Kickboxing champ contemplates future

By all rights, Kerry Roop should be stiting on top of the world. After all, he is the Professional Kickboxing Association's world champion in the light heavyweight division.

The PKA title, however, doesn't carry comparable esteem as the World Boxing Councils nor the World Boxing Association's crown. So, while lightweight boxing champions Michael Spinks (WBA) and Dwight Braxton (WBC) can's six-figure salaries in championship defenses, Roop has to be content with the little — If any — glamour and recognition that has followed since the coveted the championship. Roop, who won the titl June 14 when he was awarded of you're therchamp ban Macartus, be faced with an incessant dilemma: what to do with his tuture.

spinks (WBA) and Dwight Braxton (WBC) carn six-figure salaries in championship defenses, Roop has to be content with the little — Hay — glamma drecognition that has followed since he has been been as awarded a fourth-round disqualification victory over the champ Dan Macaruso, Is faced with an incressant dilemma: what to do with his future.

He must — by decree from the PKA — defend his title against a rated fighter within six months of the time when captured the title. Roop's oncern, though, is whether to continue to fight in-return of puny paydays, or devote full time to his Nature's Way Martial in-return of puny paydays, or devote full time to his Nature's Way Martial methods of the time when hone's just not there (in kickboxing), so I don't know if it's worth my time to man afternoon ru. "I feel the best place for me is teaching my students. The money's just not there (in kickboxing), so I don't know if it's worth my time to continue to train and take away time from the school.

If ROOP WAS leaning toward retirement from the ring, a recent offer from PKA president Don Quinne has quickly changed his mind. Quinne conditated Roop last week and suickly changed his mind. Quinne conditated Roop last week and suickly changed his mind. Quinne conditated the place in November against the European light-heavyweight champ. "If that comes through," Roop said, "I would not pass it up. I certainly would not pass up a fight overseas."

And, if that fight does become official, it may make Roop's decision to either retire or continue fighting than with the place in worth my while. But right now, the title inst making me anything. "It's a tough decision. I really don't know what to do. If I made the same may be more valuable teaching, training and instructing than performing show at the Premier Center in Sterling show had the Premier Center in Sterling and managing and instructing than performing himself.

what lies ahead. The money's just not there (in kickboxina), so l don't know if it's worth my time to continue to away from the school.

— Kerry Roop kickboxing champion



ROGER HART/staff ph



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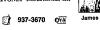
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