flowers, who became the first black to win the middleweight crown, when he beat the immortal Harry Greb. He also fought main events against Buffalo rival Lou Scozza and heavyweight contender W.L. (Young) Stribling.

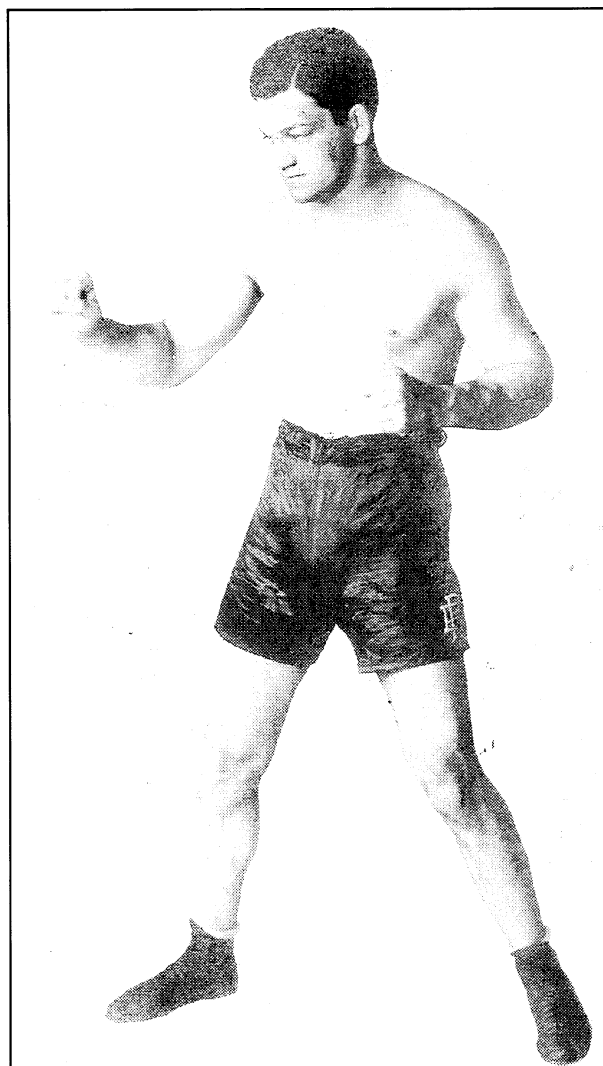
Also, he fought a six-round bout with the legendary Jimmy Slattery, when both were middleweights.

Paul (Red) Carr, the famous manager of Jimmy Slattery, stated that Ross was a "good, all-around boxer-puncher." He further stated that "when Slats was training for a fight, especially against a straight, stand-up style boxer, I'd have Benny spar with Jimmy in the old Newsboy's gym. They had such a good session, a casual onlooker might have trouble telling who was whom. They had similar moves. Benny was good in the ring, but in the gym he was super."

Jim Harkins, former president of the Buffalo Veteran Boxers Association, said: "I saw a lot of Benny's bouts, and he was something else. Could hit hard and fast with either hand and an excellent defensive boxer. His ring record looks like a 'Who's Who' of old-time fight greats."

After serving again in the Navy during World War II, Ross came out and was employed by the Post Office. Benny died at age 80 in February, 1982.

Tonight, Ring #44 is proud to induct Benny Ross in the 2009 Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.



1921

Apr. 29 Sailor Joe Fisher .. Buffalo..... L 6
Oct. 3..... Danny Dillon Buffalo..... KO 1
Oct. 10..... Odds Bodkins Buffalo..... W 4
Oct. 18..... Cliff Becker..... Buffalo..... TKO 1
Oct. 24..... Joe McDermott..... Buffalo..... TKO 6
Dec. 22 Joey Joynt..... Buffalo..... W 8

1922

Jan. 2 Joey Joynt..... Buffalo..... L 6
Feb. 6 Joey Joynt..... Buffalo..... D 6
Mar. 3..... Joe Sullivan..... Buffalo..... W 6
Apr. 28 Roy McFarland.... Buffalo..... L 6
May 2 Al Luckner..... Rochester TKO 1
May 15 Carl Smith..... Rochester W 6