



# PADDY LAVIN

## WELTERWEIGHT

1904-1914

Lavin fought from the early 1900's until 1914 and collected an impressive though incomplete 55-16-17 record mostly in the welterweight division where he wore the crown as Buffalo's welterweight Champ. Paddy (born Patrick Cleary) fought a who's who of the era including Jack Dillon and Jimmy Clabby during his time in the ring, winning more than his share.

Lavin's first recorded fight happened in 1904 in Buffalo against Eddie Kelly in a 12-round contest in which he was defeated. After losing again to Kelly in January of 1905 Paddy went on a 25 fight undefeated streak fighting mainly in Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

In 1908 and 1909 Lavin relocated his professional career to the Philadelphia area and boasted a 13-2 record while fighting out of that City. He started to get noticed and earned the reputation in newspapers as "one of those Irishman who loves to fight" and as "a big stumbling block in the way of any title contender." After a draw with tough competitor Dick Nelson in 1910, Lavin was pitted against the great welterweight and future world champion Jimmy Clabby in Convention Hall in Buffalo. The "newspaper" decision went to Clabby in a tough battle. Paddy would beat tough Leo Houck in his next bout and battled to a draw with Clabby in a return engagement.

By 1911 Lavin challenged future Light Heavyweight Champion Jack Dillon and held him to a draw. After defeating top middleweights Willie KO Brennan and Leo Hauck, Lavin was matched again with Dillon this time at Convention Hall in Buffalo on February 8, 1912. Paddy would lose the decision but according to reporters "the scrap will go down in Buffalo history as one of the greatest battles and exhibitions of gameness by a losing man ever". This bout was essentially Lavin's last hurrah with the big time fighters. Over the next two years he would only embark on 10 fights losing half of them, finally retiring in 1914.

Paddy Lavin had two nephews, Roger and Willie, who would also be fighters in Buffalo rings well into the 1920's.

Tonight Ring 44 of the National Veteran Boxers Association is proud to induct Paddy Lavin into the 2012 Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.