

PADDY YOUNG REMEMBERED

by
Mike Silver

When a fan E-mailed IBRO asking when Paddy Young, New York middle contender of the early 50's, had passed away I decided to investigate. My search led me to the New York Sheet Metal Worker's Union where Young had been employed after his retirement from boxing. A union representative confirmed that Paddy Young had passed away on February 3rd, 1991. He was 62 years old. A microfilm check of the local newspapers at that time revealed no mention of his passing. I was disappointed but not surprised. It is unfortunate that many of New York's popular main event fighters, who headlined at Madison Square Garden when that distinction really meant something, rarely get a line in the papers at the time of their death. Young, an iron chinned, aggressive, slam bang, better than average club fighter who was able to beat world class competition mostly on guts and conditioning, deserves to be remembered.

Paddy Young came out of New York's Greenwich Village and turned pro October 1946. Early impressive victories included Sid Haber (W-8), Fritzie Pruden (KO-7), Lou Valles (W-8), and Harold Green (KO-1). He was a converted southpaw whose busy left hook to both head and body was his favorite punch. He had lost only 2 of 42 fights (20 KO's) when he fought tough Tugo Portuguez in his first of 13 Garden main events. Portuguez stopped Young on cuts in the 8th round. But five weeks later Young avenged the defeat by outpointing Tuzo over 10 rounds. Victories over Vinnie Cidone (Ko-3) and Charley Fusari (w-10) followed. After beating Ernie Durando by decision in the first of their five brutal fights Young dropped a close decision to Laurent Dauthille and was outsped by welterweight Kid Gavilan. Then something very strange happened. Paddy was knocked out by a body punch in the second round of a bout against Eugene "Silent" Hairston. Young was scheduled to go into the Army the very next day. Most fight fans who saw that fight will tell you that there was no way the extremely rugged Young could have been stopped by Hairston, who was a good fighter but not the type of puncher who could have hurt Paddy Young.

To this day fight fans remember his wild fights with Ernie "The Rock" Durando. They fought five times with Durando winning once and Young beating him twice. One fight ended in a draw. They were a matchmaker's dream. They had similar walk in slam bang styles. It was non stop action every time. Durando's big punch was his right cross and Young's was a left hook. Their last fight, a 12 rounder in New York on March 27, 1953, was part of an elimination to determine the successor to Ray Robinson's vacated middleweight title.

With this victory Young earned the right to face Bobo Olson for the American middleweight title on June 19, 1955. Olson was just too smart and talented. Even so, it was a very close fight. Interestingly, a year earlier Robinson was set to defend against Young. Although Robinson would have been the prohibitive favorite the fight would have been interesting while it lasted. But Paddy's wedding was scheduled for the same week so he cancelled the fight and Robinson decided to retire after losing to Maxim.

Young followed up the loss to Olson with a 2nd round knockout of Sammy Guiliani and a ten round loss to boxing master Billy Graham. The fight crowd felt that the vicious series of fights with Durando had taken something out of both men.

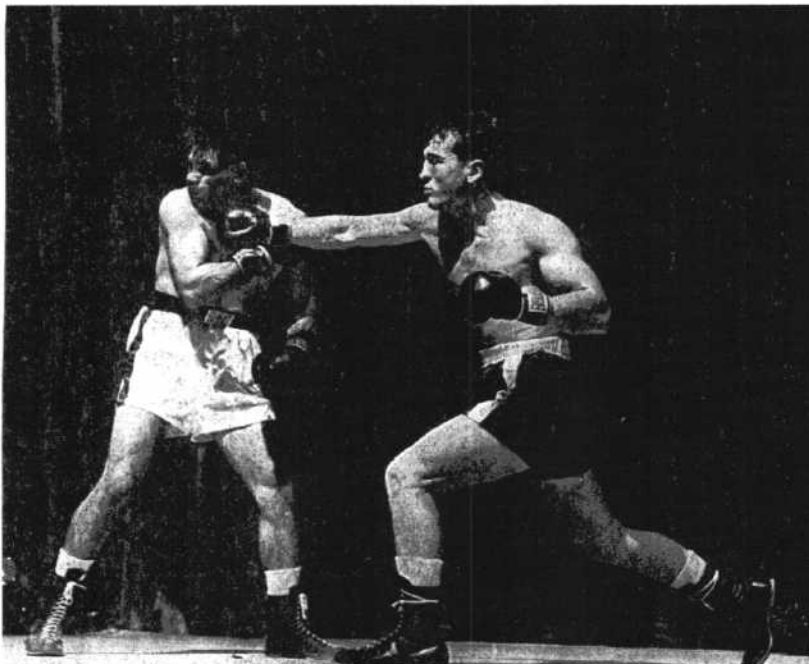
In 1955, Paddy, who stood about 5' 7" and weighed a solid 157, pounds started to come in at light heavy, which was not his natural weight. He dropped a decision to speedster Willie Pastrano and in his last fight was stopped in 2 rounds by Chuck Speiser. After 64 pro fights Young decided to hang 'em up. Three years later Young attempted an ill advised comeback. He fought a 10 round draw with Otis Woodward and was stopped by old nemesis Bobo Olson in 6 rounds.

Paddy Young was a handsome man despite having one of boxing's great noses-it was a classic. If this rough and tumble middleweight were around today he would clean out the division with ease, which speaks to both Young's abilities and the sad state of professional boxing today.

Much thanks to my friend Vinnie Furgeson, former national intercollegiate boxing champion, and boyhood friend of Paddy Young, for his help in preparing this article.

Mike Silver

PADDY YOUNG (RIGHT) IN ACTION



PADDY YOUNG

Born: September 14, 1928

Died: February 3, 1991

Height: 5 ft 7 inc.

Weight: 147-175

Career Record: 49-13-4 (24)



1946

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|----------|----|---|
| Oct 4 | Bill Harkins | New York | KO | 3 |
| Nov 4 | Radamos Fryre | New York | KO | 1 |
| Nov 12 | Elsworth Simley | New York | KO | 3 |
| Nov 18 | Billy Griffin | New York | W | 4 |
| Nov 29 | Ray Solomon | New York | D | 4 |
| Dec 13 | Ray Solomon | New York | KO | 4 |

1947

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|--------|-----------------|------------------|----|---|
| Jan 13 | Eldred Williams | NYC | KO | 2 |
| Jan 31 | Tony Viserto | NYC | LD | 2 |
| Mar 31 | Lou Masone | NYC | KO | 2 |
| Apr 8 | Billy Griffin | NYC | KO | 1 |
| Apr 14 | Pat Murray | Long Island City | W | 6 |
| Jul 14 | Earl Shaw | Long Island City | KO | 4 |
| Jul 28 | Joe Poccia | Long Island City | W | 6 |
| Aug 5 | Jimmy Nickers | NYC | KO | 2 |
| Aug 11 | Ossie Cooper | NYC | W | 6 |
| Aug 19 | Fred Simpson | NYC | KO | 4 |
| Sep 13 | Art McKenzie | Brooklyn | KO | 6 |
| Oct 11 | Bobby Williams | Brooklyn | W | 6 |
| Nov 1 | Bobby Williams | Brooklyn | W | 6 |
| Nov 21 | Vince Scarpati | NYC | W | 8 |
| Dec 12 | Freddie Menna | New York | L | 6 |

1948

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|--------|------------------|----------|----|----|
| Jan 3 | Ralph Walton | Brooklyn | KO | 1 |
| Jan 20 | Leo Sawicki | Brooklyn | W | 8 |
| Feb 7 | Sid Haber | Brooklyn | W | 8 |
| Mar 20 | Ceferino Bronco | Brooklyn | KO | 3 |
| Apr 10 | Freddy Patterson | Brooklyn | W | 8 |
| May 1 | Walter Stevens | Brooklyn | KO | 7 |
| Jun 8 | Freddie Menna | New York | D | 8 |
| Jul 22 | Fritzie Pruden | Brooklyn | KO | 7 |
| Sep 17 | Tony Pellone | New York | L | 10 |
| Oct 23 | George Clark | Brooklyn | KO | 5 |
| Dec 7 | Joey Peralta | Brooklyn | W | 8 |
| Dec 16 | Russ Howard | New York | W | 8 |

1949

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|--------|--------------------|----------|----|---|
| Jan 20 | Russ Howard | New York | W | 8 |
| Feb 4 | Frankie Palermo | New York | KO | 8 |
| Feb 21 | Nick Mistovich | Brooklyn | W | 8 |
| Mar 12 | Choforo Martinez | Brooklyn | W | 8 |
| Apr 8 | Nick Mistovich | New York | KO | 8 |
| Sep 14 | Lou Valles | New York | W | 8 |
| Dec 3 | Melvin Bartholomew | Brooklyn | W | 8 |
| Dec 16 | Sal DiMartino | New York | KO | 6 |

1950

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|--------|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| Jan 6 | Harold Green | New York | KO 1 |
| Jan 13 | Tuzo Portuguese | New York | TKO by 8 |
| Jan 13 | Tuzo Portuguese | New York | W 10 |
| May 12 | Charlie Fusari | New York | W 10 |
| Jun 27 | Vinnie Cidone | Milwaukee | KO 3 |
| Sep 15 | Ernie Durando | New York | W 10 |
| Nov 10 | Laurent Dauthuille | New York | L 10 |

1951

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|--------|-----------------|----------|---------|
| Jan 26 | Kid Gavilan | New York | L 10 |
| Feb 16 | Eugene Hairston | New York | KO by 2 |
| Oct 23 | Johnny Noel | Brooklyn | W 10 |
| Nov 2 | Ernie Durando | New York | L 10 |
| Nov 30 | Ernie Durando | New York | D 10 |

1952

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|-------|---------------|----------|------|
| Mar 7 | Ernie Durando | New York | W 10 |
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1953

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|--------|--|----------|------|
| Mar 27 | Ernie Durando | New York | W 12 |
| Jun 19 | Carl (Bobo) Olson (American Middleweight Title) | New York | L 15 |
| Nov 6 | Sammy Guiliani | New York | KO 2 |
| Dec 18 | Billy Graham | NYC | L 10 |

1954

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|--------|--------------|----------|-------|
| Sep 28 | Joe Taylor | Syracuse | KO 10 |
| Oct 18 | Jesse Turner | Brooklyn | W 10 |

1955

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|--------|-----------------|-------------|---------|
| Jan 24 | Tony Johnson | Brooklyn | KO 5 |
| Jun 3 | Billy McNeece | New York | W 10 |
| Oct 3 | Willie Pastrano | New Orleans | L 10 |
| Nov 16 | Chuck Spieser | Chicago | KO by 2 |

1956-1957

(Inactive)

1958

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|--------|-------------------|----------|---------|
| Oct 27 | Otis Woodward | New York | D 10 |
| Nov 25 | Carl (Bobo) Olson | Oakland | KO by 6 |