



# DENNIS "ROCKY" CUDNEY

WELTERWEIGHT

1969-74

(2 Years Professional)

Dennis Cudney was born on April 4, 1947 at South Buffalo Mercy Hospital. As a teen, Cudney would lift weights and the neighborhood kids would say he was solid as a rock, they nicknamed him Rocky. The name would carry over when he started his boxing career years later. Rocky had an impressive amateur career, winning 42 contests, 30 by knockout, while losing only seven. Cudney won the Buffalo Golden Gloves Championship in 1970 as a novice in the welterweight (147 lbs.) class. He would follow that up with Buffalo Golden Gloves titles in the open class in 1971 and

1972. In 1971 Rocky was a semi finalist in the National Golden Gloves Championships. In 1972 he had two attempts at becoming a member of the U.S. Olympic team. He lost in the finals of the Eastern Regional Trials in Cincinnati after winning 3 fights in 3 days. In the semifinals of the 1972 AAU National Championships, Rocky knocked down his opponent in the first and second round but somehow lost the decision by one point. His opponent, Henry Johnson (brother of future world champ Marvin Johnson) went on to win the title.

Rocky would give up his amateur status and turn professional on November 11, 1972. His first 4 bouts were out of town but Cudney would be undefeated with a 3-0-1 record before he would fight in his hometown. Rocky won his next five fights while fighting in Buffalo, four of those by KO. Rocky's professional record stood at 10-0-1 with eight knockouts when he traveled to Nevada to fight ring-wise Dave Oropeza who sported a 43-4-1 record and was rated in the top 10 by the WBC. His inexperience showed against the crafty veteran and he dropped a unanimous decision. Cudney remained in Vegas for his next fight where he defeated Angel Robinson Garcia in what was called the best action fight of the year. Garcia had previously fought Estaban De Jesus and Roberto Duran, and was knocked down twice by the Buffalo lad. Rocky had his last fight on March 13, 1974 in Vegas when he fought tough Frank Kolovart and was knocked down three times en route to a TKO loss. Rocky was a 5-2 favorite going into the fight but had to lose 3½ pounds after the noon weigh in. After securing the first two rounds Rocky faded and suffered his first TKO loss as a professional.

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During a physical it was found that Rocky had low blood sugar and was advised by his doctor to take a year off. After staying away for a year, Rocky was ready to come back, but previous managerial problems continued so he quit the ring.

Cudney was nickname "Battling Brakeman" because he worked part time on the railroad to supplement his ring earnings. Now 47 years later, Rocky is still with the railroad. He was labeled one of the best amateur fighters to come out of Buffalo in a half century by newspapermen in town. He had an impressive professional record going until medical and business reasons forced him from the ring.

After retirement, Cudney opened the Lackawanna Boxing Club with Roy Brasch and trained fighters there for three years. He later trained boxers with his father, Ed Cudney, at the Babcock Boys Club. Rocky credits his ring success to his dad, Tony Pinto (his first trainer), Johnny Sudac and Charlie Ferraro.

Tonight Rocky is proud to be enshrined along side his father as the only father and son inducted into the Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame. Ring 44 is equally proud to have Dennis "Rocky" Cudney as one of its newest members to the Hall.

## 1972

|               |                      |                     |    |   |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|----|---|
| Nov. 11 ..... | Ernie Wicher .....   | Shelby, O. ....     | KO | 1 |
| Dec. 8 .....  | Eliezer Negron ..... | Syracuse, N.Y. .... | KO | 1 |

## 1973

|                |                             |                       |     |    |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----|----|
| Feb. 13 .....  | Bob Henderson .....         | Baltimore .....       | KO  | 2  |
| Feb. 19 .....  | Joe Henry .....             | Toronto .....         | D   | 6  |
| Mar. 27 .....  | Tommy Roland .....          | Buffalo .....         | W   | 6  |
| Apr. 16 .....  | Dennis Roberts .....        | Buffalo .....         | KO  | 4  |
| May 14 .....   | Ivelaw Eastman .....        | Buffalo .....         | TKO | 6  |
| Jun. 18 .....  | Charles Hayward .....       | Buffalo .....         | KO  | 1  |
| Jul. 23 .....  | Ronnie Williams .....       | Buffalo .....         | KO  | 2  |
| Sept. 24 ..... | Nikita Tar Hocker .....     | Binghamton, N.Y. .... | KO  | 4  |
| Oct. 11 .....  | Bruce Cantrell .....        | Toronto .....         | W   | 10 |
| Nov. 15 .....  | Dave Oropeza .....          | Stateline, Nev. ....  | L   | 10 |
| Dec. 12 .....  | Angel Robinson Garcia ..... | Las Vegas .....       | W   | 10 |

## 1974

|               |                     |                 |   |     |   |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|-----|---|
| Mar. 13 ..... | Frank Kolvart ..... | Las Vegas ..... | L | TKO | 6 |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|---|-----|---|