

Past His Peak, So Rocky Quit

Boston, April 30 (AP)—It wasn't sentiment alone that led Rocky Marciano to retire as heavy-weight boxing champion—he apparently felt he was past his peak.

Rocky's trainer, Charley Goldman, who knows the 33 year old Brockton Buster better than anyone in the game, told him so, Gerry Hern, Boston Post columnist, said today.

Training Gets Tougher

Hern, who found Marciano resting in his Catskill mountains retreat near the site of his Grossinger's training camp, reports Rocky's conversation:

"At the end, the training was getting tougher and tougher, but the fights were wonderful. You know, here's something I didn't tell anyone else.

"Late Friday afternoon [the day Rocky announced his retirement decision] I was talking with Charley Goldman, who



ROCKY MARCIANO
... memory hunting.

taught me whatever boxing I know. You know what Charley told me?

Only One Way to Go?

"He admitted that I was at my peak against [Archie] Moore. I might learn a couple more tricks and I had two or

three more good fights left in me, but that was the peak."

The Moore fight last September was unbeaten Rocky's last. The inference is that from that point on the only direction he could go was down—and he knew it.

Not afraid of the future nor as wealthy as many people believe, Marciano—who knew the pangs of loneliness as champion—also says he longs for a quiet family life.

"What do I want to do most? I'll tell you—boys' work.

"I'd like to work with kids and help them. There's nothing worse in life than a kid being afraid of a bully. I hate guys who bully other people."

Hern asked Rocky when and why the retirement decision was made.

"I think I've got it pinned down now," Marciano said. He had been in a state of slight

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TOLD HE HAD PASSED PEAK, ROCKY RETIRED

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bewilderment when he made the formal announcement.

"Here's why I quit. It sounds crazy but the trip to South America taught me everything. You know, Barbara and I haven't any fond memories because we haven't been together very much.

"I'm a lonely guy, I guess. But on that trip we met a lot of older couples and I used to sit there and listen to them tell about their fond memories of traveling together.

Left Alone on Honeymoon

"Barbara and I would never have any memories if I hadn't quit. We even had a short-cut honeymoon. Five or six days. The poor kid went home alone from her honeymoon.

"I stopped off in New York and Al Weill grabbed me and said, 'Rocky, send your wife home. I've got a fight for you in Providence.'

"So I go down to the gymnasium and Barbara takes the train home—a bride going home alone. That's the way we've lived and it's no good."

What of the future and reports that Rocky is financially set for life?

Scoffs at Financial Report

"I hear some fellow wrote that I had a life income of \$1,500 a month. What a laugh. I'd be proud of myself if I had made that much money. That figure is so crazy that I can't even think of it.

"I got a few small investments. Some government bonds and life insurance stock. Nothing big.

"I have to work and I'm not afraid to. I'm not afraid of the future. I can work. I always have and I always want to."

Rocky doesn't try to hide the fact he'll miss the title.

"It might hurt a little when I start hearing about an outdoor fight in September and two kids trying to get it. Sure, down in my belly where you feel those things. I know it'll never be quite the same."

"But I made the decision to make my family happy. They're my people. And I gotta be a little sad because once you've been champion you know what it is."