

# Rochester's Roop rules kick boxing world

By Roger Hart  
staff writer

All the rigorous training Kerry Roop has gone through in the past few months paid off for him Monday night.

At the Sterling Heights Premier Center, the Rochester resident stripped the Professional, National and World Association-sanctioned world light heavyweight kick boxing championship from Dan Macaruso in a four-round disqualification.

Macaruso (30-1) was disqualified from the scheduled 12-round fight following the fourth round after the former world champion failed to make eight foot kicks in three of the four rounds. In professional kick boxing, a fighter must make eight "hard" foot kicks per round or he fails in three rounds and is regarded as a "no show" and disqualified.

Macaruso made seven kicks in the first round; six in the second, nine in the third and just seven in the fourth which gave the match to Roop (29-1).

"From the first round I was aware that he (Macaruso) did not have all of his kicks in," said Roop following the fight.

"I WAS concentrating on those kicks and making sure that I got mine in right from the first round so that I was not getting all his kicks, and I knew if I kept punching him, he couldn't get any more (kicks) in."

From the opening seconds of the emotion-packed first round, Roop, the No. 4-ranked contender, took the fight to Macaruso.

Midway through the second round, Roop cornered Macaruso and started a wild series of punches to the sides of the face. The punches began to affect the champ, and, more importantly, pinned him against the ropes and made it impossible to retaliate with either punches or kicks.

In the third round, Macaruso came out and seemed unaffected by the events of the previous round and came at Roop, landing some heavy kicks and scoring effectively to the body.

**BUT THE THIRD ROUND** was the champion's only moments of glory in the fight as the fourth round was a near repeat of the second.

Following the fourth round bell, Roop was declared the new light heavyweight champion, much to the pleasure of the 1,100 screaming Roop admirers in the audience.

Then Roop addressed the crowd over the public address system.

"I have spent a lot of time working toward this goal," Roop said. "And I know that I have it, I'm not sure what I'll do with it."

Almost immediately, Macaruso came up to Roop and said, "I rematch."

That was discussed in Roop's locker

room during the post-fight celebrations. "Make him wait two years for a rematch like he made you," one of the members of Roop's entourage suggested.

**MACARUSO** defeated Roop in a match about three years ago early in Roop's career and his lack of boxing knowledge showed against the veteran Macaruso.

But for this fight, Roop sought the

bother expertise of Luther Burgess, a trainer from Detroit who has worked with many boxers in the Detroit area. Roop has been involved with karate for nine years, and kick boxing for about four years.

"I wanted this title since I began in karate nine years ago. This is all I wanted," he added.

The new champ said he was unsure about his plans for the future.

"I don't really know. I'll be 32 years old next month. I'll have to sleep on it."

My family (wife, two daughters and his mother) wants me to retire. I want to be a fight (kick boxing) promoter and a trainer. I guess I did this tonight for students (Nature's Way Martial Arts Academy) so they could experience it. I know what it was like (to fight in a championship fight), and I wanted my students to know what it is like."

In the preliminary bouts:

Pat Ristola (Madison Heights) won by a technical knockout over Steve Sebo (Davison).

Rick Simmons (Grand Rapids) won by a decision over Ronny Morrison (Kitchener, Ontario).

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## sport shorts

### Skating lessons set

Southfield's Parks and Recreation Department is offering two summer activities — ice skating and swimming — to area residents.

Ice skating lessons will be held Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

At the Beech Woods Recreation Center, 1815 Woodward Avenue, just south of Nine Mile. The half-hour lessons will be held June 26 through July 24. Cost is \$15 for Southfield residents, \$19 for non-residents.

Special teen skating sessions will be held at the Beech Woods pool 8:30-10 p.m. every Thursday during the summer. Admission is \$1.

For more information, call Michael Battell at 354-9710.

**BASEBALL CLINIC**  
Southfield-Lathrup High School will sponsor a baseball clinic for fifth-through-seventh-graders from 10 a.m. to noon June 21, 23 and 25 at the school diamond. Cost is \$5 per player, payable on the first day of the clinic. Lathrup baseball coach Bob Marten will operate the clinic.

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