



GENE POIRIER

WELTERWEIGHT

1951-56

Gene Poirier, a native of Niagara Falls, N.Y., graduated from Niagara Falls High School in 1950, and the same year won a Buffalo Golden Gloves championship in the 147 lb. class.

The following year of 1951, Gene turned professional and had 7 bouts, scoring notable victories over future champion Tony DeMarco, and Pat Manzi in Montreal.

In 1952, Gene joined the U.S. Army and served as a platoon sergeant during the Korean War until his honorable discharge in 1954. He then resumed his boxing career under the management of Irving Cohen, who also managed Rocky Graziano, but Gene suffered his first loss against hard-hitting Henry Hank. Fighting in New York City, Poirier then ran off seven straight victories, the most notable being against Billy Neri, and Johnny Busso. Thereafter he was matched against undefeated (40-0) Oscar Pita, and after flooring Pita 3 times, early in the fight, Gene was stopped in the 8th round.

A month later, Poirier came back to win a 10-round decision over Danny Jo Perez, but then in his following bout, he lost to Christian Christensen on cuts.

Poirier had a crowd-pleasing style, and in 1951 he won a split decision over Carmine Fiore, a veteran of over 70 fights, and then scored a bloody TKO win over a previous opponent Danny Jo Perez. In the remainder of the year, Gene lost a decision to Tex Gonzales, lost a majority decision to Gaspar Ortega, and lost in a sensational slugfest with Danny Giovanelli, who came off the floor to stop Poirier. A telecast rematch with Giovanelli saw Gene lose a unanimous decision in 10 rounds.

After being one of the brightest of prospects a year before, Poirier became disgusted with boxing, and hung up his gloves for good. His final record was 15-8-3 with 6 KO's. Gene was employed as a mechanic at the New York State Power Authority in Lewiston, N.Y., and died in 2006 in Lake Worth, Florida.

Tonight Ring 44 with honor inducts Gene Poirier into the Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.