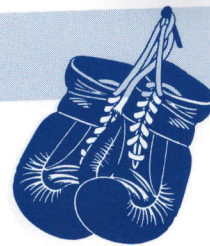
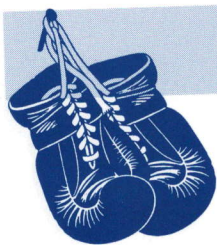
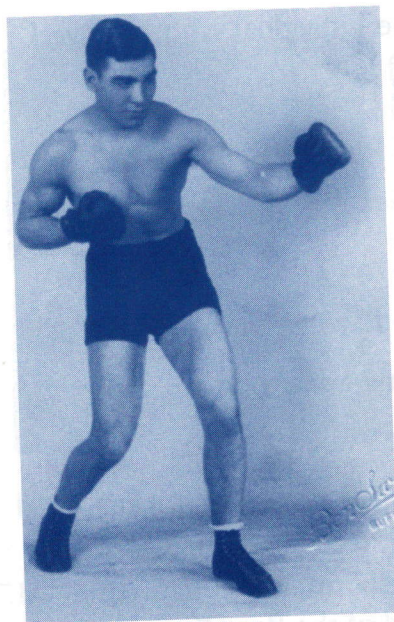


## Ring 44 Inductee



# JOHNNY SACCO



John Sacco was born in Sicily on October 7, 1904. He immigrated to Buffalo and at age 18 he turned to boxing as an amateur. Johnny's cousin, Bobby Tracey (Charles Boncore) was a pro fighter at the time and Sacco used the name Johnny Tracey in amateur tournaments.

At an amateur tournament at Oriole's Hall on Genesee St. in February 1922 he defeated two boxers in one night to win the 126 pound class.

In December of the same year Johnny entered the Elk's annual Christmas-basket fund amateur tournament held at the Broadway Auditorium. He won the 126-pound Niagara AAU championship that night defeating three boxers, the first two by KO. That impressive showing won him the Frankie Schoell trophy for best fighter in the tournament.

In April of 1923 before 4000 people at the Broadway Auditorium Johnny defeated Jack Slattery and Charley Ross to win the 135-pound class event.

In May of 1923 Sacco easily defeated Willie Buff of Rochester who was the WNY 126-pound champion, to win another amateur tournament. He "only" had to defeat two boxers that night. The next month he would turn pro.

Johnny was a busy boxer at this time as he had 35 fights in his first two years boxing for money. He fought all over too, Canada, California, Pennsylvania, Ohio and all across New York during his 12 year career. He battled all the top lightweights in those towns and became a favorite whenever he fought.

While in California during 1925 he was wined and dined by big screen notables Charlie Chaplin and Douglass Fairbanks, Sr.

Johnny had a big following during his boxing days and he would always say, "If the fans are willing to pay, I'll give them their money's worth."

Johnny Sacco was an amateur champion and a popular 118-bout professional boxer and for those accomplishments we are honored to induct him into the Ring 44 Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.