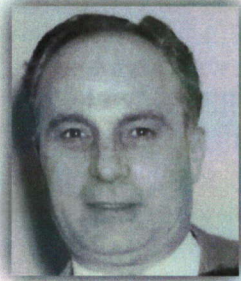


## Anthony "Dudu" Parisi



Parisi was one of the finest and busiest cornermen during Buffalo's glory years in the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's. He handled well known Buffalo boxers as Bobby Tracy, Frankie Schoell, Joe "Dempsey" Gerace and many others under the management of Hall of Fame manager Bert Finch. Parisi also became a fight manager and promoter in his later years. In 1932 he arranged Lou Scozza to box future world champion James "Cinderella Man" Braddock in San Francisco, a fight Scozza won in the seventh round. In 1930 Parisi trained Scozza for the biggest fight in Buffalo history, a light heavyweight championship fight against Jimmy Slattery in the Broadway Auditorium. Scozza almost had Slattery out but couldn't finish him and lost the 15-round bout by majority decision. Two years later Scozza would lose another majority 15-round decision in a championship fight this time against Maxie Rosenbloom.

In the 1940's he managed the careers of many local fighters and had the number 4 world rated heavyweight in Henry "Snow" Flakes. He led Flakes on a rapid rise in the heavyweight division and had him ready to take over for aging Champion Joe Louis. Local businessman and manager of Joe Louis at the time Marshall Miles offered Parisi one million dollars for Flakes' contract but loyalty from the fighter nixed that idea.

Later in that decade middleweight Joey DeJohn moved to Buffalo and was managed by Parisi. Parisi was instrumental in securing a fight with top contender Jake LaMotta. DeJohn was ahead on the score cards when he was dropped three times in the eighth round for an automatic stoppage. LaMotta would win the middleweight title the next month.

He also worked with the Muscato brothers and Henry Brimm in the late forties into the early fifties. He guided Phil Muscato to fights with future world champions Archie Moore and Rocky Marciano. Brimm is best known for his two fights with Sugar Ray Robinson in Buffalo.

Parisi grew up in the "Hooks" section of Buffalo's west side and practiced boot blacking at stands in Niagara and Lafayette square with child hood friend and future Mayor, Frank Sedita. In the 1950's he became a foreman for the Buffalo streets department where he worked until retirement, ironically at the old Broadway Auditorium building.

In 1968 manager Pat Giordano entrusted the veteran Parisi with his rising star Jimmy Ralston. Parisi brought Ralston to Grossinger's gym in the Catskills to spar with champion Bob Foster for his title defense against Dick Tiger.

Anthony Parisi resided in Angola, NY later on in his life until he passed away in 1981 at the age of 75.

There are countless other boxers both professional and amateur that had their career's guided by Anthony J. (affectingly known as "Dudu") Parisi for over 40 years.

Tonight Ring 44 recognizes his long and successful career in Buffalo boxing and are proud to induct him in the Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.