

Local fighters get busy in ring

By CHRIS MCCOSKY
STAFF WRITER

There is a good deal of hustle and bustle within the Observer-land boxing community these days.

Livonia Boxing Club's Paul Soucy and his fighter Derek McGuire are on their way to Chicago for the International Boxing Organization's welterweight championship Friday night.

Westland resident Steve Darnell is about to go into seclusion to prepare for his next fight.

And Livonia heavyweight Craig Payne is in Reno, Nev., knocking heads, fists and forks with George Foreman.

Let's take it one at a time:

Derek McGuire

It's taken 12 years, and a lot of toll and heartache, but finally McGuire has a shot at some big-money fights.

"This is a very important fight for Derek," said Soucy, who took the Ann Arbor native under his wing a year ago. "It's the first opportunity he's ever had to fight for a title. This won't be a big pay day for him, it's not a five-figure deal or anything like that, but it could lead to some. This is a door-opener for him."

McGuire (17-14) will fight journeyman welterweight Kenny Gould of Rockford, Ill., for the IBO title Friday night at the Alamedas Casino in Chicago. "The fight is scheduled for 12 rounds," Soucy said.

McGuire has traveled a rough road, filled with bad managers, broken promises and broken dreams.

"He's always had the skills and he's fought some tough fighters (including former champ Livingston Bramble and Pan American champ Rodolfo Aguilera)," Soucy said. "He's had some bad managers. He ended up managing himself and just taking fights for money. But he's turned it around. Believe me, Derek still has a lot of good years left in him."

Soucy said that a victory Friday could land McGuire a spot on the rankings of three weather or boxing organizations, the IBF, WBC and WBA.

"Any time you get your fighter a shot at a title, you are excited," Soucy said. "We hope this will lead to bigger and better things."

Steve Darnell

It's been four years since Darnell had his big title shot. His was stopped by middleweight

champ Lindell Holmes back in 1988. Since then, Darnell got married, earned an associate's degree from Schoolcraft College and started to forge a life without boxing.

But he got smacked in the face by the ugly reality of a souring economy.

"I had to make some money," Darnell said. "And I knew a sure way to do it."

He's wasted no time making up for the lost years. After a pair of short, six-round bouts (a win and a draw), he met his sights on better foes, longer bouts and bigger purses.

"I forced the issue," said Darnell, now 26-2-2. "I could have taken a couple more easy fights, but I told them it is now or never. I'm 26 years old and I'm tired of fighting six- and eight-rounders. You can't make any money doing that. You make your money in the 10-round main event fights."

That's exactly what Darnell got. On Feb. 13, Darnell will fight Ireland's Steve Collins in a 10-round middleweight match in London, England. Collins recently lost a WBO title match to Reggie Johnson.

"This could get me back in the ratings," said Darnell, who is now fighting out of the Kronk Gym in Detroit, under the tutelage of veteran trainer Luther Burgess.

To beat Collins, Darnell knows he has to be dramatically better than he was in his last two fights.

"I am stronger now, but the long layoff has really affected my stamina," he said. "In the last four rounds of my last fight I was dogging it, really sucking wind. I have to get in better shape. I can still throw punches and my boxing skills are still there. I just have to get some gas in the tank and let it roll."

To that end, Darnell is moving out of his house in Westland and moving in with Burgess.

"I have to go away," he said. "No distractions. Just concentrate on conditioning and the fight."

Craig Payne

After nine relatively lackluster comeback fights, Payne's career got a boost from an unexpected source. George Foreman, the king of comebacks, invited Payne down to Houston to help him train for his Jan. 16 fight against Pierre Coetzer.

"That's a nice bonus for Craig," said Soucy.

CC wins 3-on-3; outlasts Chargers 3-2

By STEVE KOWALSKI
STAFF WRITER

The hockey teams from Redford Catholic Central and Livonia Churchill might have invented a new game Wednesday night.

Cus Macker Hockey. Like the popular 3-on-3 Gus Macker Basketball Tournament, both teams played three a side instead of five for the last five minutes of the second period.

CC outscored Churchill 2-1 during the penalty-filled sequence and went on to win the non-league game 3-2 before an enthusiastic crowd at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Defenseman-Mike Kasper and center Frank Novock scored about two minutes apart during the 3-on-3 play to break a 1-1 tie and give CC a 3-1 lead after two periods.

CC coach Jack Gumbleton, who picked up career win 399, felt comfortable most of the time playing 3-on-3. "I had a few players," Kasper and Jon Heady on the ice.

"We played it one up, two back and waited for the breaks," Gumbleton said. "With Heady back there we expect to get a break with him being a forward by nature."

Of course, with seven players occupying the penalty box, the players on both sides had to be less aggressive.

"There was no more room in

Rice prevails in hockey

Livonia Stevenson took No. 6-ranked Birmingham Brother Rice to the wire before losing a non-league hockey encounter Saturday at Oak Park's Computer Arena, 6-5.

Josh Fryer's breakout goal trickled in with only four seconds remaining, beating Stevenson goalie Daryl Chamberlain, to give the Warriors the victory.

Fryer finished with three goals and two assists on the night. Mark Magnusson, Gino Gaudi, Ryan Gustick, Doug Gulau and Ryan Schmidt all scored goals for the Spartans, now 5-5 overall.

"We dressed only seven forwards and four defensemen, so it was gut-check time against Rice," Stevenson coach Matt Mulcahy said. "Three of our players didn't dress (injuries)

could skate, Churchill's Todd Siedlaczek tied the score 1-1 at 12:01 when both teams skated three a side.

But Kasper broke the tie with his goal 45 seconds later, assisted by Brian Novock and Mike Giordano, and Novock notched his second at 14:30 with an assist going to Heady.

"We scored, got caught up in

and we had another on suspension. We had to put (forward) Scott Johnson on defense, and he did a nice job. We may have to keep him there awhile until we get some people back."

REDFORD CC & RIVERSIDE 2: The No. 2-ranked Shamrocks ran their overall record to 6-0-2 with the non-league triumph Saturday over Windsor (Ontario) Riverside in a game at Redford Ice Arena.

Frank Novock had two goals and one assist for Redford Catholic Central, which tallied three unanswered goals in the final period.

Jon Heady, Chris Wegienka, Mike Kasper and Mike Giordano also scored goals for CC. Giordano and Brian Novock each contributed three assists. Heady clipped in with two, while Ken Lauer and Jeff Halter added one apiece. Goalie Jason Hubenschmidt stopped 13 of 15 shots.

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Warriors defeat Irish

Birmingham Brother Rice played four quarters of intense basketball, and it added up to a 60-49 Catholic League victory over Harper Woods Notre Dame on Tuesday.

"We played great, intense, man-to-man defense," Rice coach Frank Carrieco said. "I wasn't really sure if this team could do that."

"We're a little young and inexperienced, but we showed we could play with intensity for 32 minutes."

The Warriors trailed by a basket after one quarter but rebounded with a strong second quarter to take a 26-21 halftime lead. Rice outscored the Irish by a 34-28 second-half margin.

Senior guard Willis Marshall led a balanced Rice effort with 14 points. D.J. MacAlone added 12 points, while Brian Kalczynski and Jack Crews scored 10 points each.

Notre Dame was led by Eric Brelinski with 19 points and Terrance Porter with 16.

Porter was averaging 33 points per game and is probably the best player in the league," Carrieco said. "He's probably a Division I player. Joe Werner guarded him, and did a real good job against him."

Brother Rice hosts Warren De La Salle on Friday.

the emotions, got too offensive-minded and forgot about our defensive responsibilities," Churchill coach Jeff Hatley said.

Siedlaczek scored perhaps the prettiest goal of the night at 4:45 of the third period to pull the Chargers to within 3-2. Shawn Thomas and Corey Soider picked up assists but Siedlaczek deserved the credit after faking out CC goalie Jamie Ronayne right in front of the crease and lifting the puck over Ronayne.

Churchill couldn't capitalize on a man advantage midway through the third period and was unable to score late in the game after pulling goalie Dave Watson. Hatley said the Chargers gained confidence after being outshot 12-4 in the first period.

"We kind of came out waiting for them to dictate play, and once we found out we can play with them we got things going," Hatley said. "We've two evenly matched teams."

Churchill plays Stevenson in a key Suburban Prep Hockey League game at 8 p.m. Friday at Eddie Edgar and has a rematch next Saturday with CC at Redford Arena.

"It's good for the game and communities to have home and home games with Livonia schools," Gumbleton said. "This can grow, I think."

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS - 1993 MEETING SCHEDULE

CITY COUNCIL

(Meets the 2nd, 3rd, 4th Mondays)*

January	11, 18, 25
February	8, 15, 22
March	8, 15, 22
April	12, 19, 26
May	10, 17, 24
June	14, 21, 28
July	12, 19, 26
August	9, 16, 23
September	6, 13, 20
October	11, 18, 25
November	8, 15, 22
December	6, 13

PLANNING COMMISSION

(Meets the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Thursdays)*

1st Thursday - Study Session*
2nd Thursday - Preliminary Mtg.*
3rd Thursday - Public Hearing*

January	7, 14, 21
February	4, 11, 18
March	4, 11, 18
April	8, 15, 22
May	6, 13, 20
June	5, 10, 17
July	1, 8, 15
August	5, 12, 19
September	2, 9, 16
October	7, 14, 21
November	4, 11, 18
December	2, 9, 16

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

(Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays)*

January	12, 26
February	9, 23
March	9, 23
April	13, 27
May	11, 25
June	9, 23
July	13, 27
August	10, 24
September	14, 28
October	11, 25
November	10, 24
December	14, 28

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

(Meets the 3rd Wednesday)*

January	20	July	21
February	17	August	18
March	17	September	15
April	17	October	15
May	17	November	17
June	16	December	15

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Meets the 2nd Wednesday, 8:00 AM)*

January	13	July	14
February	10	August	11
March	10	September	8
April	14	October	8
May	12	November	10
June	9	December	9

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

(Meets the 2nd Tuesday)*

January	12	July	13
February	9	August	10
March	9	September	7
April	13	October	12
May	11	November	9
June	8	December	14

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

(Meets the 3rd Tuesday)*

January	19	July	20
February	16	August	17
March	16	September	14
April	20	October	19
May	18	November	16
June	15	December	21

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

(Meets the 2nd Wednesday)*

January	18	July	14
February	15	August	11
March	15	September	8
April	19	October	13
May	17	November	10
June	9	December	9

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. *DENOTES REGULAR MEETING DATE OF MONTH, ALTHOUGH ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO DATE CHANGE, CANCELLATION, OR TIME CHANGE. FORMAL MEETING NOTICES/AGENDAS ARE POSTED PRIOR TO EACH MEETING AT CITY HALL.

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