



## *Ring 44 Inductee*

# PETE TAMALONIS



Pete Tamalonis was a Greek boxer who drew the nickname "Silent" because he was deaf and mute. Through boxing Pete made his fists do all the talking.

In early 1936 Tamalonis really began to make his mark in the Buffalo fistic world. In January of that year he won a local amateur tournament at Orioles Hall on Genesee St. in the heavyweight class. He defeated Clarence Blenk at 1:28 of the first round and later that night stopped Fred Perlek at 1:44 of the second round.

In February, a team of top amateur boxers from Chicago came to Buffalo to take on the Queen City's finest. Mickey Rowe of the Buffalo Courier-Express wrote "Pete Tamalonis gave another exhibition of accurate and sharp hitting in beating Bernard Bowman. Although having things all his way, Silent Pete could not put away Bowman."

In March of 1936 the Niagara District Amateur Championships were to be held. The tournament was huge in Buffalo and the winners would go on to the National AAU Championships. Tamalonis again showed his power as he stopped Leo Gable of Rochester at 1:51 of the first round in the semi-finals. The finals were held at the Broadway Auditorium and Silent Pete upset Charley Douglass of Buffalo in the Heavyweight division by three round decision. The eight Niagara District Champions traveled to Cleveland for the Nationals. Pete put up a great battle in the second round of the tournament but came up short.

In early 1937 the Broadway Auditorium held a Tournament of Champions card. In the heavyweight special bout, Tamalonis took on George Bird who was the Canadian champion. After five rounds Pete decisively took the decision.

In March of 1938 Tamalonis decided to join the professional ranks and his first fight was against tough Roy Gore of Buffalo. Gore took the decision but Pete showed his toughness by hanging in with the veteran. Pete reeled off six straight wins and that earned him a match against Schoolboy Andrews of Buffalo for the Heavyweight Championship of Buffalo. An underdog, as he was against Douglass in the Niagara District finals, Tamalonis knocked Andrews out in the fourth round.

Despite being in the pro ranks for only a year and a 7-1 record, Pete challenged veteran fighters in Patsy Perroni and Johnny Whitters who between the two had over 100 wins alone. Silent Pete would end up on the short end of these contests. In November of 1940 Pete was signed to be included on the first professional boxing card in the newly opened Memorial Auditorium. He defeated Hughie Glynn of Scranton by six round decision.

Tamalonis concluded his career with losses. The losses though were against Jimmy Bivins and Abe Simon. Simon had just came off his title challenge to Joe Louis.

Tonight Ring 44 salutes Pete Tamalonis' accomplishments and welcome him into the Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.