



NEAL RIVERS

MIDDLEWEIGHT

1952-1962

Neal Rivers was born on May 14, 1934 in Montgomery, Alabama and lived much of his adult life in Las Vegas. He fought only once in Buffalo. Still local boxing historian Joe Masella claims that Rivers lived in Niagara Falls during his career and that he also trained in Niagara Falls in preparations for some of his fights.

Rivers defeated the veteran Charlie Salas in a pair of fights in 1956. In that same year he decisioned Charley Green to win the California State Middleweight championship. This was in the midst of a 15 match-winning streak. Two years later he TKO'd Tony Dupas in the second round. In February, 1958 Rivers was rated #8 in the Middleweight Division. In

the same year Rivers lost a pair of decisions to Bobby Boyd. In his biggest fight Neil lost a 10-round decision to Gene Fullmer. Just six months prior to this fight, Fullmer had lost his Middleweight title to Sugar Ray Robinson. Rivers also lost a decision and was TKO'd in the third-round by top contender Spider Webb.

Neil Rivers' boxing career extended from July of 1952 to May of 1962. He concluded his career with a pair of defeats in Germany. His final record was 47-18-3. Rivers died on Christmas Day in 1987 following kidney surgery in Los Angeles.

Tonight Ring 44 is proud to induct Neal Rivers into the Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.

