



Ontario middleweight Dave Sutherland went to his knees in the fourth round after being knocked out by Dwight Davis of Detroit.

Davis came back to win the match after being knocked down twice in the first round. (Staff photos by Susan Rosick)



Rookie pro heavyweight Doug Ahonen (left) of Livonia, although a hometown favorite, lost in a split decision to Amos Haynes. This was Ahonen's first loss in four bouts.

Future matches slated

By STEVE BARNABY

Pro boxing has a future in suburban Detroit.

That's the word from Westland bar owner Joey DeSanto, who promoted last week's card of pugilists at Livonia's Roma Hall.

Close to 1,000 fans checked through the gate Friday for the six cabaret-style bouts.

High on the successful turnout, the 49-year-old DeSanto hopes to feature another card in two or three months featuring a world middleweight crown bout.

"I'm very pleased with the way the evening turned out. Considering we were competing against the hockey

game, we had a good gate."

It took DeSanto five weeks to promote the ticket. The next time, he says, more funds will be spent for promotion. He also hopes to persuade one of the local television stations to pick up the bouts.

"This was the first time around for us and we did pretty good. Now that we've got the experience, we're going to go all out," he said.

BUT ALL OUT was the word to describe Friday night as such celebrities as former world heavyweight champion Jimmy Ellis came to take a bow and give the fight fans a thrill. Also present was United States Boxing Association President Chuck

Davey, who, in his heyday, was a top world welterweight contender. The crowd was typical boxing fare. The \$40 a seat card brought fans from around the metro Detroit area dressed to the hilt and ready to cheer their favorite.

Topping the ticket for the night's slugfest was Michigan's top middleweight, Tommy Hannah of Detroit. The 160-pound banger easily outclassed Cincinnati's Cliff Wills in the 10-round main event that went the distance.

Hannah, who trains out of Detroit's King Solomon Gym took all but the sixth round.

Hannah scored heavily throughout

the fight by working Wills with strong lefts and rights to the body. Wills was game but his punches lacked steam and he was unable to hurt Hannah when he cornered him in the fourth round.

Hannah maneuvered away from Wills and tagged him with a flurry of headshots. He staggered Wills at the end of the fourth with a crushing right at the end of the round.

The sixth was Wills' strongest round, as he trapped Hannah in a corner once more. But the rally was shortlived and Hannah bobbed and weaved, Frazier-style, out of trouble.

The rest of the fight was all Hannah. Hannah, who came into the ring with 29 victories, 15 by knockout, is touted as a contender for newly-crowned Hugo Corro's world middleweight crown. Corro, an Argentinian, took the crown from Rodrigo Valdes last weekend on a decision.

Hannah already has defeated Canada's Middleweight Champ Gary Broughton and narrowly lost to close decision to Ronnie Harris recently in Las Vegas. Harris was ranked at number two in the world middleweight ratings behind U.S. Champ Marvin Hagler before Valdes was deposited.

A SENTIMENTAL FAVORITE for the evening was Livonia-raised heavyweight Doug Ahonen, 23, a graduate of Clarenceville High School. Although the gallery cheered Ahonen on with chants of "Doug, Doug" throughout the five-round preliminary, he lost a split decision to Detroit's Amos Haynes.

The loss was Ahonen's first in four pro bouts. Before turning to the professional ranks, he won the southeast Michigan Golden Gloves title. He began boxing when he was 18-years-old.

Ahonen's best rounds were the second and third. In the third Ahonen staggered Haynes with a right to the jaw, but Haynes shook it off. Resorting to Ali tactics, Haynes taunted Ahonen throughout the rest of the match and rounded out the fight by tagging Ahonen with a hard left jab in the fifth.

Other results in the four remaining bouts were:

•Dwight Davis KO'd Ontario's Dave Sutherland in the fourth round of a six round middleweight thriller. Davis came back from being knocked down in the first round, knocked Sutherland down twice in the third before and put him away in the fourth.



Top Michigan middleweight contender Tommy Hannah (left) took his toll on Cliff Wills with a flurry of body punches. Hannah won in a 10-round decision.

Penalties and Points

by John Bozzo

One of the most noticeable leftovers from the 1976 Olympics has been the rebirth of boxing.

More and more boxing is being shown on the television screen. Fight programs of all weight classes, amateur and professional, are televised every week.

Before the Olympics it seemed like the only boxing on television were reruns of heavyweight title bouts. Michigan Boxing Commissioner Chuck Davey confirms that both amateur and professional boxing are on the rise in the state.

Davey, a Birmingham resident who operates a Troy insurance bureau, said that 1976 could produce the biggest boom in the fight game since he became commissioner 13 years ago. Through the early part of April, the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union sanctioned 55 fight shows in Michigan. These programs attracted more than 85,000 paid admissions. This compares

to 106 shows and just over 63,000 paid admissions at AAU boxing cards in 1977.

Davey attributes the increase to efficient administration of the Michigan Amateur Athletic Union and the devotion of countless fight trainers.

Amateur boxing is strong in Detroit, thanks chiefly to an program sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Grand Rapids, Lansing, Flint and Saginaw are also strong centers.

PROFESSIONAL EVENTS are also on the upswing. During the first three and one-half months of 1978, eight pro shows have brought 8,500 paid admissions. This compares with 15 shows and 11,500 paid admissions for all of 1977. In 1976 there were only six pro shows and 5,000 paid admissions. Davey attributes the increase in professional boxing interest to a corre-

Boxing rebirth bypasses area

sponding increase in the number of promising professionals in Michigan.

Other factors he listed include the flourishing condition of amateur boxing in Michigan and the work of the United States Boxing Association in establishing fair and honest ratings of professional boxers as a prelude to crowning national champions in all weight divisions. Davey is president of the United States Boxing Association.

"Television people are finding out that boxing is the ideal sport for television," Davey said. "All the action takes place in one small area. It's a sport of contact—people like that. It's a sport that people can understand without knowing all the rules."

DESPITE ALL this increased interest and in spite of the fact that Michigan led all states with 1,000 registered amateur boxers in 1977, there are no amateur boxers from the Birming-

ham-Bloomfield suburban area.

The last local boxer Davey could remember was his own son, Chick, who won a state championship in 1974. "We don't have any gymnasiums available for boxing around here," Davey said. "I had to bus my kids to the Eight Mile and Woodward State Fair area for boxing."

"If there was a local gymnasium available," Davey said, "you would find local boxers in tournaments, at least in the novice division. Right now boxers either have to go to Waterford or one of the gymnasiums in Detroit."

"Over the years I've received calls from mothers," Davey said, "inquiring about instruction for their sons in the many art of self defense because they're getting pushed around in the neighborhood."

Davey said he would welcome phone calls from anyone interested in boxing. His phone numbers are 649-1940 and 646-8920.

Farmington Observer SPORTS

Thursday, April 27, 1978

(F1C)

•"Indian" West Rowe, also of Ontario, decided an amateurish Joe Mobley in a four-round light heavyweight bout.

•Welterweight John Lambe, attired in a New York Yankee baseball cap before the match, made easy pickings of Ken Dallas with a first round TKO. •"Sweet Sugar" Levant Williams won easily in the lightweight competition with a four-round decision over South American Carlos Amaya.

The real winner of the night's activities was boxing promoter Joey DeSanto of Westland, who vows to do it again.



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