

# Boxing draws big crowd—but will it return?

By C.J. RISAK

It was the first of its kind in Farmington, and, quite possibly, the last "Fight Night in Farmington" — has

a nice ring to it, doesn't it? The co-owners of Angie's Disco, Larry Sisson and Angie Zerbe, were hoping to make that idea work by staging amateur boxing matches at the bar, at 30860 Orchard

Lake Road.

Monday night was the unveiling of a great idea, an attraction like no other in the area. Sisson and Zerbe weren't into it for the money, at least not last Monday. It was a benefit for Rick Cece, a former middleweight boxer who lost his leg in a motorcycle accident. Cece used to work at Angie's, so Zerbe and Sisson decided to stage the event.

Everything went smoothly. Thomas Hearn, the exciting welterweight, was the guest of honor, and Emanuel Steward, Hearn's manager, attended and brought with him a group of fighters from the Kronk Gym. Mickey Goodwin, another promising middleweight, was also present and Len Hutchins, a former light heavyweight who twice fought for the world title, refereed.

Non-boxing guests included Mitch Ryder, formerly of the Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels rock group, and the Detroit Pistons' cheerleaders, the Classy Chassis.

The evening was a success. The benefit netted \$4,125 for Cece, the boxers, though unpolished, were exciting, and the turnout was large.

NONETHELESS, IT IS probably the last time boxing will be held in Farmington.

The problem is one of licensing. Without realizing it, Sisson and Zerbe were violating their Liquor Control Commission (LCC) license by holding boxing matches at Angie's.

"They didn't have the permit the state required," Hills Police Chief John Nichols said. "Because it was a benefit and because so many tickets had been sold, we thought it would be less traumatic and easier on everyone to let it go on, rather than try to shut it down."

"But we let them know that it was a one-time deal — next time they would have to go through regular channels."

The permit problem didn't close out the possibility of boxing in Farmington in the future. Before any matches could be held in Angie's, however, an application for a new license would have to be submitted to the LCC. The commission would then forward the application to the Hills City Council for its approval.

Although the problem can be solved, the three major parties involved in bringing boxing to Farmington have three different opinions.

"This is a one shot deal," was the reaction of Sisson to the future of Farmington boxing. "Farmington isn't too

receptive on the idea."

Angie's other owner, Zerbe, couldn't say one way or the other whether boxing would return to Farmington.

"It depends on the Farmington Hills police and the city manager," he said. "They'll have to decide if it's right for the community or not."

THE THIRD PERSON is Steward, who sponsored last Monday's event. Steward was all for pushing boxing, and he wanted to see the money go to Rick Cece.

"Fight cards are planned for the future, and some of the money made will go toward Rick," Steward said. "I can't say how much, but knowing Angie (Zerbe), it'll be a good percentage."

And that's where it stands — in no man's land.

In the matches that were staged Monday night, Steward's Kronk fight-

ers seemed to be the more skilled. In the opening bout, two 75-pound youths showed promise, although both were obviously novices. Ron Moore of Maheras Gym got the decision.

The second bout was an exhibition between two Kronk 140-pounders, Milton McCrory and Jimmy Paul. No score was kept, but it was a close fight and the most polished boxing of the evening.

The third fight didn't produce much copybook boxing, but it did provide the only KO of the evening. Greg Dunlap of Waterford used a "charging bull" style, but he didn't last long. The fight was finally stopped in the third round, with Dion Hayes of Maheras winning on a technical knockout in the 165-pound class.

John Johnson of Kronk and Brenner Bonness of Lansing were pitted in the 125-pound fifth match, with Johnson

getting a narrow decision in a crisply fought fight.

The final fight on the card had Eric Williams of Waterford. It was a close match, with Eric holding a slight edge until the last round, when he tired and Andre took control. The Waterford boxer won on a decision.

The four winning boxers all received trophies. But they weren't the only winners.

Rick Cece got some needed cash to help pay some hospital bills. If boxing returns to Farmington, he may get some more.

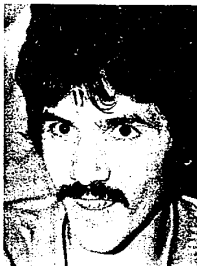


Two of the Detroit area's top professional boxers, Thomas Hearn (above) and Mickey Goodwin, were among the guests last Monday.

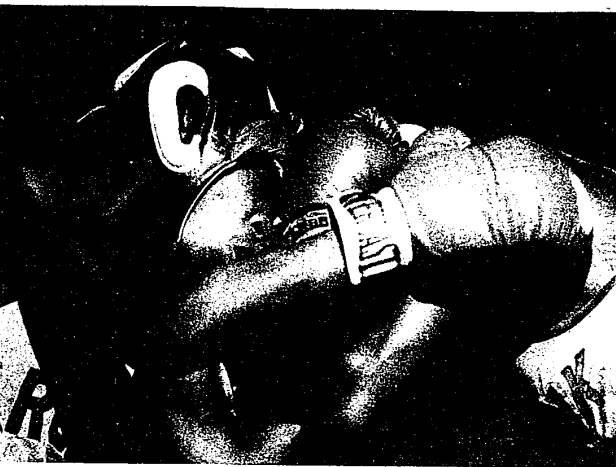
## Farmington Observer SPORTS

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RICK CECE



A pair of Kronk fighters, Jimmy Paul (left) and Milton McCrory, butt heads during their exhibition bout last Monday at Angie's. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Some strange sights and sounds

### It's fight night at the disco

"This just can't be Farmington Hills."

That was my first thought on entering Angie's disco last Monday night. Glancing about, many of the things I saw were as I expected them to be: The high-fashion crowd that hangs out at any disco, the quick-tempo of the music, the waitresses in tight dresses.

But it was that something else which seemed so incongruous with the rest of the atmosphere — a boxing ring, four feet off the ground and filling the dance floor.

I wasn't surprised to see the ring, because I had expected that. The occasion was a boxing benefit for Rick Cece, a 24-year-old former middleweight and employee at Angie's who lost his left leg in a motorcycle accident on May 10.

But the combination was certainly



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odd. All types of different people, dressed in the flashy styles associated with disco, sleeping as easily around the boxing ring as they would around a dance floor.

I guess I had just envisioned something else. Like the opening scene from "Rocky," with two punch-drunk fight-

ers getting pelted by the crowd with popcorn.

You'd never see this crowd doing that.

WHERE WERE ALL the people one associates with the fight game? So what if it were just six amateur bouts, and a benefit at that? You still expect something different in the crowd, like fighters, promoters, and other sports personalities. But certainly not the normal disco crowd.

There were a lot of celebrities there. Thomas Hearn, the exciting welterweight, was the main attraction; his manager, Emanuel Steward, was also present. So was Len Hutchins, former light heavyweight who fought for the world championship twice (and lost), as was Mitch Ryder (remember him and the Detroit Wheels?) and another promising Detroit fighter, middleweight Mickey Goodwin, along with the Detroit Pistons' cheerleaders, the Classy Chassis.

But it wasn't right. The combination of boxing and disco was like an amiable mixing of Israelis and Arabs. Unbelievable.

There were many such contradictions. Farmington Hills, home of the suburbanite, who takes his money and flees to his home in the country, watching boxers from Detroit's Kronk Gym battle it out with fighters from other gyms. None are located in Farmington.

A pair of boxers dancing at the sound of a bell, where usually dozens of couples dance to the sound of Donna Summer. Blood flowing from noses in a place where beer and booze usually flows down throats; the sound of leather gloves pounding human flesh, compared to the normal sound of speakers pounding out a heavy disco beat.

But perhaps the saddest irony of all was Rick Cece himself. He sat in his wheelchair, no more than 10 feet from the ring, where he had hoped to make a living for himself and his family. He had worked for a year in the bar he now sat in, before he was hit by a car, before his divorce came to an end.

People are funny like that. When help is needed, contradictions are buried with the hatchet.



Eric Williams of Kronk gym throws a punch at Andre Williams during their Monday night fight.

## LIONS

### It's Lion ticket time

Individual game tickets for the entire 10-game 1979 season at the Pontiac Silverdome go on sale Monday, July 16.

Starting with Game 1 (Cincinnati, Aug. 4) through Game 10 (Green Bay, Dec. 15) reserved seats at just \$10 are available at the Lions' Silverdome ticket office and all other official ticket agencies listed below.

#### Official Lion Ticket Agencies:

BATTLE CREEK: Coles, 64 W. Michigan  
BAY CITY-ESSEXVILLE: Marvins, Hampton Square  
JACKSON: L.H. Field, 201 W. Michigan  
LANSING: VanDervoort, 1515 N. Grand River  
MIDLAND: A's Sports, 1908 S. Saginaw  
PORT HURON: Smokers Haven, 412 Huron  
SAGINAW: Pro-Am Sports, 3514 State  
WINDSOR: Freeda Clothing, 1526 Ottawa  
Any Hudson's Store in your area:  
J.L. HUDSON'S (DETROIT AREA): Downtown, Fairlane, Eastland, Northland, Westland, 12 Oaks, Southland, Lakeside, Oakland Mall, Pontiac Mall, ANN ARBOR: Bitanwood, FLINT: Genesee, GRAND RAPIDS: Woodland, SAGINAW: Fashion Square, TOLEDO: Franklin Park.

#### 1979 Lions Home Game Schedule

Date	Time	Opponent	No. of Tickets
Aug. 4	8:00 pm	Cincinnati Bengals	
Aug. 18	8:00 pm	Cleveland Browns	
Sept. 9	1:00 pm	Washington Redskins	
Sept. 23	1:00 pm	Atlanta Falcons	
Sept. 30	1:00 pm	Minnesota Vikings	
Oct. 28	1:00 pm	Buffalo Bills	
Nov. 11	1:00 pm	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	
Nov. 22	12:30 pm	Chicago Bears	
Dec. 9	1:00 pm	Miami Dolphins	
Dec. 15	4:00 pm	Green Bay Packers	

Send me a total of \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$10.00 each for the games I've checked. I've enclosed my check/money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (U.S. currency only).

Make check payable to: DETROIT LIONS, INC. Mail with order form to: LION TICKETS, BOX 4200, PONTIAC, MI 48057. Please enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope for speedier return.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_