

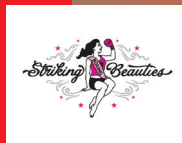
2015
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
BOXING
HALL
OF FAME



Laila Ali
Jeannine Garside
Deirdre Gogarty
Phyllis Kugler
Sparkle Lee
Terri Moss
Laura Serrano
Ann Wolfe

WIBF

www.iwbhf.com



July 11, 2015

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Pier 66 Hotel
Ft. Lauderdale,
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Phylis Kugler

Sparkle Lee

Jeanine Garside

Laila Ali

Laura Serrano

Deirdre Gogarty

Terri Moss

Ann Wolfe



**The World Boxing Council and its President Mauricio Sulaiman
congratulates all the IWBHOF 2015 Inductees.**

IWBHF SPECIAL AWARDS



JOSE SULAIMAN
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



DR. MARTHA DODSON
RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE



ALVIN E. SIMPSON
RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

July 11, 2015 - Hyatt Regency Pier 66
Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

The IWBHF added this year for the first time the "Special Awards" to our International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame to recognize the outstanding and on-going contribution, support, and advocacy of those who have contributed significantly to the sport of female boxing. Sue TL Fox/IWBHF President



Laila Ali

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2015 INDUCTEE

centerpiece, that would be welcomed, unconditionally, by the sport today but which, however, seem to be consigned to history.

10and forceful, noticeable even over a phone line from a continent away, "So much has been written about that and the fact is that I tried to make that bout, but it was always something from the other side that would come up and make agreement impossible. And then when the bout didn't happen, all the talk would begin about how I was afraid to get in the ring with Wolfe. Does any-

one, honestly believe I was ever afraid to get in the ring with a female boxer? After a while, it just wasn't worth going through all the nonsense. But, I'll be honest, it bothered me then, it bothers me now and, at one point, I seriously considered coming out of retirement to make the fight, just to end it for once and for all."

Asked whether she has any interest in a future connection with the sport of boxing, Ali, once more shoots out an answer straight from the shoulder, like a perfect left jab, "I've had quite a few opportunities over the years to manage, train, promote in the sport. But, honestly, I really have a difficult time recommending boxing to young athletes, particularly females. They look at my career and the success I had in the ring and assume I've got some secret formula for how to get to the top. They have no idea just how hard it is in a sport where a fighter is completely on her own. There's no player's

association or a union in boxing to protect the fighters and far too many of those a boxer comes into contact with are simply trying to figure how much money they can make off the fighter. I received an education in that end of the sport following my divorce from my first husband and manager when I was forced to get involved with promoters, matchmakers and all the various others associated with putting together my bouts. It was an exhausting process and after all that I still had to go out and fight. If I find a girl who really seems determined to give the sport and honest try, of course, I'll give her some advice. But, believe me, that advice won't be any fairy tale version of what it's like to succeed in a sport where it's particularly hard to make a good living, especially for a woman.

Therein lies the essence of Laila Ali: ask her a question, you get an answer; not a politically correct, nuanced or parsed answer, but a "here's what I think, because it's what I know to be true" answer. It's the way Laila Ali has always done "business" in and out of the ring, straight forward, do the work and what's next.

"To fit into an appropriate place" is the dictionary definition of the word "belong". The word applies comfortably to the eight women who will be inducted into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame in July, just as it did to the seven women who were so honored in the initial class last year. But it seems to me that maybe, just maybe, that definition applies with just a slight bit more resonance to Laila Ali. The boxing ring, given her heritage, was a particularly appropriate setting and she not only fit but excelled to a level that has seldom been equaled and may never be surpassed. As for the IWBHF, in a word, Laila Ali belongs.

Laila Ali, who in the early and middle years of the new century, was the acknowledged "face" of Women's boxing during what will likely be remembered as the final flourishing time for the sport in the United States, will enter the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame as part of the 2015 class.

"I'm honored to be recognized for induction into the Hall of Fame." That's Laila Ali, late last week, on the phone from her California home, speaking about her inclusion in the IWBHF's second class. "I'm especially pleased that this recognition comes from my peers and is indicative of what they think of me, particularly those boxers who worked so hard and long beside me during a time when we took the sport of Women's boxing to the levels we achieved." It was during those "levels we achieved" that the Women's boxing reached peaks of fan interest and media coverage, with Ali as the



Jeannine Garside

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2015 INDUCTEE

Jeannine

side, whose nearly six year professional boxing career culminated with a 2010 unanimous decision over undefeated Ina Menzer for the WBC World Female Featherweight title, is among eight inductees into the second class of the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame. Following an outstanding amateur career (40-5), which included four Canadian National Championship belts, Garside turned professional in December 2004 with a four round decision over Heather Percival. In November 2006, she won the WIBA featherweight title with a dominating 10 round decision over highly regarded Laura Serrano. Seeking new challenges, Garside stepped up in weight in June 2008 and lost a close decision to tough Chevelle Hallback for the IFBA lightweight title.

Maintaining a challenge mentality, Garside turned "road warrior," traveling to Korea and Bosnia, dropping excruciatingly close decisions to Ji-Hye Woo and Irma Adler for the IFBA and WIBA featherweight titles in September and December, respectively.

Returning home, literally and figuratively, Garside's next two bouts were in her native British Columbia, winning a decision over Dominga Olivo in June 2009 and scoring a three round knockout over Lindsay Garbatt, capturing the WBC International featherweight and WIBA featherweight crowns in the process. The Garbatt bout propelled Garside, three months later, to Stuttgart, Germany where she handed Ina Menzer her first professional loss in 27 bouts over six years. The defeat remained the lone loss on Menzer's record when she retired, in 2013, with 31 wins.

Those are the highlights of Jeannine Garside's fourteen bout, 103 round career and the words and facts tell an observer about as much about this remarkable fighter's career as the long

ago "Classic Comics" used to inform me of Shakespeare.

"I loved everything about the sport; the training, the pain, mental and physical, the anticipation of a big bout and then the satisfaction that comes from giving everything, everything you trained for, into a compacted, focused competition, one on one. It's unlike any other sport." That's Jeannine Garside, speaking from her home in Windsor, Ontario and when I was on the phone with her, my overriding thought was how inadequate the word "passion" would be in describing Jeannine Garside's fervency and thus, having achieved all there was to be achieved in the female featherweight division and following what would be a signature win in any fighter's career, Jeannine Garside retired.

Garside views the Hall of Fame induction as a "fairy tale" ending. "It's hard to put into words what this means to me, but the timing is perfect. As time has passed, I actually miss the sport more, not less and this honor goes a long way towards helping me bring back to life those once in a lifetime experiences that I had in the ring and I'll be able to share it with those who know exactly what it takes to climb through the ropes. That's going to be special."

And for Garside, maybe even a little extra special. Her 2006 win over Laura Serrano, who will enter the Hall along with Garside on July 11, did much to establish Garside as a force in the

featherweight ranks.

After that bout, Garside, a gracious winner, exchanged trunks with Serrano. "You're opponents in the ring, but comrades in the sport," is the way Garside put it remembering the Serrano bout. Winning in the ring is the goal of every fighter who steps through the ropes. Winning with class is a special attribute, a combination that Jeannine Garside exhibited through the nearly six years she competed as a professional boxer and a combination she will carry with her when she is fittingly recognized in July in Fort Lauderdale as she enters the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame.





Deirdre Gogarty

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2015 INDUCTEE

was determined.”

Getting off to a start in the sport at that particular time in Ireland proved to be another substantial hurdle.

“I wrote letters to everyone I could think of who was involved in boxing,” Gogarty recalls. “You have to remember that this was quite a time before Jane Couch broke on the scene in England and, for the most part, boxing ‘for girls’ was largely an underground sport. I had as my goal a bout with Sue Atkins who was the best known

female boxer in the United Kingdom. But for me, an unknown, with little or no experience, that just wasn’t going to happen. I did finally get in the ring with Jane Johnson, Atkins’ successor and I beat her twice, (a TKO in April ’92, an eight round decision in April ’93).”

Despite the successful start, it quickly became apparent to Gogarty that if she was to become fully active in the sport, her future lay not in Ireland but in the United States, where, in the early 1990s, the sport of Women’s boxing was not only on the rise but about to burgeon onto the sport landscape.

Why Lafayette, LA?

“Good question,” Gogarty rejoinders, “the logical move might have been somewhere up North, but Lafayette it was and Lafayette it has been. It was here I found a wonderful coach, (ex fighter turned trainer) Beau Williford (of whom heavyweight contender, Chuck Wepner, once said, ‘they don’t make ‘em any better than him’) and I’ve been surrounded by Louisiana Cajuns instead of Boston Irish ever since. And I’ve been very happy with how it turned out.”

Most boxing fans first remember Deirdre Gogarty as Christy Martin’s opponent in the six round bout underneath Mike Tyson and Frank Bruno at the MGM Grand in March, 1996. It

was the bout that put Martin on the cover of Sports Illustrated. For Gogarty, there was no magazine cover, but there was, over the next ten months, an eight bout winning streak that included a ten round decision over a then unbeaten Bonnie Canino in New Orleans which brought with it the WIBF featherweight title.

The winning streak came to an end in January, 1998 when Gogarty lost a close ten round decision to Beverly Szymanski in an attempt to add the IWBF featherweight title. Not only did Gogarty lose the bout and the winning streak but she suffered an injury to her shoulder during the bout. For some athletes such an injury would have been a sign that the end was near. But this was the Irish girl who played several sports but knew that there was only one sport for her. This was the would be boxer who wore out the mailman with letters to “everyone I could think of” pleading for a chance in the ring.” This was the novice fighter who left her homeland because her best opportunity in what had become her sport was across an ocean.

The comeback? Didn’t happen, but not for lack of trying. As Gogarty eulogizes, “I didn’t officially retire until 2004. I kept trying to come back but all my fights kept falling through.”

No story book ending there. But that doesn’t mean there isn’t a highlight reel. Gogarty recalls, “What I remember best is the featherweight title in Louisiana. Of course, there was a lot of hoopla around the Martin bout and I get asked about it all the time. But, those ten rounds for the featherweight title at the Lakefront Arena will always be at the top of the list.”

And that complete list for Deirdre Gogarty compiles to a record of 16-5-2 during her six and a half years in a professional boxing ring. And that record and that featherweight title was achieved during a time span when the sport of Women’s boxing was attracting fan interest and media attention that is unlikely ever to be experienced again. And the final entry on that list will fittingly happen on July 11 in Fort Lauderdale FL when Deirdre Gogarty is inducted into the International Women’s Boxing Hall of Fame.

Deirdre Gogarty, who in the last decade of the previous century, showed the way forward for female boxers in Ireland, has been selected for induction into the 2015 class of the International Women’s Boxing Hall of Fame along with seven luminaries from the sport.

“I’m thrilled to be selected for induction into the Hall of Fame. It’s not only a great honor but it makes everything I went through, in and out of the ring, in order to become a professional boxer, worthwhile.” That was Deirdre Gogarty’s reaction to her upcoming induction when I spoke with her from her home in Lafayette, LA last week. (in the interest of accuracy it is now Deirdre Gogarty Morrison and the married former fighter recently gave birth to a baby boy,) Gogarty makes very clear her love of boxing came early. “Growing up I played other sports, but boxing was always the sport I was most interested in, the sport I focused on. I wanted to box. I was raised in a ‘proper’ family and each time I mentioned boxing, it was met, by my parents, with a great deal of dismay, if not outright discouragement. But I kept going to the gym in pursuit of the sport although, as far as my parents were concerned, I was simply ‘working out’ to keep in shape. When I finally broke the news to my parents that I intended to become a professional boxer, they were shocked, but I think they also understood that I



Phyllis Kugler

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2015 INDUCTEE

Phyllis Kugler, a boxer in the 1950's, who had reported over 50 fights that most were exhibitions, with only one loss is one of the most prominent women boxers in the past, and played a significant part in the world of women's boxing. (WBAN uncovered by extensive research with the Official Record Keeper for the sport FIGHT FAX, and other sources, i.e., boxing commissions, that many of these past fights that happened in the 70's and prior years were not sanctioned bouts, and are in fact either "unsanctioned" or in many cases "exhibitions.")

In the South Bend Tribune, dated 1957, it says, "Phil Kugler's name didn't stir any controversy in the Tribune's amateur boxing results. Kugler seemed like just another young boxer who fared well at The Arena over on North Hill Street during the early 1950's. But all that changed when a reporter ambled over to watch the fights one night and found out that Phil was short for Phyllis."

Phyllis told WBAN that it was not all that unnatural for her to take up the sport as her father was an amateur boxer, and her brothers also boxed. She was acclimated to going to a boxing gym, and felt that she would also like to box when her brothers were boxing. With the help of a boxing trainer/manager, Johnny Nate, Kugler turned pro.

Kugler managed to earn world women's titles in three weight classes.

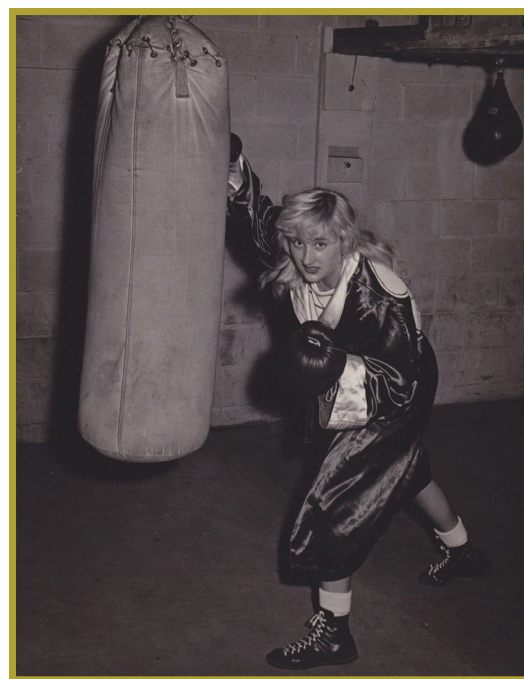
Kugler said that she has never looked at boxing as something that a woman should not do. She admitted that she was somewhat of a "tomboy" when she was growing up. Kugler said that when she first started boxing, that her mother had a problem with it--- especially after she broke her nose several times. Kugler said that people in her area did not always understand her love of being a boxer.

Because it was more of an oddity at the time, Nate her trainer, told Kugler to wear dresses out of the ring and to keep her hair long. Kugler always maintained a femininity outside of the ring---which was totally opposite of her inside the ring!

Kugler said that she would even go as far as to promote some of her bouts by wearing a pair of high heels, dressed in a short skirt, and put on a blindfold and do a 15-minute routine on a speed bag!

Kugler would do some of these "speedbag exhibitions" at car shows, openings, and other events to promote her boxing.

Kugler had made several television appearances that included,



i.e., "The Steve Allen Show," "What's My Line" and "I've Got a Secret."

In July of 1957, Kugler was chosen by the Fraternal Order of Police as "woman boxer and Beauty Queen of the year." They sent a letter to her trainer, where she was invited to attend the All-Star Boxing Show to receive this award.



Sparkle Lee

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2015 INDUCTEE

how fitting and appropriate honoring her with this induction is.

"I actually started as a professional wrestling fan and then gravitated to boxing after I reached my limit of 'heroes and villains'.

I eventually wound up spending a lot of time in Gleasons Gym, which, at the time was located near the Garden in New York City. Refereeing peaked my interest as a way to get involved in boxing and following a lengthy training program, I was assigned to work amateur bouts. This was 1983."

That's Sparkle Lee describing the start of her somewhat circuitous path to the boxing ring. "At the time," she continues, "it was a struggle getting work, particularly for a female, a rarity even then at the amateur level. And believe me, 'struggle' is an understatement. (a movie treatment of the story would have the struggling Sparkle Lee suddenly being discovered, maybe working in a small fight club in the Bronx. But this story was real life; no dramatic background music, no benevolent box-

ing benefactor offering to help, "Sparkle, you're going to get a shot at the pros." But Sparkle Lee knew from real life; for twenty years she proudly served as a member of the New York City police department).

"I worked over twelve years in the amateurs until, in May, 1995, Randy Gordon, then the New York State boxing commissioner, offered me an opportunity to step up to the professional ranks. I still have, somewhere, the receipt that I paid for my

temporary license. It was \$75. Two days later Randy was out of his job and I was out of a opportunity to move up to the pros. But when one door closes, sometimes another opens. Shortly thereafter, I was given the opportunity to be the first female referee to work the NY Daily News Golden Glove tournament, which was awesome."

It was six more years in the amateur rings before the "powers that be", in New York boxing, saw what Randy Gordon had seen earlier; Sparkle Lee was ready for the professional ring. In 2001, Lee's ring skills earned her an appointment as the first female licensed to referee professionals bout in New York state. Six years later, in 2007, former referee Larry Hazzard, now New Jersey boxing commissioner, picked Lee as the first female to work professional bouts in the Garden State.

Lee has officiated many female bouts and is both enthusiastic and confident about the future of the sport of Women's boxing.

"I can't count how many (fight) cards I've worked when, at the end of the night, the consensus is that the 'best fight' was the female bout. The talent level of women boxers has continued to improve and I, for one, would like to see them fight three minute rounds. Women constantly do this while training in gyms, where the timers are set on three minute intervals. And, believe me, it's not a question of stamina, these are well conditioned athletes; the Olympics, in which the only US gold medal came home around the neck of a female fighter proved that. I think the future is bright for women in the boxing ring. All they need is a fair opportunity."

Both the first class of the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame and the eight women who will be inducted on July 11, are heavily skewed toward a veritable "Who's Who" of female boxers from both the "modern" and "pioneer" eras of the sport. Sparkle Lee, who will be inducted with the second class on July 11 in Fort Lauderdale, FL., is the first referee to be so honored. And to know the story of Sparkle Lee is to know just

Terri Moss

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2015 INDUCTEE

Terri Moss, who began her professional boxing career at an age when others are often contemplating “hanging up the gloves,” and who culminated an eighteen bout, ninety round career five years later with a WIBF title. “In a word, I was surprised, particularly when I heard the list of the other inductees. To be included in the top 15 athletes in the sport to be so honored (seven in Year I, eight in Year II) is an unbelievable honor and I’m looking forward to being with everyone at the ceremony in July.” That’s Terri Moss speaking by phone last week from Atlanta about her initial reaction to her selection to the IWBHF.

“I had my first pro bout when I was 36 (February 2002), my second bout was six months later and my third pro bout two weeks after that, all against experienced fighters, (a combined record of 14-4-1), all unanimous decisions, all losses,” answering the obvious question, Moss snapped, “Absolutely not! Quitting was never an option, I was hooked on the sport and I was going to see it through, I wanted more and I wanted it quickly.”

She got it. Two weeks later, Moss was matched with Nina Ahlin (8-2-1) and won a four round split decision. Thus, in the first seven months of Terri Moss’ professional boxing career, she had four bouts against boxers with a combined 22-6-2 record, winning the fourth bout against the boxer with the best record of the quartet. Given that start in the ring, it is small wonder that Moss has little patience for current up-and-coming female boxing prospects who build glistening records against “carefully” selected opponents.

Moss concedes that all her bouts were not the caliber of the first four, but she’s also quick to point out that she fought, in the United States and overseas, most of the top fighters in the female minimumweight and strawweight classes: Vaia Zaganas (6-1), Maria Rosa (16-0) in Spain, Hollie Dunaway (12-3) and Krisztina Belinszky (16-4-2) in Hungary. Asked about her toughest opponent, Moss’ answer is unequivocal

, “Without doubt, Mary Ortega, she was as tough as they come.” In May, 2007, Terri Moss made her final professional bout a winning one, beating Stephanie Dobbs in a ten round split decision for both the WIBF minimum-weight title and the WIBA strawweight crown.

But the story of Terri Moss and the sport of Women’s boxing goes well beyond the ropes of a boxing ring. Next to the dictionary definition of “giving back” an illustration of Terri Moss would fit appropriately. Moss barely missed a beat, following her retirement from the ring, transitioning to training boxers, starting first with a gym in Decatur, GA and, in 2013 moving into her current owned and operated gym, Buckhead Fight Club in Atlanta. The nearly 15,000 square foot facility has an Olympic sized ring and features only up-to-date training equipment. The club also serves as the venue for Moss’ periodic “White Collar Boxing” corporate fight nights and her popular amateur boxing shows. Both programs have gained wide notoriety in the boxing community, to the point where the cards now attract boxers not only from the surrounding states, but from as far away as New York.

Moss muses, “In the back of my mind, I think about promoting professional shows, but that’s down the road.”

Given Moss’ continued passion for and knowledge of the sport, Women’s boxing would be a major beneficiary of: Terri Moss, promoter. Not surprisingly, Howard Goldberg, President of the WBF, has already recognized Moss’ potential in this



area and Moss has begun working, in the U.S. with that sanctioning body.

Terri Moss may have been surprised when she received word that she had been elected to the IWBHF. But a closer look at her record, in and out of the ring, her continuing relationship, fervency and support for Women’s boxing, a sport that would benefit significantly were the more just like her, goes far toward erasing any surprise that Terri Moss will be exactly the right person in exactly the right place when, on July 11 in Fort Lauderdale, FL she is presented her plaque and enters the International Women’s Boxing Hall of Fame.

Laura Serrano

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2015 INDUCTEE



Laura Serrano whose professional boxing career helped pave the way for women in her home country, will become the first Mexican female fighter to enter the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame.

Serrano noted that in a personal irony in her sport's present day female boxing activity compared to when she turned professional in 1994. "At that time, there was no female boxing allowed in Mexico. I had seven so called amateur bouts, although, in reality, only three were 'real fights,' the others were more or less exhibitions. I quickly realized that if I had any hope of a professional career, it would be in the US, where the sport was, at the time, prospering. Of course, today that situation is practically reversed; Mexico is one of the world's leading 'hotbeds' of the sport, surpassing the United States. Then, there was almost no coverage of female boxing in the Mexican media, but, somehow, my name surfaced

with the 'right people' and I was offered a professional bout in the United States."

Serrano's "(offer) of a professional bout" came from "on high": Don King Promotions was "the right people" of all boxing in 1994, including female boxing, a sport that, at the time, was at or near the zenith of its activity and popularity in the United States. Serrano's opponent for her first professional fight turned out to be the primary reason for female boxing's popularity. "Of course I had heard of Christy Martin. Any one remotely connected with the sport had.

She was at the top of Women's boxing (21-1-1 14 KO) and my initial reaction was 'this could be dangerous.' That quickly changed to 'I have a lot to gain and not a lot to lose.' I was just so excited to get an opportunity to fight professionally, particularly at a venue like the MGM Grand and on a fight card loaded with world champions including my hero Julio Cesar Chavez."

On the basis of her surprising performance (a six round draw) against Martin, who, at the time was considered near invincible, Serrano was offered the opportunity, in her second professional bout, to fight for the WIBF lightweight title against another established fighter, Deirdre Gogarty. Once again, Serrano impressed Las Vegas ringsiders, at the Aladdin Hotel, punishing the more experienced fighter (7-2-2) with a devastating body attack that resulted in a seventh round stoppage. Few, if any, fighters, male or female, can make claim to such a two fight professional debut: a draw with the undisputed top ranked fighter in the sport and a TKO win for a world title

over a far more experienced boxer.

But when asked which fight is the personal highlight of her 25 bout, 151 round, fourteen year career, Serrano mentions neither of her first two bouts, "Oh, Chevelle Hallback, no question. At the time (2001), Chevelle was developing a reputation as one of the most fearsome fighters in the sport and, really, there was a lot of truth to that. But my feeling was, she's only got two arms and two legs, just like me, and, at that point in my career, I loved the challenge. But, she was incredibly strong and she hit very hard. We fought six rounds in Las Vegas (Texas Station Casino) and it was six rounds of back and forth, non stop punching bell to bell. She hit me harder, I hit her more often. I got a cut on the top of my head and between rounds I told my trainer that if he stopped the bout, I would never talk to him again. He didn't and I won a majority decision in search of challenging match-ups, she was always looking up, instead of down the rankings for her next opponent: Kelsey Jeffries, Isra Girgrah, Melissa Del Valle, Jeannine Gar-side ending, in November, 2007, against a then unbeaten Ina Menzer in Germany for the WIBF featherweight title, a fight Serrano still feels she won. After four years of retirement, the love of the sport still kindled within Serrano. She made a brief comeback in 2011, not against walkover opposition but in with established fighters Ela Nunez and Irma Garcia.

Asked her reaction to her IWBHF induction Serrano explained, "It's very, very awesome. It's special, a high honor in our sport and I'm happy and proud to be recognized." Two of Laura Serrano's reactive words especially resonate: "awesome" and "special." Those words, likewise, fit comfortably into any description of her career in the ring and what she has meant to the sport of Women's boxing. She led the way for Women's boxing in a country that now sets a high standard for the sport with her career in the ring and, later, utilizing her training in the law outside the ropes.

Ann Wolfe

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME 2015 INDUCTEE

Ann Wolfe, generally considered one of the hardest punchers in the history of Women's boxing, will be one of six "modern era" boxers inducted into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame in July. The induction will be held in conjunction with the National Women's Golden Gloves tournament.

Ann Wolfe's prowess as a devastating puncher is securely ensconced in the statistics of the sport and further bolstered by the impact and reach of social media. Wolfe debuted professionally in October 1998 and grabbed the attention of the boxing community, in her fourth bout, a first round, forty-one second KO of highly regarded Mary Ann Almager (February 2000). She followed, two months later, with another KO of a ranked fighter, needing but two rounds to dispose of Gina Nicholas. In November, 2000, Wolfe, continuing her ascent up the ladder against quality fighters, suffered her first (and only) career setback, a three round KO loss against Valerie Mahfood (who would subsequently fight Laila Ali twice). Wolfe, in turn, would avenge this lone blemish on her record with a pair of ten round decisions over Mahfood in June 2003 and August 2005. Anne Wolfe retired from the ring following a six round win over Lisa Ested in August 2006. Over her more than eight year career in the professional ring, Wolfe compiled a sterling 24-1 record (one NC) with 16 of her wins coming by way of KO. Those are the statistics.

If you Google "female boxing knockouts," the result will list, at or near the top of the links, Ann Wolfe's May 8, 2004 bout with Vonda Ward. Ward, a 6' 6" former basketball player with Pat Summitt's powerhouse Tennessee team, came to the fight with eighteen straight professional wins. The accompanying tapes of the bout employ such terms such as "devastating," and "incredible," describing it as the most spectacular knockout in the history of the sport of Women's boxing. The phrases are apt. Wolfe's right hand punch is as sudden as it is shocking and at the 1:08 mark of

the opening stanza, it deposited Ward supine on the canvas for several minutes as referee Elmo Adolph ministered to the unconscious fighter.

But what is sometimes lost in watching the tape is the truly lightning like hand speed of Wolfe. As Ward is about to throw a right hand, Wolfe takes a short step forward and beats Ward to the punch with her own right hand and, in the process, scores as conclusive a KO as has been witnessed in the sport.

Wolfe's win over Ward is, thanks to the virally of the Internet, probably her best known. But it is, by no means, among her most prestigious wins. She fought most of the top contenders in the middleweight ranks and two decisions over Mahfood, two KOs of Nicholas, a KO of Monica Nunez and a unanimous decision over a talented Sunshine Fetterkether probably rank, in competitive terms, above the Ward bout as distinctive wins. But a conundrum that will forever surround the career of Ann Wolfe; the spectacular knockouts, the wins against the top ranked middleweight fighters, the come forward style that she employed from bell to bell, centers on a bout that never happened.

Inevitably, there arose significant pressure, within the boxing community, for a bout between Laila Ali and Wolfe. Would that match-up have been compelling? Absolutely. But as often occurs in the sport, negotiations between the two sides never came to fruition. Boxing has no March Madness, no World Series, no Super Bowl, no path that bring together the two best

in the ring. The potential Ali/Wolfe blockbuster suffered, notably from this circumstance. (Requests to Ann Wolfe for comments for this article went unanswered).

Ann Wolfe, over her nearly ten years in the professional ring, compiled an outstanding record in Women's boxing. It was accentuated by displays of punching power that may never again be seen in the sport. She occupies a lofty position in the ranks of female boxers and on July 11 in Fort Lauderdale, FL, she will be further elevated to a lofty position in the history of her sport.





Congratulations *Sparkle*

May God continue being a lamp to your feet
lighting your path where ever you go.

Love, Your Family



Psalms 27

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I would like to thank all of those who made this possible by contributing time and effort to pay honorary tribute to those professional female boxers along with men and women whose contributions to the sport and it's athletes, from outside the ring, have been instrumental in developing the sport of female boxing.

We are in our second year, celebrating eight inductees who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary efforts in the promotion and development of female boxing by being either being a professional boxer, providing competitive opportunities for female boxers in the ring and/or providing increased awareness and positive exposure for female boxing and it's athletes within the sporting public.

Sue TL Fox
Founder/TWBHF President

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