



JIMMY WATKINS

WELTERWEIGHT

1952-1962

Jimmy Watkins was a welterweight from Buffalo who compiled a record of 22-10-1 against some top contenders. He first got interested on boxing, when as a member of the National Guard, he entered a tournament at Camp Drum and successfully won its middleweight division. Turning professional in 1952 at age 20, Jimmy's most notable victories were 10 round decisions over Livio Mineli and Bill Flamio in Buffalo, and Armand Savoie in Montreal.

In 1961 Jimmy traveled to Australia for 2 bouts, winning one, and losing one, both 12 rounders. Then, after a year of inactivity, Watkins took on future lighthouseweight champion Jose Torres in Utica, N.Y. At the time Torres was a full-sized middleweight, while Jimmy usually weighed between 147 and 150. Reports of

this bout stated that

it was a close fight up until the closing moments of the seventh round, when Watkins "took a severe series of blows." Jimmy decided not to continue, giving a TKO victory to Torres.

He was very liked inside and outside the ring, where he was an ardent churchgoer.

Jimmy is presently in good health, living in the Kensington section of Buffalo near his son, James, Jr., and is active in the ministry of his church.



Watkins pinned against the ropes by West Loweray. Watkins won.