

Chuck Hunter - Forgotten Warrior



By Jerry Fitch

Cleveland Golden Gloves were once the Big Time to put it mildly. Many of the winners here went on to Chicago and some won National Championships or National AAU Championships.

The 1930s through 1950s perhaps were the glory days of Cleveland's amateurs. Many won national titles, a couple like Carmen Barth and Nate Brooks even won Olympic Gold Medals.

Another fighter, often forgotten who came out of the Golden Gloves was Chuck Hunter. Among his honors were the 1943, National AAU Lightweight title.

As a professional Chuck met many of the best in the welterweight through lightheavyweight divisions during his 1943-1953 career.

During his career many fellow Clevelanders were basking in the limelight or near their career peaks such as Jimmy Reeves, Lloyd Marshall, Jackie Keough and of course Jimmy Bivins.

With Bob Brickman and Larry Atkins promoting local cards fight buffs had their fill of many exciting bouts, usually at the old Cleveland Arena. Many world famous fighters also fought here on the cards and met many of the local stars.

Chuck turned pro in July of 1943 and by 1945 had met some of the best names in boxing including Jackie Wilson, Jimmy Doyle and Tommy Bell.

Although he got stopped in two rounds by Tommy Bell in early 1944, he won most of his fights and when he was on the short end of a decision it usually was to a very good fighter.

However, Tommy Bell from Youngstown, Ohio and an excellent fighter in his own right,



Chuck Hunter-Dick Wagner
Dec. 6, 1949, Cleveland



Chuck Hunter

seemed to have his number. He decisioned Chuck over ten rounds in December of 1944 and then stopped him again in five rounds in March of 1945.

Chuck won many tough decisions over some rough and tumble fighters such as Ruben Shank, Jackie Wilson, Cecil Hudson, and Steve Belloise. He even stopped the tough Levine in nine rounds the first time they met. Artie was no slouch, he had battered Jimmy Doyle and almost knocked out Sugar Ray Robinson during his Cleveland campaigns.

Sometimes Chuck got in over his head like when he met weak chinned, but murderous punching Bob Satterfield on October 6, 1947, in Cleveland and fell in ten rounds.

In 1948 and 1949, Chuck continued to campaign against mostly good men and won some big fights against Cecil Hudson, decisioned Levine again and Dick Wagner, but dropped decisions to Tommy Yarosz twice and Nick Barone.

His first fight in 1950 was against the "Raging Bull" Jake LaMotta and he ended up

knocked down and out in six rounds of furious action. LaMotta, not known as a big puncher was still too much for Chuck with his non stop attack and iron jaw.

The rest of 1950 until he retired in 1953, saw Chuck meet many of the best middleweights and lighthheavyweights but the results were mixed at best. He lost far more than he won and was no longer a contender.

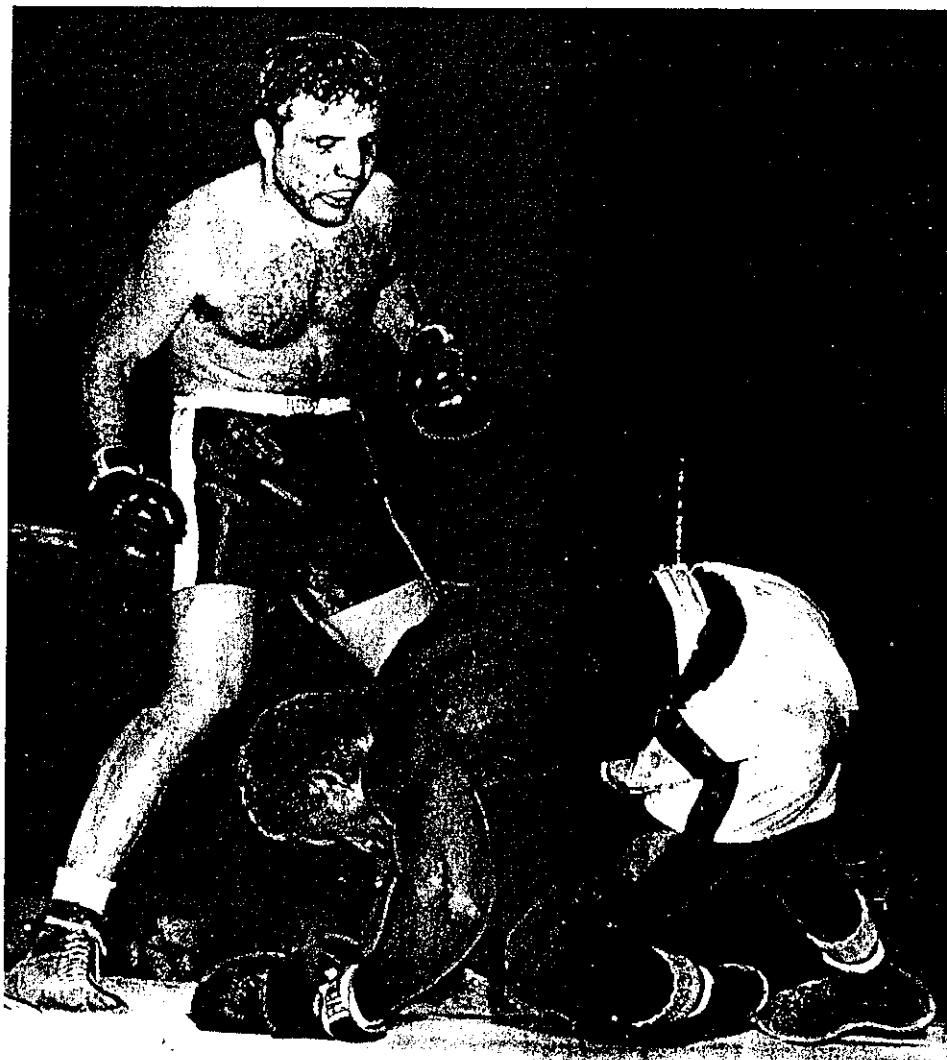
His defeats included a decision against future 175 lb. champ, Harold Johnson, a decision loss to former middleweight champion, Carl Bobo Olson and he also got disqualified in two rounds against former champion Rocky Graziano.

Overall Chuck's record was 70 bouts, 45 wins (16 by KO), 18 lost by decision, 29 won by decision, 1 draw and he was stopped 5 times and lost the one disqualification.

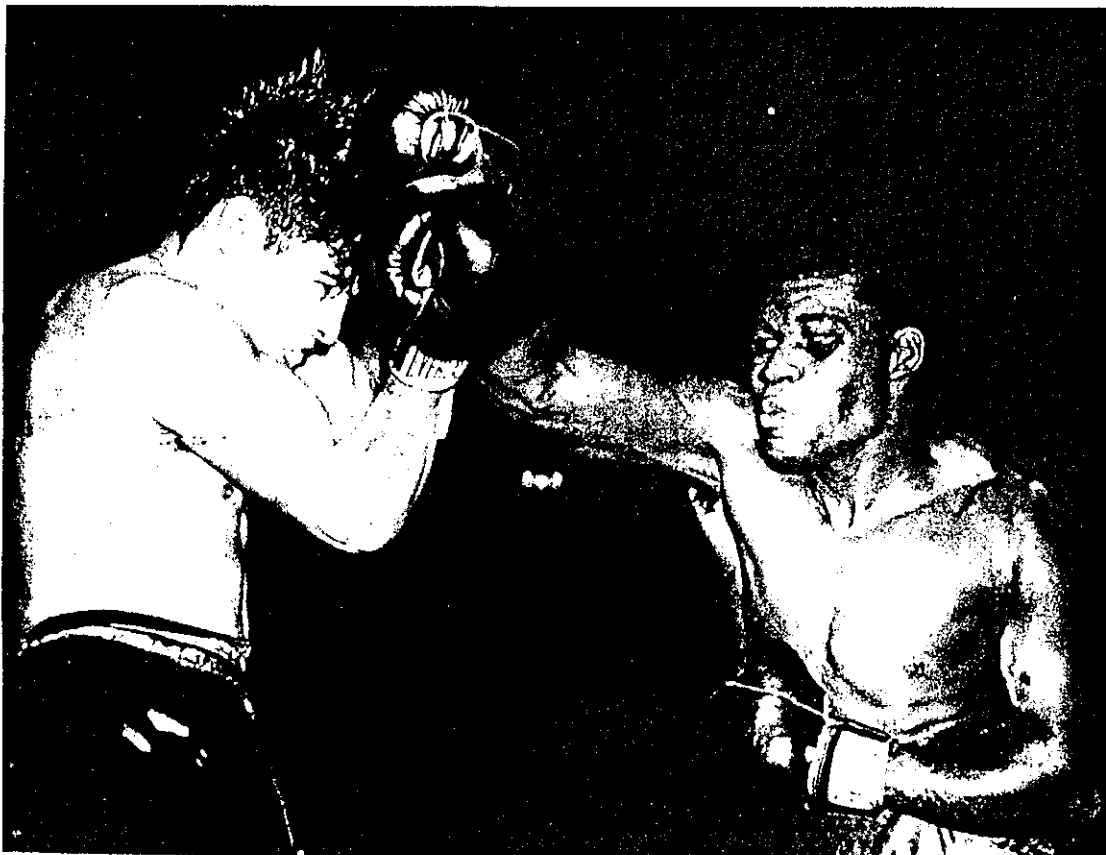
Chuck was a very good fighter, and why he did not rise higher as a contender is hard to say. For sure it can be said that he was indeed fighting during a time of many good and great fighters. There wasn't such a thing as in those days winning a couple fights and getting a title shot like happens in the diluted fight scene now. Often even great fighters like Willie Pep and Sugar Ray Robinson fought a long, long time before a title shot.

Chuck may not be mentioned in the same breath as some of those greats but he was a very exciting and competitive fighter, who brought lots of excitement to the Cleveland fight scene and out of town venues.

When he died on July 3, 1973, of an apparent heart attack he was only 47 years old, and had been working for the Cleveland Recreation Department. It was surely too young for a warrior like Chuck to leave us.



"Raging Bull" Jake LaMotta stopped Hunter in the 6th.



Chuck leads head fight on Alvin Williams October 25, 1949