



Rocky Marciano Memorial <rockymemorial@gmail.com>

rip toxie hall I

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- Toxey Hall: 1927 - 2007; Boxer who became a cop; Sparring partner of heavyweight champ Rocky Marciano in the 1950s once won a split decision over ex-heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles:[Chicagoland Edition]
Trevor Jensen. Chicago Tribune. Chicago, Ill.:Nov 3, 2007. p. 1.23

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Toxey Hall: 1927 - 2007; Boxer who became a cop; Sparring partner of heavyweight champ Rocky Marciano in the 1950s once won a split decision over ex-heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles:[Chicagoland Edition]
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Abstract (Summary)

"[Rocky Marciano] told him, 'We're friends and we're good, but when it comes to boxing, I will have to knock you out,'" Mr. Hall's daughter said.

Full Text (413 words)
(Copyright 2007 by the Chicago Tribune)

Toxey Hall took his lumps in the ring as a sparring partner for heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano, and later dished out a few as a Chicago police officer.

Mr. Hall, 79, died Thursday, Oct. 25, in his Pullman home of complications from prostate cancer, said his daughter Temple.

Mr. Hall was a member of Marciano's sparring stable through much of the 1950s. A Golden Gloves champion and a solid professional in his own right, Mr. Hall was a tough competitor who knocked Marciano to the mat at least once during a training session. But on his good days, the champ had little mercy.

"Rocky told him, 'We're friends and we're good, but when it comes to boxing, I will have to knock you out,'" Mr. Hall's daughter said.

As part of his deal with Marciano, Mr. Hall was given well-paying undercard bouts. Mr. Hall stood 5-foot-10, and his fighting weight ranged from 180 to 200 pounds, his daughter said. He often was identified in programs as "Toxie" Hall, she said.

Perhaps the biggest fight of Mr. Hall's ring career came in 1955, when he won a split decision over former heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles in Providence, R.I.

Mr. Hall retired from boxing in 1959 after being on the losing end of a technical knockout in a bout against Joe Hemphill. At the time, Mr. Hall was attempting a comeback after a two-year layoff from the sport.

A Chicago police officer from 1956 until 1987, Mr. Hall was for many years a street patrolman in the Englewood District under legendary tough-guy Cmdr. Frank Pape. With his partner, Richard Attreau, also a Golden Gloves champion, Mr. Hall was part of the so-called "Heavy Weapons Company," according to a 1970 Chicago Tribune article.

One altercation between the two officers and a group of 10 alleged thugs left seven in the hospital, while three others "were given paper towels and water to clean up with in the lockup," the Tribune reported.

Mr. Hall grew up in Prentiss, Miss., and served in the Army before coming to Chicago in the late 1940s.

Mr. Hall was married and divorced twice. Other survivors include his third wife, Inez; three sons, Madison Harrison, LeeRoy Brown and Toxey Jr.; two daughters, Catherine and Cherry; a brother, Brooks; and 14 grandchildren.

Services have been held.

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[Illustration]

Caption: Photo: Toxey Hall (seen here in a 1970 photo) was a Chicago police officer from 1956 to 1987.

Credit: By Trevor Jensen, Tribune staff reporter

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