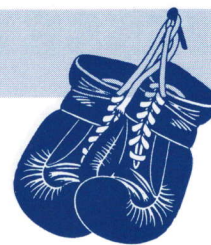




## Ring 44 Inductee



# MARK CHEERS



Mark began his boxing career at the age of 15. His interest was inspired by his two older cousins who were training at the time, using Mark as a punching bag. He trained diligently in an effort to hold his own with them. From this humble beginning, who knew where it would lead.

He began with the Police Athletic League, fighting many times in his High School gym. He had early success and in 1973 won the NYS Novice Golden Gloves Championship at 118 lbs. In 1974, Mark got married and suspended his boxing activity, working full time to support his family. By 1976 Mark felt the urge to return to the ring, and did so with great success. He felt he had to return to prove his novice crown was no fluke. That year he repeated as NYS champ, this time at 147 lbs in the open division. He lost in the national finals to Clinton Jackson

of Nashville, TN, and was the #3 ranked amateur in the nation for that year.

In 1977, despite mixed results, was a very productive year. He won the Police Athletic League Nationals at 147 lbs, and was awarded the Fighter of the Tournament plaque. Mark also won the NYS Golden Gloves and the first Empire State Games Gold Medal at that weight. At the National Golden Gloves, this time at 156 lbs, he lost in the semifinals to Curtis Parker of Philadelphia. For the second year in a row, Mark was ranked the #3 Amateur in the nation.

He fought a few times in 1978 before hanging up his gloves with a record of 63-5, 39 wins coming by way of knockout. Mark's skill and success inspired many youth in Niagara Falls to take up the sport and step into the ring. He mentored many of them, training boxers for the PAL in Niagara Falls from 1979-1982. He remains close with many of them.

Due to his successful career and devotion by "giving back", Mark was inducted into the Niagara Falls Sports Hall of Fame in November of 2015. Some of the young men he trained were in attendance. Mark was always in their corner spurring them on, and this time they were able to do the same for him.

Tonight Ring 44 acknowledges his accomplishments by inducting him into the Ring 44 Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.