

THE HISTORY OF BOXING AT THE CLEVELAND ARENA

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When the Cleveland Arena, located at E. 117th Street and Euclid Ave., was opened in 1937 it would soon become one of the premier venues in boxing history. Most of the credit has to go to Larry Atkins who kept Cleveland in the forefront as an important world class venue until 1964. During the 1940's Cleveland was second only to Mike Jacob's "Twentieth Century" boxing promotions of New York City in attendances and gate receipts. By the 1950's competition with televised boxing hurt attendances but Atkins was still able to operate a profitable organization by partnering with the I.B.C. and landing many outstanding televised network shows. One of the highlights of Cleveland boxing during this era was the annual Christmas Childrens Toy benefit show arranged by newsman Ed Bang in association with Atkins.

The Arena hosted the last TV network boxing show on Sept 11, 1964 and it also looked like it would be the last major boxing show in Cleveland but five years later a new group headed by Don Elbaum (still alive and well as a successful match-maker currently for the Blue Horizon in Philly) and Bruce Trampler.

The following is the HISTORY OF BOXING AT THE CLEVELAND ARENA (including Arena outdoor shows at Lakefront Stadium) :

12/6/37-Erich Seelig W10 Carmen Barth, Lou Ambers W10 Frankie Wallace, Henry Armstrong TKO 1 Tony Chavez, att. 4,500. Xmas show.

3/28/38-Carmen Barth W10 Teddy Yarosz, Georgie Pace W10 Katsumi Morioka.

12/5/-Henry Armstrong TKO 3 Al Manfredo (title), Solly Krieger W10 Carmen Barth, Petey Sarron W10 Mike Gamiere. Xmas show.

12/11/39-Al Hostak KO 1 Erich Seelig (title), Henry Armstrong TKO 7 Jimmy Garrison (title), Billy Soose W 6 Paul Pirrone. att. 13,000...Xmas show.

10/22/40-Anton Christoforidis KO 2 Jimmy Reeves, Jimmy Bivins W10 Vince Pimpinella.

12/2/40-Anton Christoforidis W10 Jimmy Bivins. att. 13,000...xmas show.

1/13/41-Anton Christoforidis W15 Melio Bettina (title)... receipts \$ 20,000.

3/5-Jimmy Bivins W10 Teddy Yarosz. att. 12,000.

4/29-Lenny Mancini W10 Billy Marquart.

9/10-Tony Musto W10 Jimmy Bivins. \$ 9,000.

9/24-Lem Franklin KO 2 Tony Musto, Jimmy Reeves W10 Jake LaMotta...\$ 12,000.

10/21-Lem Franklin KO 5 Abe Simon, Jimmy Reeves W10 Jake LaMotta...13,256..\$32,000

11/17-Melio Bettina W10 Jimmy Bivins, Jackie Wilson W10 Sammy Secreet...\$ 18,000.

12/1-Joey maxim W10 Red Burman, Anton Christoforidis W10 Ceferino Garcia, Fritzie Zivic TKO 9 Harry Weekly...\$ 35,000...Xmas show.

12/18/41-Jackie Wilson TKO 3 Mike Kaplan, Billy Soose W10 Jimmy Reeves.

1/13/42-Jimmy Bivins W10 Billy Soose, Jackie Wilson W10 Baby Breese...\$ 15,000.

2/24-Bob Pastor KO 8 Lem Franklin...13,278...\$ 52,457.

3/11-Jimmy Bivins W10 Gus Lesnevich...9,429...\$ 22,892.

4/17-Bob Pastor W10 Jimmy Bivins, Anton Christofdis W10 Reeves...12,742...\$47,026.

6/23-Jimmy Bivins W10 Joey Maxim, Melio Bettina W10 Harry Bobo, Anton Christoforidis W10 Johnny Colan, Lakefront Stad...23,574...\$ 100,000.

7/23-Jimmy Bivins KO 5 Joe Muscato...\$ 18,000.

9/15-Jimmy Bivins W10 Tami Mauriello.

10/20-Jimmy Bivins W10 Bob Pastor.

12/1-Ray Robinson TKO 8 Izzy Jannazzo, Ezzard Charles W10 Joey Maxim, Harry Bobo KO 1 Larry Lane...12,190...Xmas show.

12/22/42-Anton Christoforidis W10 Nate Bolden.

1/7/43-Jimmy Bivins W10 Ezzard Charles...10,500...\$ 32,000.

3/10-Curtis Sheppard KO 1 Joey Maxim.

3/31-Lloyd Marshall KO 8 Ezzard Charles, Joey Maxim W10 Curtis Sheppard, Izzy Jannazzo TKO 8 Sammy Secreet...10,537

4/21-Ike Williams KO 4 Joe Genovese.
 6/8-Jimmy Bivins KO 13 Lloyd Marshall, Lakefront Stad...18,448...\$ 61,195.
 7/21-Lloyd Marshall W10 curtis Sheppard, Fitzie Fitzpatrick KO 5 Jimmy Reeves, Lulu Constantino W10 Chalky Wright...11,000...\$ 26,794.
 9/15-Jimmy Bivins W10 Melio Bettina, Lakefront Stad...\$ 52,000.
 10/22-unable to locate principles.
 12/1/43-Jimmy Bivins W10 Lee Q. Murray...14,500...\$ 55,000...Xmas show.

1/18/44-unable to locate principles in this show.
 2/29-Jimmy Bivins W10 Lee Q. Murray...13,774...\$ 61,496.
 3/22-Tommy Bell TKO 1 Maxie Berger.
 4/21-Lloyd Marshall W10 Jake LaMotta...7,805.
 7/27-Lloyd Marshall W10 Joey Maxim.
 10/18-Lloyd Marshall W10 Joe Carter, Chuck Hunter TKO 3 Freddie Archer.
 12/5-Willie Pep W10 Chalky Wright, Ike Williams W10 Lulu Constantino...Xmas show...14,000...\$ 74,641.
 12/19/44-Johnny Flynn W10 Joey Maxim, Tommy Bell W10 Chuck Hunter.

1/16/45-Ray Robinson W10 Tommy Bell...10,996.
 2/27-Jimmy Bivins W10 Johnny Flynn.
 3/21-Johnny Flynn W10 Lee Q. Murray.
 4/4-Jimmy Doyle W10 Chuck Hunter.
 5/9-Tommy Bell KO 5 Chuck Hunter.
 6/26-Archie Moore TKO 10 Lloyd Marshall, Lakefront Stad.
 7/19-Jimmy Doyle W10 Tommy Bell.
 8/22-Jimmy Bivins KO 6 Archie Moore, Lakefront Stad.
 10/11-Chuck Hunter W10 Jackie Wilson, Elmer Ray KO 1 Jimmy Gardner.
 10/29-Jackie Wilson TKO 5 Frankie Terry.
 11/12-Chuck Hunter W10 Ruben Shank.
 12/3/45-Jimmy Doyle TKO 4 Lew Jenkins...Xmas show.

1/14/46-Artie Levine KO 9 Billy Walker.
 2/25-Jersey Joe Walcott W10 Jimmy Bivins...12,166...\$51,894.
 3/11-Artie Levine KO 9 Jimmy Doyle.
 3/25-Sammy Secreet W10 Billy Walker, Leroy Jackson W10 Leo Garrett.
 4/8-Sammy Secreet W10 Harold Green.
 4/20-Phil Terranova KO 6 Leroy Jackson.
 5/8-Harold Green W10 Sammy Secreet.
 5/29-Artie Levine TKO 3 Charley Padalino.
 6/10-Lee Q. Murray W10 Jimmy Bivins...7,738...\$ 25,448.
 7/8-Tommy Yarosz W10 Mose Brown, Lakefront Stad.
 8/19-Artie Levine KO 2 Charley Padalino.
 9/9-Harold Green W12 Sammy Secreet.
 11/6/46-Ray Robinson KO10 Artie Levine...12,102...\$83,171.

2/24/47-Jimmy Doyle W10 Ralph Zannelli, Chuck Hunter W10 Jerry Fiorello.
 3/10-Ezzard Charles KO 4 Jimmy Bivins...11,519...\$ 50,643...
 3/24-Jimmy Doyle W10 Danny Kaplow.
 4/15-Chuck Hunter KO 4 Larry Fontana.
 5/12-Chuck Hunter KO 9 Artie Levine.
 6/24-Ray Robinson KO 8 Jimmy Doyle...(title)...11,275...\$ 79,340.
 11/12-Tommy Bell W10 Billy Cooper.
 12/2/47-Ezzard Charles TKO 4 Fitzie Fitzpatrick, Steve Belloise KO 1 Billy Arnold, Jimmy Edgar W10 Chuck Hunter...Xmas show...13,384...\$ 83,646.

1/13/48-Ezzard Charles KO 8 Archie Moore...8,334...\$ 38,920.
 3/16-Chuck Hunter W10 Cecil Hudson, Steve Belloise TKO 7 Mickey Doyle.
 4/20-Jimmy Bivins W10 Pat Valentino, Chuck Hunter W10 Steve Belloise.
 11/17-Joe Louis exh. 8 Jimmy Bivins, Nick Barone W10 Chuck Hunter...10,086...\$ 47,591.
 12/7/48-Joey Maxim W10 Jimmy Bivins, Sandy Saddler KO 2 Eddie Giosa...Xmas show...11,164...\$ 65,602.

2/22/49-Chuck Hunter W10 Artie Levine, Dick Wagner TKO 9 Billy Fox...9,000..\$ 33,164.
 3/10-Dick Wagner KO 6 Billy Fox.
 3/21-Tommy Yarosz W10 Chuck Hunter.
 3/28-Lee Sala W10 Georgie Small.
 4/11-Dick Wagner W10 Artie Levine.
 4/22-Ike Williams TKO 6 Vince Turpin...6,139...\$ 20,143.
 5/2-Robert Villemain W10 Reuben Jones.
 6/20-Dick Wagner KO 8 Artie Levine, Jimmy Bivins W10 Willie Bean.
 10/25-Chuck Hunter W 8 Alvin Williams, Bobby Dykes W8 Jackie Wilson.
 12/6/49-Rocky Graziano W10 Sonny Home, Sandy Saddler W10 Orlando Zulueta.(title 130 lb.), Eddie Marotta
 W10 Lino Garcia, C. Hunter W10 D. Wagner..14,292...\$ 83,374...Xmas show.

3/28/50-Jake LaMotta TKO 6 Chuck Hunter...8,181...\$ 38,778.
 4/18-Sandy Saddler TKO 9 Lauro Salas...(130 lb. title)
 11/9-Walter Cartier KO 2 Joe Taylor, Ernie Durando TKO 5 Joey DeJohn, Ron Delaney W10 Charley Cotton.
 12/4/50-Kid Gavilan W10 Tony Janiro, Harold Green W10 Durando...9,342...\$61,269...Xmas show.

12/5/51-Harry Matthews W10 Danny Nardico...13,308...\$ 73,890...xmas show.

3/19/52-Danny Nardico W10 Dick Wagner.
 4/18-Danny Nardico W10 Lalu Sabotin, Chico Vejar W10 Red DeFazio.
 8/13-Del Flanagan TKO 6 Danny Stepanovich, Lakefront Stad.
 9/3-Del Flanagan W10 Red DeFazio.
 12/10/52-Chuck Davey KO 5 Fitzie Pruden...11,921...\$84,232...Xmas show.

1/7/53-Lester Felton TKO 4 Del Flanagan.
 3/25-George Araujo W10 Red Top Davis.
 4/14-Kid Gavilan W10 Livio Minelli...10,151...\$ 52,602.
 5/7-Rocky Castellani KO Jimmy Mack.
 6/17-Rocky Castellani W10 Pierre Langlois.
 10/28-Rocky Castellani W10 Mickey Laurent.
 12/9/53-Rocky Castellani W10 Gil Turner...11,813...\$ 72,110...Xmas show.

4/15/54-Rocky Castellani W10 Pedro Gonzales.
 12/1/54- Charley Norkus W10 Roland LaStarza, Rocky Castellani KO 8 Moses Ward...Xmas show.

1/12/55-Rocky Castellani W12 Holly Mims.
 8/31-Hurricane Jackson W10 Ezzard Charles...4,401...\$ 18,136.
 9/23-Tiger Jones W10 Chris Christianson.
 10/28-Jimmy Slade W10 Hurricane Jackson, Rocky Castellani TKO10 Pedro Gonzales.
 12/7/55-Bob Baker W10 Nino Valdes...8,380...\$ 63,392...Xmas show.

1/4/56-Gene Fullmer W10 Rocky Castellani...1,487.
 3/28-L.C. Morgan W10 Ludwig Lightburn...2,534.
 4/20-Gene Fullmer W10 Tiger Jones...2,574.
 9/28-Joey Giardello KO 5 Bobby Boyd.
 10/12-Rory Calhoun TKO 8 Johnny Sullivan.
 12/14/56-Joey Giardello W10 Charley Cotton, Yama Bahama W10 Jimmy Martinez, Xmas.

2/22/57-Carmen Basilio KO 2 Johnny Saxton, (title)...8,514...\$ 85,596.
 5/17-Joey Giardello W10 Rory Calhoun...3,052.
 9/27-Joey Giardello TKO 7 Bobby Lane...1,220...\$ 3,526.
 12/6/57-Gaspar Ortega W10 Isaac Logart, Cecil Shorts W10 Larry Boardman, Solomon Boysaw W 8 Lulu
 Perez...Xmas show.

12/15/58-Rory Calhoun W10 Tiger Jones, Solomon Boysaw W 8 Jay Fullmer...Xmas show...6,415...\$ 28,670.

7/29/59-Solomon Boysaw W10 Flash Elorde.
 11/4-Joey Giardello W10 Dick Tiger...2,782.
 12/9/59-Sonny Liston WTKO 7 Willie Besmanoff...Xmas Show.

12/13/60-Cecil Shorts TKO 4 Vince Martinez, Pete Radmacher W10 Willi Besmanoff...(last Ed Bang Xmas show)...3,192...\$12,912.

12/21/62-Johnny Bizzarro W10 Neto Villareal.

4/17/64-Joey Giardello W10 Rocky Rivero...3,998...\$ 16,000.

5/12-Joey Giardello W10 Rocky Rivero...4,500...\$17,500.

9/11/64-Dick Tiger W10 Don Fullmer.

10/29/69-Doyle Baird W10 Don Fullmer...4,873...\$ 22,548

11/19-Alvin Blue Lewis W10 Bill McMurray.

12/10/69-Ted Gullick KO 9 Ray Anderson...4,555.

1/28/70-Ernile Griffith W10 Doyle Baird...7,104...\$ 45,131.

3/11-Ted Gullick TKO 4 Tommy Hicks.

4/7-Ken Norton TKO 4 Bob Mashburn.

4/29-George Foreman KO 4 Aaron Easting, Ted Gullick KO 3 Lee Carr.

5/27-Doyle Baird W10 Dub Huntley.

6/24-Chuck Leslie W10 Ted Gullick.

8/19-Ted Gullick KO 9 John Hudgens.

9/30-Irish Billy Wagner KO 3 Paul Kasper.

10/26-Hal Carroll W10 John Griffin...8,000...(closed circuit Ali-Quarry)

11/25-Billy Wagner W10 Roger Rouse.

12/15/70-Doyle Baird KO 2 Earl Johnson.

1/12/71-Billy Wagner KO 3 Stuart Gray.

2/16-Mike Pusateri W10 Doyle Baird, Billy Wagner KO 6 Karl Zurheide, John Griffin W10 Willie McMillan, Ted Gullick KO 4 Sylvester Dullaie.

3/31-John Griffin W10 Billy Wagner, Doyle Baird TKO 3 Mike Pusateri...5,311..\$ 31,000.

4/28-Cleveland Williams W10 Ted Gullick, Ernie Terrell W10 Vic Brown, 3,360..\$ 18,207.

5/26-Floyd Patterson W10 Terry Daniels...5,789...\$ 40,924.

6/30-John Griffin W10 Jack O'Halloran.

10/19-Don Fullmer W10 Billy Wagner, Terry Daniels TKO 3 Gullick...2,560...\$ 15,000.

12/15/71-Vincente Rondon TKO 8 Doyle Baird...(title)...3,980...\$ 43,085.

2/8/72-John Griffin KO 12 Billy Wagner...\$ 13,900.

4/26-John Griffin W10 Ray Windmill White.

8/28-John Griffin W10 Sam McGill, Billy Wagner W10 Joe Cokes.

11/29/72-Billy Wagner W10 Hal Carroll, Billy Douglas KO 8 Marion Connor.

The Cleveland Arena closed in 1974 and was demolished in 1978.