



Ring 44 Inductee



SAMMY SACCO



Samuel Charles Sacco was born August 25, 1912 in CampoBello di Licata, Sicilia. He arrived at a very young age with his mother who would become a big influence on his life as well as the lives of the incoming Sicilians on Buffalo's west side. Sammy caught the boxing bug as many did in those days from watching his older brother and other prominent fighters in the area.

Sacco was one of many who entered the Buffalo Courier-Express annual Toy Fund amateur tournament in 1931. In the semi-final round he stole the show with his impressive win over Andy Ketchell of Batavia. Two nights later the Courier-Express reporter wrote, "Sammy Sacco and Louis Wertheimer staged a combined boxing and punching exhibition worth going miles to see in the final of the 135-pound class before the former was given a well-deserved decision." With over 75 boxers competing in the tournament Sacco won a watch presented by Paul "Red" Carr for making the best all around showing.

Turning professional in 1932 he had a fight with Blasé Pantano in Niagara Falls, Ontario. His purse was \$4.10 for the four-round bout and after paying \$5.00 for his Canadian license he ended up paying .90 cents to fight! Sam's professional career lasted only three years and ended with a 8-3 record, (it has been reported he had 15 or 16 fights).

Upon retirement he served as boxing instructor at the Working Boys Home. He would later become the boxing instructor for the Butler Mitchell Boys Club on Virginia St. and also when they moved to Massachusetts Ave. During the 1940's hundreds of kids from the west side were tutored by Sammy not only in boxing but also how to become men. Aside from his boxing lessons Sacco served as a judge and referee for amateur tournaments in the area for over 25 years. He often brought his three young daughters to the Golden Glove tournament in the 1950's as well as other area children. Sammy brought the late judge Christy Buscaglia's sons to the Gloves after his untimely death. Sam was heavily involved in politics at the time and helped Judge Buscaglia become the first Italian elected official in the Buffalo area.

Sacco was child hood friends with Frank Sedita who would become Mayor of Buffalo and took a job with the city as license director do go along with his amateur boxing duties.

Sammy was involved in Buffalo boxing for over 40 years in all capacities and for those reasons we are proud to induct Sammy Sacco into the Ring 44 Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.