

Promoters bring boxing back to Birmingham

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Boxing is back in Birmingham. Promoters Harry Belcastro of Birmingham and Leno Corradi of Troy aim to make it quite a spectacle. Belcastro and Corradi have assembled a lineup of professional boxing matches — called "Updown Thursday Night, The Event" — scheduled to take place 8 p.m. July 25 at the Birmingham Ice and Sports Arena.

The card, featuring 1984 Olympic gold medalist Steve McCrory, tentatively will include five fights. The other featured fighter will be undefeated

middleweight Steve "Stevie D" Darnell of Livonia. It will be the first professional fight at the Birmingham Ice and Sports Arena. In 1976, according to Birmingham Recreation Supervisor Robert Fox, the Birmingham arena hosted the Olympic Trial Quarterfinals. Corradi, whose father Leo is Darnell's manager, said it will be a black tie affair with ringside tickets available for \$100. Corradi said former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali will make an appearance.

"BIRMINGHAM has a class of people that we're trying to reach," said

Corradi. "It's a new market for us and we're excited. It's going to be like a night on the town for everyone. We're going to have a fashion show and a VIP cocktail party. We're trying to make it a little more than just a club-type pro boxing event."

"Downriver is known as a pro fighter's crowd," he said. "We wanted to bring pro boxing out to Birmingham. We wouldn't have done it if we weren't able to get into Birmingham."

Corradi and Belcastro approached the city commission earlier this year requesting a liquor license and use of the arena. Permission was granted with few obstacles, although some area

residents worry about parking and crowd control. "The arena had the Olympic Trials in 1976, and from what I was told it was pretty well received," said Fox, who has worked for the city of Birmingham since 1981.

"There's no question that we're delighted to have a facility for boxing and rent it out. I'm glad the building is being used. It's nice because it will generate some revenue. It's a building supported by the taxpayers, and it will lessen their burden."

FOX SAID THE arena, located at 2300 E. Lincoln, can seat 2,000 fans on floor seats and another 1,300 in the bleachers. He said the promoters will

have a security staff for parking. "The promoters are going through great pains to make this a good, clean, professional event," said Fox. "So far it's worked out real well."

McCrory, born in Detroit and the brother of World Boxing Council welterweight champion Milton McCrory, compiled a 126-15 amateur record. He won the Golden Gloves title in 1980 and culminated his illustrious amateur career with a victory over Yugoslav's Redzep Redzepovski to win the 112-pound title at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Darnell, who turned 21 years old last month, is 6-1 professionally. All of his fights have been in the Detroit area, in-

cluding a June 20 bout at Roma Hall of Bloomfield Hills against Carl Vinson, which resulted in a fourth-round knockout for Darnell.

Dino Guzzi, a light-heavyweight from Flat Rock, Brad Jeffries, an undefeated lightweight, and Ernest However, a once-beaten welterweight, also are scheduled to fight.

Corradi said most of the \$100 tickets are sold out. There are plenty of \$20 and \$10 seats remaining. Tickets can be purchased at National Ladder (2501 1/2 John R) in Madison Heights, Westland Cleaners (18729 Middlebelt) in Livonia, Harry Belcastro & Associates in Troy or the Birmingham Sports Arena.

West Bloomfield nets attract 500

Approximately 500 persons participated in the annual tennis tournament conducted last month by the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Department.

Competition was held in 17 different age divisions for men, women and mixed teams.

Following are the results:

Men's A Singles: Mike Acosta defeated Tom Sheridan, 6-3, 6-3.

Men's A Doubles: Mark Landow and Mike Acosta defeated Dick Smith and Frank Bagdon, 6-0, 6-4.

Women's A Singles: Holly Randolph defeated Kris Jeffries, 6-1, 6-1.

Women's A Doubles: Chris Vidosh and Sybil Wayburn defeated Janiece Mays and Chilita Clinkscales, 6-0, 6-3.

A Mixed Doubles: Hildy Randolph and Larry Panter defeated Len Barluk and Patty Morris, 6-1, 6-0.

B Mixed Doubles: Rick and Carol Warnicke defeated Jack and Lorraine Feldman.

Men's B Singles: Jack Yeaton defeated Tony Cornwell, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Men's B Doubles: Marty Katz and Barry Auster defeated Brian Dearden and Greg Johnson.

Women's B Singles: Michele Mandell defeated Intassar Atto, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Women's B Doubles: Kathy Fryhoff and Carol Riley defeated Jane Dyckiewicz and Cheryl Mascolo, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3.

Boys 14 Singles: Shon Tamadoni defeated Derek Elmhorn, 6-0, 6-2.

Boys 14 Doubles: Shon Tamadoni and Seth Denawetz defeated Derek Brown and Bill Ogden, 6-0, 6-0.

Boys 15-18 Singles: Mike Esper defeated Greg DeSilva, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Boys 15-18 Doubles: Greg DeSilva and Kurt Borsh defeated David Barria and Robert Lippitt, 6-4, 6-1.

Girls 14 Singles: Kathy Warnicke defeated Lisa Albrecht, 6-0, 6-4.

Girls 15-18 Singles: Michelle Gurtvitz defeated Laura Swidler, 2-6, 6-0.

Girls Doubles: Sue Pachera and Kristen Orlandoni defeated Julie Komorn and Bonnie Glazier.

LCBL seeks foes' respect

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Moralis, though, doesn't think his league is that far behind the Detroit league in terms of talent.

"You take our team, Livonia Adray and Walter's Appliance; those three teams are as good as the second-, third- and fourth-place teams in Detroit Adray," he said. "Teams like Adray Appliance and maybe Adray Photo, they have outstanding pitching, maybe they'd win in either league. But our top three teams are as good as any team in their league."

Moralis has set his starting lineup for Monday's game. Here's the batting order: Tyrone Galnes, centerfield; Pete Rose, second base; Mike Betz, first base; Todd Krumm, shortstop; Leo Langan, left field; Jeff DePorter, designated hitter; Chris Caza, third base; Greg Ryba, right field; Derrick Dowling, catcher.

Lefty John Rogers will get the start on the mound for Livonia.

DETROIT'S STRENGTH looks to be its pitching staff. U-M students Dave Karasinski and Paul Wenson (of Farmington) plus EMU hurler Ron Rightnowar anchor the staff.

The most recent Detroit-Livonia clash was in 1982. Detroit won that one 3-2.

The Livonia all-stars will have another challenge Monday night. They will take on a team of all-stars from the Adray-Stan Musial Class A league at 8:15 p.m. at Livonia's Ford Field. The Class A stars are from Livonia, Westland, Dearborn, Garden City and Redford.

PASS concept: narrowcasting

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THE TIGER contract helped PASS avoid the necessity of indulging in a bidding war for football games. It was also one of the easiest to negotiate, since John Patsar is a co-owner of PASS and was the team's owner when it was signed. PASS is in the second of a seven-year contract and holds an option for seven more years.

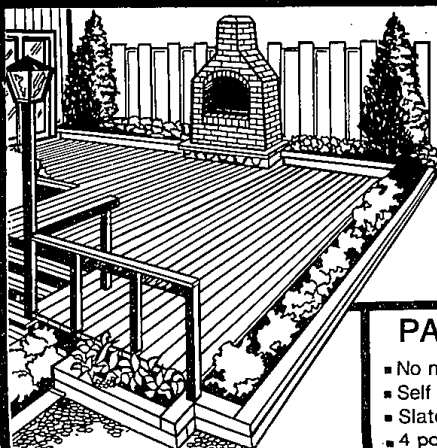
But televising the Tigers doesn't guarantee success, another reality of which Wischman is aware. He hopes to expand his programming to Red Wing games, high school football playoffs and Mid-American Conference football and basketball.

"We've been fortunate because we have good teams," Wischman acknowledges. The Tigers currently have the largest local television following of any major league baseball team, the PASS general manager says.

It may not always be that way. Which means that, even in this era of television specialization, there is a need for some diversification — just in case.

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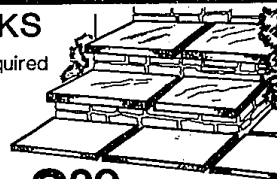


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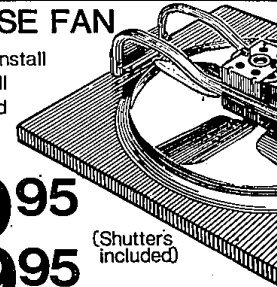
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