"I'm not stopping now. I proved to a lot of people I'm no bum off the street. I'm Craig Payne, and I'm here to fight."

Old-time veterans of the fight game would probably be hard put to believe the besting accomplishments of one the besting accomplishments of one Rocky Balboa was fiction. Payne is Rocky Personfiled. Elements which were contrived for the movie were experienced by Payne. Hard to believe, but true. Payne, who walked into the Jefferson Community Center, home of the Livonia Boxing Club, at 260 pounds just 13 months ago, advanced. all the way to the semifinals of the National Golden Gloves Finals last weeken in Toledo. He entered the national tourney with only nine amateur bouts to his credit

only nine amateur bouts to his credit and a 6-3 record. He was competing against 29 others in the most presti-gious division — heavyweight.

"THE STATEMENT was made that Craig Payne would be knocked out in the first round of his first fight," he recalled. 'In my mind I thought, 'Somebody's going to eat their words. I might not win this, but I'm not going to get knocked out in the first round.'"

He wan't. In fact, Payne won unanimous decisions first over Edmond Robinson of Los Angless, then Earl Wilson of Kansas City, and then Mark Fichtner of Elizabeth City, N.J. He finally was defeated in the semi-finals by Joe Thomas, from Philadelphia, who stands 5-6 and weighs in at 245 pounds. Payne's quest for a Golden Gloves title may have ended, but certainly not his dream, especially with the cheers of an appreciative crowd ringing in his ears.

or an appreciative crows ringing in inserts.

"I'm going to win the state AAA (championship), win the regional and go after the AAU national title," he said. "We got so close this time. There's no stopping us now."

The unemployed Payne, a victim of a deteriorating economy, hasn't exactly taken the easy road. He always seems to be bucking the odds.

Like the times in his early teens in

to be outsking the odds.

Like the times in his early teens in Chillicothe, Ohio, where he and his companions would throw some money together, then fight under a streetlight for the booty.

for the booty.

Lightweight, leather gloves rather than padded boxing gloves were the weapons.

THAT WAS the extent of Payne's pugilisitic endeavors — except for a little street fighting — until last March.

Acronaut gymnasts shine

Three members of the Bloomfield in the senior elite division, placed 28th Hills Acronau Gymnastics team represented Michiga at the U.S.A. Women's Instrumental Cymnastics Championships in Allen-Gymnastics Championships in Championships in the senior elite division, placed 28th with 59 in all-around competition.

Gymnastics Championships in Ailen-town, Pa., recently.

Rochester's Megan Newmyer, 13, bettered her national junior eilte rank-ing by two places. Her 68.0 all-around score litted her from a No. 21 ranking to No. 19. Newmyer gave improved performances in both balance beam

in the senior elite division, placed 28th with 69.5 in all-around competition.

In her strongest individual event, Olsen qualified as a finalist in the balance beam. She finished in eighth place with scores of 9.05 and 9.10.

Novi's Barrie Muzbeck, 13, qualified

Novi's Barrie Muzbeck, 13, qualitied for the junior national team, placing 10th in all-around competition. Muzbeck placed first in both the balance beam (9.5 in the preliminaries and 9.5 in the finals) and floor exercise (9.4 and 9.5). Her all-around total was 70.1.

Ironically, it was the effects of high living that prompted Payne to reassess his lifestyle and turn to Paul Soucy and the Livonia Boxing Club.

After graduation from high school, Payne visited his mother in Michigan, and found a construction job.

It was making good more and doing. It was making good more and doing the properties of the properties of

an exhibition at Livonia's Spree Jestival, just three months away.

"I really went at it wrong," he said.
"I wanted it so bad. I ran, starved myself and wouldn't eat. I went to work, home and to the gym, that's it."

He won his first sanctioned amateur bout at Spree and his career was

PAYNE DIDN'T have any opposi-tion in the Detroit Golden Gloves Tour-nament and qualified for the national finals in a walk.

finals in a walk.

He was unhappy about that circumstance, though, and predicted that his training and determination would make up for a lack of experience at the nationals.

They did, to a great extent, but not quite en

"It was the inexperience that cost me. As far as conditioning and strength, it was there," Payne said. "I didn't quite make it. So close and yet so far."

Soucy, a former amateur boxer him-self, said that even he was surprised by his protege's effort in Toledo.

"Normally, a kid gets beat in his first bout in a national championship,"

run it."

• Amateur boxing is like college —
you get all polished and when you become a professional, you're ready. A
pro career is not really bugging me
much. I want to get my name really
built up (in the amateur ranks) so people will know who Craig Payne is."

"When I turn professional, it will be with Paul Soucy and Dick Quitan (also a coach with the Livonia Boxing Club). I was a nobody, knew nothing and had nothing.

"I was going to trust them and they trusted me. We've been through the good and the bad. No way am I going to say 'Zap!"

e "When I lose, I learn from it. I don't put myself down. I was crying (after losing in the semifinals), but I was happy I made it so far. My friends would be disappointed, but they still love me. I was tickled."

\$5900 **FOR 2 PAIRS OF**

HARD CONTACTS







PRICE INCLUDES "LOVE'EM OR LEAVE'EM" PLAN. FOLLOW-UP VISITS AND LENS CARE KIT.

PEARLE Vision Center has a hard contact lens offer that shard to beat. Now, get 2 pairs of hard lenses for just 559. That price includes our "Love em or chave em" or lens which gives you 30 days to return the lenses for a full refund on the cost of the lenses.

-----COUPON-----

SOFT CONTACT LENSES \$4900 Bausch & Lomb or American Optical (Reg. Price 869)



GROSSE POINTE WOODS -- 21207 Mack - SOUTHGATE -- Southgate Shopping Center, 13615 Eureka Rd. - ALLEN PARK -- 14595 Southfeeld Rd. GARDEN CITY -- 29316 Ford Rd. - BELLEVILLE -- 1426wood Shopping Center. 2095 Lawsonwille Rd. - CANTON -- 44750 Ford Rd. - DETROIT -- 9350 Telegraph Rd. - 16351 Plymouth Rd. - 19341 West 8 Mile Rd. - BISH MINGHAM -- 379 South Hunter Bwd - TAYLOR -- 11050 Telegraph Rd. - DEARBORN -- 23050 Michigan Ave. - L'UNDINA -- 34901 Plymouth Rd. - 20353 Middebeth Rd. For other localisms call toll-free 800-331-1000

c 1981 Searle Optical Inc., Dallas, Texas USA

NEW

A Money Market Certificate at Michigan National



means interest on checking



with NO MINIMUM BALANCE!

Right now when you buy or renew a money market certificate from Michigan National Corporation Banks you qualify for a no service charge Michigan Interest Chekings account with free check storage.

That means you'll earn 5-1/4% annual interest on your checking funds and pay no service charge no matter what your balance. FLUS each month we can automatically transfer the interest from your certificate to your checking account where it is compounded continuously to earn extra interest on your interest.

Come into any office of a Michigan National Corporation Bank to open your accounts. You'll earn the highest rate possible on money market certificates and earn interest on your checking funds with no minimum balance requirement.

The newest way Michigan National gives you more money.

\$70945

in just 182 days on a \$10,000 deposit. annual interest rate

14.033%

14.737%

Effective Tuesday, April 7, thru Monday, April 13.

Michigan National Corporation Banks



The effective annual yield is subject to change at renewal and assumes that the interest rate remains unchanged and that both the interest and principle are retirested. Earnings and effective annual yield shown apply to all Michigan National Corporation Banks in Southeast Michigan.

