

VIVA LAS VEGAS!



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S BOXING HALL OF FAME 2020/2021 IWBHF INDUCTEES

2020 IWBHF INDUCTEES

SHARON ANYOS LISA BROWN KELSEY JEFFRIES MICHELE ABORO
MELINDA COOPER VALERIE MAHFOOD MARY ORTEGA ISRA GIRGRAH
MARY ANN OWEN SHELLEY WILLIAMS GRACIELA CASILLAS JAIME CLAMPITT

2021 IWBHF INDUCTEES

GINA GUIDI ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS ALICIA ASHLEY KATHY COLLINS
JO JO WYMAN NATASCHA RAGOSINA ROY ENGLEBRECHT CAROL STEINDLER
BONNIE MANN MARISCHA SJAUW DORA WEBBER INA MENZER

AUGUST 14, 2021 - ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO
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2020 & 2021 IWBHF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Blanca Gutierrez



Beautiful Brawlers founder Blanca Gutierrez, Martha Salazar and Carina Moreno would be on the same kickboxing cards and would share the beginning of their journey together. After six months of training, Blanca engaged in her first fight.

Blanca, a natural athlete, eventually captured three kickboxing national titles but boxing kept calling to her. She knew there were other women who loved boxing. She wanted them to have a place where someone cared. Where women would be taught boxing.

In 2007, Blanca opened a gym named after her father that offered women the same opportunities as men to pursue their boxing dreams. She created the Beautiful Brawlers program where all female boxers could learn together, hone their skills and get the best sparring worldwide.

The Babyface gym has produced WBC World Champion Martha Salazar. Salazar became the first female fighter from the Bay Area to win a world title when she defeated Tanzee Daniel in San Francisco.

That same year, Blanca was awarded the female advocate award by the Women's Boxing Archive Network. She has been in the WBC panel for the all-female conventions something she cherishes most.



2020 & 2021 IWBHF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Daisy Lang



Multi-world champion Daisy "The Lady" Lang, born in Sofia, Bulgaria, won the GBU super bantamweight world title in 2003, the WIBF world champion in the super flyweight division from 1999 to 2003 and the GBU world champion in the Bantamweight division.

Before she began her boxing career, she was world champion in karate and a European champion in kickboxing in '94 and world champion in '95.



Lang began her professional boxing career in early '96. She continued to box until 2004 with a boxing record of 19-3-0 (7KO).

Lang made history in boxing when she became the first Bulgarian world champion as one of the pioneers in women's pro boxing in Europe.

In 2007 Lang relocated to Los Angeles to concentrate on her acting

career and is a member of SAG-AFGTRA while working in films and commercials mostly in action roles. She also concentrates in other business.

Lang also has experience as a kinesiotherapist and has been promoting female boxing around the world as a way to stay in physical and mental shape.

In 2017, Lang was inducted into the IWBHF.

2020 & 2021 IWBHF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Christy Salters Martin

Retired Boxing World Champion Christy Salters Martin aka the “Coalminer’s Daughter” is one of the greatest female boxers of all time. She changed the sport after her fight with Dierdre Gogarty on a Mike Tyson card in 1996. She has continued to be a dynamic force in the sport as an advocate and promoter.

A professional fighter from ‘89 to ‘12, she accumulated 59 fights with 32 wins by KO, she knew that just fighting in the ring would eventually come to an end at some point.



During her career she fought the very best in the sport including Laila Ali, Dierdre Gogarty, Lisa Holeywyne, Dakota Stone, Valerie Mahfood, Holly Holm, Marcela Acuna, Laura Serrano, Sumya Anani, Belinda Laracuente, Kathy Collins, among many other top females of the sport.

Currently she is a promoter as well as an advocate involved with her nonprofit organization “Christy’s Champs.” The organization helps domestic violence survivors and their children. Martin donates part of her promotion’s proceeds to local domestic violence shelters in all the cities she organizes fight cards.

“Fighting is a lot more fun than promoting,” Martin stated. “I’m too old to box now. Boxing is my love and promoting fights was the next logical step for me. God has blessed me with yet another opportunity to pursue my passion.”

2020 & 2021 IWBHF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Layla McCarter

Layla “Amazing” McCarter has accumulated some of the most impressive accomplishments in the sport. An eight-time world champion, she has not only fought inside the ring but outside of it for the three-minute round. Like many veteran female boxers, she began her boxing career with no amateur experience, no promoter and no team.

McCarter continued to fight two-minute rounds when she pushed the Nevada State Athletic Commission to change their rules.

McCarter said, “I’ve always been against women fighting two-minute rounds. I think it’s a dumbing down of something. I pushed the NSAC for years to change it and when Keith Kizer took the position as the director, he agreed. He was able to talk to the chairman and get it done.”

Soon after she was able to convince the Association of Boxing Commissions to allow female fighters to compete in 12 three-minute rounds.

“We were able to change that,” she said. “The NSAC has the rule on a waiver system, if two fighters are approved to fight in the state, they can opt to fight three-minute rounds. I would like to make it mandatory but that was a good first step. We have to take it step by step. Start there and keep moving forward.”





**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE
IWBHF
INDUCTEES!**

2020

SHARON ANYOS
LISA BROWN
KELSEY JEFFRIES
MICHELE ABORO
MELINDA COOPER
VALERIE MAHFOOD
MARY ORTEGA
ISRA GIRGRAH
MARY ANN OWEN
SHELLEY WILLIAMS
GRACIELA CASILLAS
JAIME CLAMPITT

2021

GINA GUIDI
ANNE SOPHIE MATHIS
ALICIA ASHLEY
KATHY COLLINS
JOJO WYMAN
NATASHA RAGOSINA
ROY ENGLEBRECHT
CAROL STEINDLER
BONNIE MANN
MARISCHA SJAUV
DORA WEBBER
INA MENZER

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2020 IWBAF INDUCTEES

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Michele Aboro



Michele Aboro was born in Hammersmith London in July '69. Similar to many female fighters during the 1990s, Michele Aboro came to boxing by way of martial arts simply because of the archaic restrictions pertaining to female participation in sports still in place in many parts of Europe. She won three world titles in kickboxing, two in K1 and twice competed against Lucia Rijker in Muay Thai bouts. Boxing, however, remained in her sights as the ultimate goal, and in March, '95, she stepped thru the ropes for her first professional bout.

Aboro began her pro career with a typical starter kit of bouts, breezing thru her first five bouts, none going the distance. She took a significant step up in class, winning a six-round decision over the then

unbeaten and future world title holder, Daisy Lang. Her first world title was captured in February, 2000 in Germany, the WIBF super bantamweight title via a ten-round decision over American, Eva Jones Young.

Three months later Aboro defended her title against another highly regarded United States boxer, Leona Brown. The following year she completed a unique trifecta, winning a ten-round decision over another formidable American boxer, Kelsey Jeffries.

Aboro's brought her unbeaten career to a successful conclusion in November of 2001, finishing with twenty-one consecutive wins, putting her in the rarefied air of retired unbeaten champions, compiling, over a six and one half year span, 105 rounds, twelve KOs, an impressive 57.4% ratio.

Aboro's ring style combined both stylish boxing technique and knockout power, her retirement, which commenced in 2001, has been one of advocacy for gender equality in the sport and a second career of giving back to boxing by teaching those skills that propelled her to success inside the ring to those who share the dream of emulating that type of success. Relocated to China, Aboro operates a boxing gym as a base for her teaching and has said it's a goal to "have a world champion from China." She is well-equipped to school those hopefuls on just how difficult a sport they're undertaking.

Aboro has had real life experience of coping with the innumerable pitfalls, in and out of the ring, her students will encounter. But Michele Boor's students do have one major advantage; they are receiving first person instruction from an undefeated world champion. And that represents a major step forward in what is one of sport's most difficult learning curves. As for Michele Aboro, she will take a deserved major step forward in August when she is inducted into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame (IWBHF).



Sharon Anyos

5'3" junior welterweight Sharon "Wild Thing" Anyos from Australia fought professionally from July of 1998 to February of 2007. Like many female boxers, Sharon Anyos began her ring combat career in martial arts. In mid-'98, Anyos began her pro career in her native Australia with three straight wins. In her next bout she traveled to England and faced veteran Jane Couch (10-2). While Anyos dropped a ten-round decision to the tough Englishwoman, the move said much about Anyos and the manner in which she would conduct her own IWBHF worthy career. She would go where the fights were, not the "put another 'Win' in the record" fights but against ranked opponents, often against those ranked higher. Not discouraged by the Couch loss, Anyos stayed with her aggressive match up strategy by shifting it into another gear.

The Aussie featherweight did not stay in a "home court" cocoon; she went where the action was in the sport and soon to the United States. Anyos had two bouts in the States in the first year of the new century, winning both, including a close, ten rounder bell-to-bell action decision against highly-ranked and slick southpaw Jo Wyman.

Anyos was the first woman to receive an award from the Australian National Boxing Federation. She received an Outstanding Achievement Award for her WBF world title fight against Jane Couch.

According to Sharon's father and trainer Les Anyos, this was a "first" for a previously exclusively male event in a nation that only embraced women's boxing officially in 1998. Sharon was also named "First Lady of Australian Boxing". In February of 2001, Anyos received the Australian Female Fighter of the Year award, in addition to receiving a historic award for pioneering women's boxing in Australia and for being the first Australian female world boxing champion.

In the last eight fights of Anyos professional boxing career, she won every one highlighted by a win over undefeated Lisa Brown, gaining the WBF Featherweight title, as well as an impressive win

for the inaugural WBC 126 lbs. crown with a unanimous decision over Marcela Acuna. She also defended that crown with a sixth round TKO over Esther Schouten. Anyos retired with a 14-3, 4KO record.

"Sharon Anyos is a key figure in the history of women's boxing," Mischa Merz, a champion amateur boxer, best selling author and expert of Australian boxing stated. "She made her mark not just at home but internationally. She was a fearless competitor, a larger than life character and she deserved this induction more than anyone. I always saw her as an inspiration along with other pioneers in the sport, Lucia Rijker and Christy Martin and thought she should be better recognized in her home country for her achievements. Hopefully, that will happen."



Lisa Brown

Multi-World Champion 5'2½" 118-lb southpaw Lisa "Bad News" Brown was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad and lives in Brampton, Ontario, Canada. The only girl in a family of four, she immigrated to Canada in 1988 at age 17.

Lisa began boxing as an amateur at age 26 encouraged by her pro boxer husband Errol Brown. Like many women who entered the boxing ring in the late '90's, Lisa says she was also motivated by seeing Christy Martin and Dierdre Gogarty in 1996 on a Mike Tyson PPV card. Lisa won two 118-pound championships in her home province of Ontario and she competed in the Canadian national amateur championships in '98 and '99.

Lisa turned pro with a 26-6 amateur record behind

her but she then had a hard time finding opponents who were willing to fight her. She finally secured a debut fight on May 5, 2000 at the Convention Center in Tucson, Arizona, by stepping into the ring against Tucson's own Leilani Salazar as a late substitute for Valory Troike of Las Vegas. Some highlights of her fights include:

Lisa's fifth pro bout represented a significant step up in competition. She took on an experienced pro warrior in a six round war on a card aptly billed as the "Border Explosion" on April 27, 2001 at the Convention Center in Niagara Falls, New York. A crowd announced as 4500 saw an entertaining battle as Lisa won a six-round unanimous (57-55, 57-56, 57-56) decision over the scrappy IFBA Junior Featherweight champion "Downtown" Leona Brown of Pawling, New York.

A professional career that spans ten years and boasted multi-world titles, Lisa Brown was one of the key figures in women's professional boxing. Brown fought many top prominent female boxers that included Jeri Sitzes, Sharon Anyos, Leona Brown, Karen Martin, Kelli Cofer, Ada Velez, Jackie Chavez, Jeannine Garside, Melissa Hernandez, Alicia Ashley, Ana Julaton, Jackie Nava, and more. During her professional boxing career, she fought from 2000-2013, with a 20-6-3 (6KO) boxing record.



Graciela Casillas



Graciela Casillas fought as a professional boxer from 1979 - 1986, and became a world champion during that time. She was one of the top female pioneer boxers at her time in the sport. Casillas retired undefeated with a combined record of 31-0, 18 KO's. After her retirement she dedicated herself to teaching martial arts. Casillas spent the following decades incorporating knowledge acquired from different arts, including her own personal and professional experiences to formulate a highly effective street defense system. Devotion to the martial arts, coupled with two advanced degrees in Education, and Physical Education has led Casillas to dedicate herself to the promotion of the art as a teacher, student and writer.

Graciela was honored as a Black Belt Hall of Fame inductee, "Women of the Year," and has earned international acclaim as one of the world's top martial artist, and as a teacher of the art of self-defense. Casillas's 45 years as student, instructor, and professional competitor has given her an eclectic approach to the martial arts which she shares with students at home and abroad.

Casillas was the first athlete to simultaneously hold world titles in the two sports of kick-boxing (World Karate Association Bantamweight World Champion) and boxing, (International Women's Boxing Association Bantamweight champion) Casillas also became a world champion in Filipino stick fighting (World Escrima, Kali, Arnis Federation-WEKAF). She was the first and only women to be certified to the advance level of instructor under the late Grand master Angel Cabales.

Casillas has a Bachelor's degree in Law & Society from UCSB, a Master's degree in Counseling, from California Lutheran University and a Masters degree in Physical Education from Azusa Pacific University.

She is also a graduate of Executive Security International (ESI) an elite training program for executive protection specialists, and a graduate of the

Lethal Force Institute under the tutelage of Massad Ayoob.

Casillas was the first and only women to be certified to the advanced instructors' level in Serrada Escrima, a close quarter combative system of self-defense under the late Grand Master Angel Cabales. She also holds a 7th degree black belt in jujitsu. She recently published *The Lioness Within, A Personal Guide to Self-Defense for Women*.

A recent retiree from Oxnard College where Casillas was an academic counselor, she dedicates her time to running CMA Academy in Oxnard where she offers, boxing, kick-boxing and other martial arts programs.



Jaime Clampitt



Multi-World Champion Jaime “The Hurricane” Clampitt (Clampitt-Hayes), was born in Saskatchewan, Canada, and took to sports at a young age, a not surprising development, given her father’s career as a professional hockey player and her mother’s years on the ice as a professional figure skater and instructor. Jaime initially spent eight years training as a gymnast before switching to boxing when she was 16.

There followed an eight year amateur career during which, in addition to winning numerous local and regional titles, Jaime was chosen for the Canadian National team gaining valuable experience against strong international competition.

She turned professional in 2000 and her career record, 22-5-1, was highlighted by a 2007 win over tough Englishwoman Jane Couch for the IWB

Jr. welterweight title. Clampitt commenced her pro career in Canada, however in mid 2001, Jimmy Burchfield, the renowned Providence boxing manager and promoter, took over her career, a union that remained intact until Clampitt’s retirement.

Her retirement came and because this is boxing, it wasn’t planned. It was sudden and savage. The opening bell rang in Albuquerque on August 6, 2010, Holm and Clampitt cautiously circled the other and during an early exchange, Clampitt suddenly hit the canvas, writhing in pain. She suffered a spinal nerve injury, an injury that left her face paralyzed for two weeks and for all intent and purpose, ended her pro boxing career.

It didn’t.

On November 22, 2013, three years, three months and sixteen days after Albuquerque, Jaime Clampitt once more came out of a ring corner at the Twin Rivers Center in Lincoln, Rhode Island and won a six round decision over Dominga Olivio. It wasn’t the ending she wanted, but it said everything you need to know about Jaime Clampitt and her deep feeling and love for her sport. It also indelibly stamped her right to be called a professional boxer in every sense of the term and why she richly deserves her upcoming induction into the International Women’s Boxing Hall of Fame.

John Raspanti of Maxboxing.com wrote, “Jaime’s 22-5-1 record is, in and of itself, reason enough for the IWBHF induction, but it is the manner in which Jaime Clampitt-Hayes conducted herself, in and out of the ring, letting her loudest voice be her actions between the ropes, while at all times, exuding a professionalism, in and out of the ring, that surrounds those athletes who not only “do boxing” but do it exactly right. And the best of those athletes are often justifiably honored for what they bring to their sport. That is certainly the case with Jaime Clampitt-Hayes and her induction into the International Women’s Boxing Hall of Fame.”



Melinda Cooper



Melinda “La Maravilla” Cooper was born in Las Vegas, Nevada and begun boxing in 1996 after meeting trainer James Pena at the Nevada Partners gym. Cooper said, “I was wondering what the place was then I was asked if I wanted to box and I said yeah.”

Her career in boxing began quietly in the amateur ranks where she won six national titles including the U.S. Women’s National Championships and collected several regional Silver Gloves championships. In just five years as an amateur she made a name for herself and set up the high exposure professional career she is now enjoying.”

Cooper broke into boxing’s professional ranks as only the third boxer ever and the only female to be granted a professional license by the Nevada State Athletic Commission before she was of legal age. Melinda began her professional career on March 23, 2002 when she was only seventeen years old. At the time when she was 19 years old, all but three of her fights had been telecast on national television and her high profile career unfolded in front of boxing fans everywhere. While some fighters preferred to develop the necessary skills beyond the watchful and sometimes critical eye of the public, Melinda and her team had welcomed the attention.

Aside from her presence in the ring, Melinda had also been featured in several nationally-recognized magazines, including Girls Life, Teen and World Boxing, and WBAN ran many countless articles and news updates on her throughout many years of her fighting in the sport.

Reflecting from the past about Cooper’s career, at the time James Pena said he tried to enter Cooper in tournaments at the last minute to keep her a secret, because “girls would find out that Melinda was in the weight class and everyone would drop out.”

Cooper made her pro debut at 17 years old, on March 23, 2002 at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, winning a four-round unanimous decision over Annalisa Middleton of Oxnard, California.

Cooper fought until 2014, earning the WIBA and IBA Flyweight title during her tenure as a pro boxer.

Cooper’s mentor and coach had said about her training ethics, that Cooper was shy, and never bragged, and that she was a joy to be around. He said at the time when she was actively boxing, “She does everything my male boxers do, and more. She walks into train every day, right on time. She’s dynamite. She’s not a problem child and she does well in school. I wish everyone I worked with was like her. She’s a typical, well-balanced teenage girl who happens to beat people up for a living.”

When Cooper retired from fighting professional she had an impressive record of 23-2-0 (11KO). In 2020, Melinda Cooper was inducted into the International Women’s Boxing Hall of Fame.



Isra Girgrah

5'4" lightweight Isra "Raging Beauty" Girgrah Wynn was born in Aden, Yemen. She moved to Canada with her family in 1974 and began boxing there in 1994 to stay in shape. A multi-sport star in high school, soccer and volleyball, she proved a natural as a boxer. She says she fell in love with the sport after a year of training and took it up again after graduating from college and moving to Atlanta, Georgia.

"I'm not sure what the thinking was behind that matchmaking strategy." That was Isra Girgrah, in February '20, upon the news of her induction into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame (IWBHF), recalling her first professional boxing bout in February '95.

Girgrah eschewed the customary primer of an amateur career, learning the fundamentals of the sport,

primarily, thru a year of arduous gym work. Instead of an inexperienced opponent for her debut, she chose to be matched with Deirdre Gogarty, a highly ranked Irish fighter and a ten fight veteran who was on a path to fight Christy Martin in one of the then fledgling sport's first seminal bouts. It was a singularly difficult way to begin a professional career and it ended, as expected, with Gogarty winning the bout. The pattern of taking fights that provided her the opportunity to move forward in the sport had been established for the Yemeni born fighter. Girgrah would eventually, over a nine years as a pro, put together a career that would match her with every top featherweight in the sport.

Isra Girgrah's career from 1994 to 2003, encompassed 33 bouts, 177 rounds and resulted in a sterling 28-3-2 record. The statistics, by themselves, signal a very successful career but numbers alone do not tell the full story of just how skilled this fighter was. Girgrah's career is, in sum, one heavily skewed towards wins and the highlights include a roll call of the top fighters in the weight class.

In February '02, she scored a decisive win over Tracy Byrd, long considered, due to her "hard to figure" tenacious style, a "tough out." The following year, Girgrah strung together a trifecta of wins that perfectly capped her nine year career. In March, she handed Laura Serrano the first loss in the Mexican fighter's outstanding career. In August she won a hard fought eight rounder over Melissa Del Valle and concluded the year with a ten round win over slick southpaw Jo Wyman capturing the IFBA 130 lbs. title.

In March '04, at the culmination of an 18-fight winning streak, she retired from professional boxing, turning her attention to the promotion of the sport full time.



Kelsey Jeffries

Featherweight Kelsey “Road Warrior” Jeffries was born in Bakersfield, California, where she lived until she was 13 years old and then moved to Hawaii where she attended Kaiser High School.

Jeffries was a boxing fan from childhood and with Kickboxing being popular in the island state, she took up the sport early on and eventually became a champion. After a few years, Jeffries switched to boxing and she began boxing as an amateur in 1994. Jeffries had one fight in Hawaii; she then went to live in Japan where she coached boxing until the beginning of 1996. She then returned to the States and won the California Golden Gloves title from 1997 to 1999.

Jeffries, boxing out of the Santa Clara PAL Boxing Gym, competed in the 125-lb division of the 1997 USA Boxing National Championships where she lost a quarter final bout to eventual gold medalist Alicia Ashley.

In the summer of '99, Jeffries entered the world of professional boxing. She fought Sandra Mapone and won by TKO in the first round. From there she fought until November of 2014 facing many of the best in the sport including Rhonda Luna, Melissa Hernandez, Jo Wyman, Alicia Ashley, Jackie Nava, Leona Brown, Cynthia Prouder, Yvonne Trevino, Trisha Hill, Jeri Sitzes, Layla McCarter, Kelli Cofer, Melissa Del Valle, Para Draine, Laura Serrano, Michele Aboro and more.

During her time as a pro Jeffries won the inaugural California, the IFBA and GBU 126 lbs. titles, the WIBA Intercontinental 130 lbs. title and the IBA 122 lbs. world and NABF titles.

After more than 50 fights Kelsey decided to retire and take on her biggest fight---the one for her future. Kelsey enrolled in a Junior College to obtain the credits that would prepare her to apply to Nursing School.

She took the skills that years of boxing had given

her, (discipline, focus, and determination), and began her new quest. She earned her Associates Degree (LVN), was admitted to the nursing program and earned her Bachelor's Degree (BSN). Still driven, Kelsey continued her education and earned her Masters Degree (MSN) in nursing.

Kelsey currently works as an Emergency Room Nurse at a Hospital in California.



Valerie Mahfood



Valerie “The Wolfe” Mahfood was born and raised in Tyler, Texas. She attended Kilgore Correctional Officer Academy where she was the youngest student ever admitted and one of only two women selected from 300 prospective applications. After graduating from the Academy, she worked at Stiles Prison, an all-male maximum security institution, for 6 years.

In high school, Mahfood tried many sports but boxing was a different story.

“Boxing was easy for me because it was about finding your opponent, she’s somewhere inside this little 16-foot area, go find her and hit her. How simple can that be? If she hits you back, hit her harder,” Mahfood said. “I love those instructions. I could

do that, so I did.”

Mahfood first had a desire to box when she heard a commercial for a toughwoman contest. She thought it would be great to get into contact sports and had talked about it to a co-worker whose two sons boxed. One week later, she was in a real boxing gym. After Harry Murdock and manager Austin Green explained the dedication that it would take to become a boxer, Mahfood knew that she would love it.

Like many female boxers, Valerie says it took a while for everyone to be sure that she was serious, as she was the only female in the gym. But three months after she began training, “they were really starting to spend time with me.”



In the summer of '97 in New Orleans, she made her pro debut knocking out Jeanne Martinez in the first round. Mahfood fought many of the top women boxers in the sport including Laila Ali, Ann Wolfe, Mitzi Jeter, Kendra Lenhart, Yvonne Reis, Christy Martin, Kathy Rivers, Mary Jo Sanders, Natascha Ragosina, Leatitia Robinson, Carlette Ewell and Mary Ann Almager among others.

In addition, Mahfood was named WBAN's Fighter of the Month in August of 2000 when she delivered the only loss Ann Wolfe experienced as a pro when Mahfood KO'd her in the third round. Also, in November of 2001 at the Convention Center in Austin, Texas, Mahfood won a ten-round unanimous decision over IFBA Super Middleweight champion Trina Ortegon winning the WIBA 168-lb world title.

Mahfood fought professionally from 1997 – 2008, with a 19-14-4 (9KO) boxing record winning many titles during her career. Outside the ring Mahfood has earned a PHD in 2014, MBA, 2007; BBA, 2006, receiving many academic awards, working as an Associate Professor in Houston Texas from 2017 to present.

Mary Ortega

5'1" bantamweight "The Heat" Mary Elizabeth Ortega born in Kansas City, Missouri, initially decided to get into boxing at the age of 14. She decided to box to stay in shape. She eventually got into the amateurs accumulating a 7-3 (2 KO) record, and twice winning the Missouri State Silver Gloves and Kansas City Golden Gloves, and also the junior Olympic Regional, going as far as female boxers were allowed to go in each tournament.

At the age of 17 years old, Mary Ortega made her pro debut on July 14, 1997 in Kansas City, where she won the bout with a unanimous decision over Shelly Walden.

Ortega had been featured on ESPN, traveled the world during her boxing career, and during her long veteran career she accumulated an impressive boxing record of 32-6-2 (9KO), and winning three titles at 115 lbs., 112 lbs., and 108 lbs.

WBAN had the opportunity to cover one of Ortega's fight in 2001, in Austin, Texas, where she was fighting IBA Bantamweight and WIBF Americas Junior Featherweight champion Ada Velez of Puerto Rico. Ortega had a 10 round battle with Velez, and the two were fighting for the WIBA 122-lb world title, showed what a warrior she was in the ring. Velez took the belt, but it was a 10-round toe-to-toe war between these two.

Another highlight took place on June 11, 2005 at Harrah's Hotel and Casino in North Kansas City, Missouri, Mary, 107 lbs., TKO'd Terri Moss, 106, of Athens, Georgia, and in that scheduled ten-round bout, she won the IWBHF Junior Flyweight title world title.

In another great bout with Ortega, on November 20, 2002 at Ameristar Casino in Kansas City, Missouri, Ortega, 117 lbs., Ortega moved back towards her original fighting weight and won a ten-round unanimous decision over Delia Gonzalez, 115, of Chamberino, New Mexico.

Other Highlights of Ortega's boxing career: On June 11, 1999 at the Horseshoe Casino in Bossier City, Louisiana, Mary Elizabeth overcame a significant reach disadvantage in winning a six-round unanimous decision over veteran Nora Daigle of Quebec City, Canada; In April of 2003 Ortega won a six-round split decision over Jerri Sitzes, 126, of Springfield, Missouri; In March 2005 Ortega won a TKO in the second round over Stephanie Dobbs; and other top female boxers she fought were Susi Kentikian, Elena Reid, Hollie Dunaway, and more.

During Ortega's professional boxing career she was ranked with the top female boxers worldwide with WBAN and other world ratings---and for many years being ranked in the top ten in the world.



Mary Ann Owen



Mary Ann Owen is one of the most high-profile photographers that has not only covered women's boxing from the '90's but countless world boxing events featuring men's boxing. She is the author and publisher of a women's boxing book that featured many of the most prominent female boxers in the sport.

She said, "When I was growing up in the 1950s girls were made fun for participating in sports, they were not encouraged like their male counterparts. Talented athletic girls were not considered for athletic scholarships until the Title IX was passed in 1972."

"I watched boxing with my father back in the day, of course only men were boxing, in that era women had their place and it wasn't in the ring! A local Police Firemen Athletic league was close to my house,

I went there every day to punch the speed bag, and to play volleyball."

At the same time a friend of Mary Ann's father had a dark room, and she became fascinated watching him develop film and print photos. Her parents bought her an Ansco camera, and on that day, she said that she was hooked on photography.

In 1963, her parents moved to Las Vegas, and happen to own a Café down the street from the famous Johnny Tocco's gym. Mary Ann said that Johnny Tocco would eat breakfast almost every morning, as she poured his coffee and she would ask the same question: "Johnny, when can I visit the gym?" and he would say to her, "No Broads in the gym!" Mary Ann said, "my father and Johnny of course were laughing!"

"Christy Martin wasn't even born yet, not until 1968. In 1995, Christy Martin was the first woman to train at Johnny Tocco's gym at the request of her promoter Don King. Johnny would sit in his office and watch Christy train, before you know it, he was on the ring, the rest is history!" added Mary Ann. Fast forwarding to 1990, Mary Ann was hired on the North Las Vegas Detention center as a Correction Officer, and to stay in shape and learn defensive skills she was involved in Martial Arts. She eventually transitioned over to boxing and found a gym close to her home called the Golden Gloves Gym where she met Roger Mayweather, in which she trained with him three times a week. Mary Ann said, "Jim Smith (R.I.P.) approached me when I was training with Roger, and asked if I would write an article for his local Ringside Review magazine on the women's fight that was going to take place that week at the Orleans Hotel and Casino, the fighter, a local woman named Hannah "The Vegas" Fox, I said yes, then he asked me if I could also take photos of the fight."

After the Hannah Fox vs. Hidi Tibe fight in 1997--Mary Ann was hooked as not only a writer, but a photographer, and the rest is history.



Shelley Williams

Shelley Williams was born in Los Angeles, CA, and spent her childhood watching Gillette Friday Night Fights with her late father, Leo Williams. It was great father/daughter time and nurtured her love of the sweet science. After graduation, she entered the field of law as a paralegal where she specialized in probate, family and criminal law. She was the personal and legal assistant to famed O.J. Simpson attorney and boxing aficionado Robert Shapiro as well as the publicist and personal assistant to the late great Eddie Futch. Shelley is on the Board of Directors of the Boxing Hall of Fame Las Vegas.

For 30 years Williams has been a woman making her way in a man's world. She had no problem working a corner and carrying a spit bucket. It led to the opportunity for her to form Laced Leather Boxing Management where her duties included manager, booking agent, publicist, ringside reporter, consultant, matchmaker and production coordinator. She represented among others the following champions: Michael "Dynamite" Dokes, Iran "The Blade" Barkley, Livingstone "Rasi" Bramble, Hannah "The Vegas" Fox, Helga "Snowcat" Risoy and James "Quick" Tillis. Shelley served as a meet and greet booking agent for Ken Norton, Leon Spinks and Earnie Shavers, was a Boxing Camp Administrator at Prince Ranch Resort and held the position of Commissioner of the International Female Boxers Association (IFBA).

Many of Shelley's boxing-related affiliations include inductee into the National Boxing Hall of Fame, Class of 2016; Inductee into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame, Class of 2020 and media relations with Riddick Bowe. She also served as production coordinator for various fights in the U.S. as well as abroad including with Laila Ali in China, Hector "Macho" Camacho in Puerto Rico and Tim Witherspoon in the British West Indies. She has worked with Event Sports, ESPN2 World Championship Boxing Broadcast, "In This Corner" With James Smith, Global Village Champions Foundation with Evander Holyfield, Tom Jones Show with Smokin' Joe Frazier, Archie Moore's "Any Boy Can" Founda-

tion, Multi-Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame, Public, WBC Legends of Boxing Museum Hall of Fame, N-The Ring with Lamont Patterson, Cuba Gooding, Sr., and Roy Jones Jr. Square Ring Promotions. She has been interviewed by many major magazines that include People, Sports Illustrated, G.Q., Fox Sports, ABC Sports, Ring Sports, International Boxing Digest, Las Vegas Magazine and China Daily News.

Shelley's passion is raising awareness of the plight of prize fighters after their career is over and the lights have dimmed both literally and figuratively. It is her heart's desire that the issue of the life-long ravages of traumatic brain injury and the aftermath suffered by our beloved warriors of the ring and their loved ones be addressed and rectified and not simply dismissed as a hazard of the trade.





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Alicia Ashley

Any alphabetical listing of the leading female boxers in the sport, done in alphabetical order, would position Alicia Ashley near the top of that list. That, of course, is directly related to the spelling of her name. Similarly, any list of female boxers who exemplify what is best about the sport, in and out of the ring, would, likewise, place Alicia Ashley near the top. That has everything to do with the style, grace and professionalism she has exhibited over her 19 years in the sport.

The reasoning is not solely the 299 professional rounds that Ashley has fought over her career in the ring. It is not the numerous titles she has won over that career, those achievements have been matched by an elite circle of others in the sport. Rather, with Ashley, it is the reaction that mention of her name engenders throughout the boxing community.

Ashley was identified as “one” with the Gleason’s gym on Front Street in Brooklyn where she mentored young female boxers, as chronicled so perfectly in Mischa Merz’s wonderful book on women’s boxing, “The Sweetest Thing”. Ashley has since expanded her invaluable tutelage into China, noting, “There is a lot of potential (in China) and I hope to make my mark there”.

Some of the highlights of Alicia Ashley in the ring: In October of 2015, she delivered Christina McMahon’s first defeat as a professional when she won by a ten-round unanimous decision winning the vacant WBC Super Bantamweight world title; she fought Jackie Nava for the WBC and WBA Interim Super Bantamweight world titles losing a close majority decision with one of the judges scored the bout a draw; in Panama City, in 2013 Ashley successfully defended her WBC Super Bantamweight world title against Chantall Martinez by a unanimous decision; in 2012, against defending her WBC Super Bantamweight title against Maria Elena Villalobos, winning by a unanimous decision; earlier in her career she won the vacant WIBF Super Bantamweight world title against Marcela Acuna; winning the vacant IWBHF Featherweight world title over Kelsey Jeffries; and many more countless top-

notch fights during her career.

Ashley officially retired in 2019, following her final bout in March ‘18. She was recognized by Guinness World Records as the oldest female World Champion (a three time world title holder) and unofficially lauded, within the boxing world, as an example how “to do the sport right” on both sides of the ropes and for setting an example of what one dedicated athlete can accomplish in her sport by maximizing her skills each time the bell rang and by continuing to “give back” to the sport by selflessly sharing that knowledge once her competitive days are over. In recognition, Alicia Ashley is deservedly added to one more list, the honor roll of the International Women’s Boxing Hall of Fame, Class of 2021.



Kathy Collins

Kathy “Wild Cat” Collins is not a native New Yorker. She was born on an Air Force base in Maryland in 1971 and spent her formative years in Georgia, coming to New York in 1990, planning on a nursing career. Those plans changed and Collins, seeking a new start in a new city, turned a search for an exercise regimen into joining the Academy of Boxing for Women, which turned into a connection with Frankie Globuschutz, owner of the Academy and founder and commissioner of the IWBHF. It was also the beginning of her emergence and first step towards establishing Kathy Collins as a bona fide member in that cherished boxing contingent, a “New York fighter.”

With Collins, boxing not only seemed to be the answer to the “what’s next” question, under the guidance of Globuschutz’s management and training, she turned professional in 1995 and proceeded to

establish a successful record in the sport; winning her first four bouts, fighting draws in the next four, followed by seven straight wins. All but one of those bouts was staged in the New York/New Jersey area where she quickly established herself as the “go to” boxer in a sport that was rapidly carving a niche in a major boxing metropolis that extended from Long Island to the Jersey shore.

Highlights of some of Collins bouts: On May 12, 2000, Kathy Collins fought in a close battle against Denise Moraetes. The two were fighting for the WIBA Super Lightweight world title. Collins won by a 10-round split decision in a toe-to-toe battle over Moraetes; fighting Dora Webber twice having two draws in 1997; two bouts with Leah Mellinger twice, defeating her in the first bout, and losing to a closely controversial decision by a split in the second bout; facing Marischa Sjauw in May of 1998 in a ten-round decision for the WIBF Lightweight title; winning the IFBA Super Welterweight title when she TKO’d Helga Risoy in a scheduled eight round bout; and defeating Andrea Deshong in 1998 in a 10-round world title bout, winning the IWBHF Super Lightweight world title.

Collins six year professional career, 1995-2001, encompassed twenty bouts and several title belts and her aggressive, move forward style, another characteristic of “New York” fighters, propelled her to an overall 14-2-4 (3KO) record during a period that is, often, viewed as a high point for the sport from both a talent and TV coverage standpoint. And that high point period was achieved as a direct result of fighters such as Kathy Collins who not only were a new and exciting attraction inside the ropes but whom, often, took the time and made the effort to be active, outspoken advocates for their sport outside the ring. Collins was widely sought after by the media and her final bout, in Madison Square Garden, a close, majority decision loss to Christy Martin, is a fitting way to recall this deserving inductee into the International Women’s Boxing Hall of Fame, class of 2021.



Roy Englebrecht

As a fight promoter Roy Englebrecht might have promoted more female boxing bouts than anyone in history. With his first female bout in on December 28, 1995 between Del Pettis and Gina Guidi, Englebrecht has promoted the likes of Christy Martin, Mia St. John, Rhonda Luna, Holly Holm, Layla McCarter, Ada Velez, Kelsey Jeffries, Wendy Rodriguez, Tiffany Junot, Melissa McMorrow, Crystal Morales, Ana Julaton, Kina Malpartida, and Miriam Nakamoto to name a few, with many of them becoming World Champions.

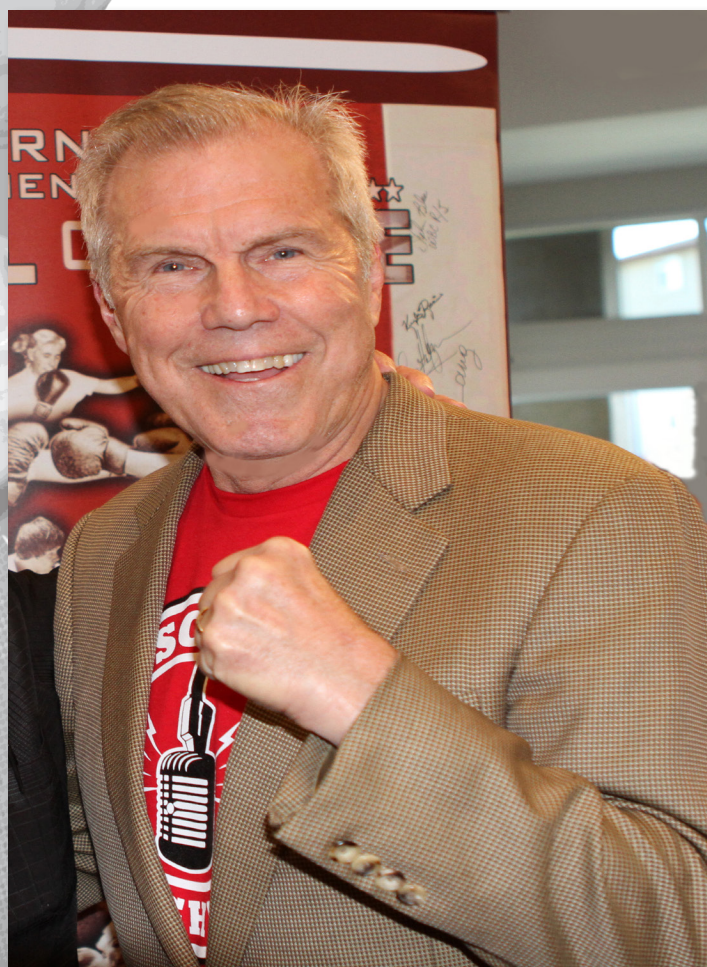
Englebrecht is also the founder of Fight Promoter University, an endeavor designed to teach, train, and develop the promoters of the future. Nearly 140 future promoters from all over the world have attended the first nine sessions. In 2019 FPU is now offered online at www.fightpromoteruniversity.com. The future is now....and it has never been brighter and Roy Englebrecht is one of the men to help lead the way into the field of combative sports. In the world of fight promotion, there are few names as respected as that of Roy Englebrecht. For nearly 33 years, the Southern California-based promoter has built a stellar reputation among fans, athletes, and his peers for delivering top-notch boxing and mixed martial arts events while continuing to innovate and move both sports forward. Having been licensed as a fight promoter in California, Nevada, Washington, and Texas, Roy Englebrecht Promotions has been called by numerous media writers as "The King of Minor League Fighting".

Englebrecht has a proven track record of success for over three decades, starting with the renowned Battle in the Ballroom boxing events at the Irvine Marriott Hotel. The longest running pro boxing club show in the country at 26 years, the series featured 38 current or former world champions over the years, routinely selling out the venue. In 2007, Englebrecht introduced mixed martial arts into the mix, becoming one of the first boxing promoters to embrace the fast-growing sport.

In addition to his own events, Englebrecht's knowledge and innovative style have been called upon

to aid other major promoters as a consultant. Most notably, when Oscar De La Hoya wanted to get into the promoting business after his fighting career was over, he acquired Roy Englebrecht Promotions in 2001 and former Golden Boy Promotions. Englebrecht served as COO for the first three years, taking the new entity from 1.5 million dollars in revenue the first year to 9.1 million dollars by year three.

Englebrecht continued his string of successful promotions moving his Orange County based Battle in the Ballroom fight series to a new venue and a new brand with the launch in 2011 of Fight Club OC in The Hangar at the OC Fair & Event Center. Now in its tenth season, Fight Club OC has sold out 80% of their shows and is the only fight series in the country that offers VIP Suites and a cigar lounge at each show.



Gina Guidi



Multi-World Champion Gina “Boom Boom” Guidi, California native and resident of San Leandro, began boxing with her brothers at the Police Activities League as a teen and has been boxing for more than 18 years. With an undefeated amateur record she went professional in 1994. She was the first female boxer ever honored by the Northern California Veteran Boxers Association for Outstanding Achievement in 1996. She won the WIBF North American 154 lbs. title in September of '96 and the IFBA 160 lbs. world title in early '97. In '98, the City of San Leandro, California named a day in her honor -- March 16, Gina Guidi Day.”

Guidi said, "when I first started training, there were absolutely no facilities for women." Adding that the locker room had to be cleared just for her to use the rest room.

Out of the ring Guidi is an ardent animal lover and spends her free time caring for her dogs. She regularly donates time and money to non-profit organizations, including domestic abuse prevention and AIDS research programs.

As a pro she faced many top female boxers in the sport including Marsha Valley, Britt VanBuskirk, Mary Ann Almager, Leah Mellinger, Dora Webber, and Trina Ortegon.

There was a documentary video entitled “Red Rain featuring Guidi. The video is a documentary of the women’s professional boxing circuit centered on the life of Guidi through her 1998 winning of the International Female Boxing Association (IFBA) championship in a split decision over Dora Webber, and through Gini Guidi Day in San Leandro, California, 1999. The video was a portrayal of Guidi’s rise through the ranks of women’s boxing using interviews with Gina, family members, her trainer, her cut man, and gym owners..”

LA Weekly review of the documentary said: “Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi can kick you're A monument of will power and courage, the Northern Californian. native known as the Blonde Bomber, has fought back from a broken home and her own struggles with alcoholism, battling stereotypes as both a lesbian and an athlete on her road to professional title. Laura Plotkin's documentary is as much a profile of Guidi as it is a fascinating study of the world of women's boxing, and gripping from the first frame to the last; even the nearly too-long segment on Guidi's championship bout in Las Vegas is a nail biter!”

Guidi fought professionally from 1995 to 2001, with a boxing record of 16-1-1 (6KO).



Bonnie Mann



Bonnie “The Queen B” Mann is a United States Marine Corps Veteran having served for 8 years. She went in two days after graduating from high school. She was in the very first Boot Camp of Women to train with a weapon the M16A2 during boot camp. Bonnie’s MOS (job) was a 1345-Heavy Equipment Operator. She was licensed to operate the 130-B Road Graders, D7-G Bulldozers, 7 & 40 Ton Cranes, 580-B Scraper Pans and Terex Forklifts.

These were used to build Tank Traps, Field Communication Units, Load Cargo Planes, Military Landing Zones and more.

Bonnie began trying her skills in boxing in the late 1990’s. In 1999 and 2000 as a 0-4 amateur boxer, with her tenacity and perseverance in the sport she took a Bronze at the Women’s U.S. Nationals both years.

In 2002, Bonnie made her pro debut, having five pro fights, and fighting the likes of boxers, i.e., Holly Holm, Yvonne Reis and more. Staying extremely active in 2003, she managed to fight six times.

In her boxing career she fought noted boxers, Nicole Woods, Mitzi Reis, Ann Marie Sacurato, and Carrie Flock, and more. During her professional career Bonnie won the WBE World Title on April 16, 2005.

In December 2010 she was ranked worldwide #2. Bonnie had an opportunity to fight for the WIBA and WIBF World title bout against Carlette Ewell, but unfortunately even though Bonnie made weight for the fight---her opponent did not. Ultimately, Bonnie was named the Interim Champion.

In 2010 Bonnie retired from professional boxing with a 13-9-0 (6KO).

After Retiring Bonnie continued to work with boxing by teaching classes for Fitness at several gyms. As the Director of Health and

Wellness at the YMCA in Corning, New York, she established the “Boxing for Fitness Program” for the YMCA of Greater Rochester which has 17 locations and several of those currently run a Boxing Fitness Program.

In 2017, Bonnie was inducted into the Marine Corps Boxing Hall of Fame alongside many Marines including Retired Referee Richard Steele and Former Heavyweight World Champion Leon Spinks.

Bonnie intends to always be involved in Boxing in one way or another as long as she is able to do so.



Anne Sophie Mathis



One look at Anne Sophie Mathis and her 5'11" physique goes a long way towards eliminating any thought of using the term "faint hearted". In her youth Mathis practiced her native France's combat sport of savate and later, kick-boxing. At 18, Mathis brought her skills to the ring turning pro with a first round TKO in Hungary.

It was her next move that would forecast her career long desire for top flight competition. In lieu of another "walk over" opponent, Mathis stepped in with unbeaten tough veteran Marischa Sjauw. The unsurprising result, a TKO win for Sjauw was a lesson she contemplated often during her eight year hiatus from boxing.

In '03, she climbed into a ring again with a bit more of introductory bouts. Her competitive nature once more took over and in her ninth bout she stopped

the rugged and unbeaten Nathalie Toro for the European 140 lbs. crown. Over the next 11 years, it is hardly an overstatement to state Mathis was the dominant force behind the rise in popularity of female boxing in Europe. Following her startling win over Toro, Mathis faced every one of the top welters in the sport: Jane Couch, Duda Yankovich, Myriam Lamare, Holly Holm and Cecilia Braekhus.

Mathis had return bouts with Lamare, Holm and Braekhus. The first Lamare bout, in late '11, enjoyed back and forth action until stopped in the seventh despite strong protests from Lamare. The return bout, six months later, were ten rounds of exactly the same kind of world class skill resulting in a razor thin majority decision for Mathis.

Mathis then journeyed abroad to Albuquerque, NM to contest the reigning face-of-boxing Holly Holm, whose speed and punching power had dominated the sport as few previously had. Holm's speed provided an early edge but in the sixth Mathis unleashed a barrage of right hands that sent Holm to the canvas. Holm barely answered the bell for the next round and Mathis ended it with a devastating barrage of punches leaving Holm senseless and unable to continue. In that title bout Mathis won the WBAN 147 lbs P4P World title belt as well as the IBA world title.

A rematch six months later saw Holm take full advantage of her speed to gain a unanimous decision. Mathis retired in '16, finishing her career exactly the way she began it, seeking to match up with the sport's top welterweights. Her final five bouts, two against Cecilia Braekhus, were against opponents with a combined record of 90-2. That one statistic alone is an apt coda for the career of Anne Sophie Mathis and what she meant to the sport of women's boxing in Europe and an example for all boxers who will follow her path to the ring yearning to be taken seriously in their chosen sport.

To be the best, you need to fight the best.



Ina Menzer



5'6" Ina Menzer was born in Atbasar, Khazakhstan. When she was actively boxing, she moved to Mönchengladbach, Germany, and began being trained by Michael Timm and managed by Klaus-Peter Kohl.

A highlight of her amateur experience was when in the 60-kg division at the first German Women's Amateur Championships in Germany in late '03, Ina defeated Diana Meindl by a 36-12 margin in the semifinal, then defeated Carmen Falke by 27-14 in the final.

Ina made her pro debut in March of '04 in Germany defeating another debut fighter, Zsanett Erod by third-round TKO.

In May of '04 she won by a first-round TKO over Laura Stefanescu. One month later, in Austria, Ina won a decision over Petra Jachmanova. Staying busy in 2004, she had one more fight earning a four-round unanimous decision over Viktoria Olenik.

In '05, Ina fought in eight pro bouts, ---winning all. In Feb, she TKO'd Julia Kulikova in the third, following up a month later, she defeated Viktoria Olenik, via a six-round decision, about three weeks later, Ina won a six-round unanimous decision over Jarka Blahova and in May of '05, in Spain, Ina knocked out Austria Urbaz Urena of La Rmana, Dominican Republic in the first round of a scheduled eight-round bout; July of 2005, at Life Sportpark Herrenkrug in Magdeburg, Germany, Ina TKO'd Darya Voitko of Minsk, Belarus in the second round of a scheduled eight-rounder.

In September of 2005, at DM-Arena in Karlsruhe, Germany, Ina won the WIBF Intercontinental Featherweight title with a ten-round unanimous decision over Damaris Muthoni of Nairobi, Kenya; in October at the Brandberge Arena in Halle, Germany, Ina won a ten-round unanimous decision over Silke Weickenmeier of Speyer, Germany for the WIBF Featherweight title; lastly in December at Bördelandhalle in Magdeburg, Germany, Ina defended her WIBF Featherweight title with a TKO of

Galina Giumliiska of Sofia, Bulgaria at 1:39 in the sixth round.

WBAN named Ina Menzer its Fighter of the Month for February 2009 on the strength of her win over Esther Schouten.

Ina continued with her winning streak through 2006 to January 2010. Ina did not experience a professional loss until she fought Jeannine Garside (125 lbs) of Windsor, ON, Canada who won the bout by a ten-round unanimous decision over Ina Menzer (126 lbs) for the WBC, WBO and WIBF Featherweight titles.

After the one and only loss, Ina continued to win the next five bouts, retiring after August of 2013. Ina's boxing record through 2004 to 2013 was 31-1-0 (11KO).



Natascha Ragosina

Natascha was born in Karajan, Kazakhstan, in 1976, and took to combat sports at 18 winning several European kickboxing titles before switching to boxing two years later. She compiled a successful amateur career highlighted by a win over Laura Ramsey in a Russia/USA dual meet. A decision to turn pro and a move to Germany, brought Ragosina under the tutelage of Werner Kirsch, who was duly impressed with the size, agility and work habits of his newly adopted fighter.

Ragosina's career, compared to Rocky Marciano's 49-0, 43KO record, was one of equal dominance. 22-0 with 13 KOs, reigning as a 168-pound title holder for slightly over four years and, like Marciano, retiring as a champion.

After three KOs to start her career, Ragosina stepped up in class, winning on a tenth round stop-

page over American, Yvonne Reis. If a turning point can be pinpointed in her career, it may be Ragosina's seventh bout, a ten round win over rugged veteran Valerie Mahfood, who came to the bout with a 19-8-1 record including a stoppage of Ann Wolfe. What was expected to be a possible "roadblock" on the way up for Ragosina instead saw her, according to boxing writer, Jon Fox, "keep (Mahfood) at the end of her jab" and, in Fox's opinion, (Ragosina) "could have ended it at any time."

Ragosina won her first super middleweight title in October, '05, defending it thirteen times against top ranked contenders such as Dakota Stone, Carlette Ewell, Conjestina Achieng (twice), Iva Weston and, in her penultimate defense, in July, '09, her former amateur foe, Laura Ramsey.

Ragosina retired following her final bout, an eighth round KO of heavyweight Pamela Martin. At the time, she held every super middleweight title and two heavyweight belts.

Undefeated records in boxing are rare, achieved by rare fighters. Natascha Ragosina comfortably fits that description. At 5'11" she was an imposing presence in the ring and would have been a force in the sport during any era in the continuous on-going saga of Women's boxing.

It is unfortunate that she came on the competitive scene a short time before the sport gained the type of media exposure existing today and also that she competed at a time when the attention to the burgeoning sport of female boxing, particularly in the United States, was concentrated on the lighter divisions. Timing is, of course, everything and the timing is, indeed, right for Natascha Ragosina to receive her induction into the International Women's Boxing Hall of Fame (IWBHF) in August in Las Vegas.



Marischa Sjauw

5'6" Marischa "La Matadora" Sjauw en Wa was born in Paramaribo, Surinam, a former Dutch colony. Her family moved to Holland in 1977. Marischa was an all-round athlete in school and graduated with an Economics major from Meao College.

Two of Marischa's five brothers were boxers. This encouraged her to take up the sport at age 19 after winning European titles in the martial arts discipline of Kun-Tao. She originally began boxing to get into good physical condition at a gym where her brother was also training. As the only female in the gym, it was difficult for her at first but she eventually found her love of the sport. Marischa says that her earlier training in Kun-Tao helped her boxing defense better because it improved her reflexes and vision.

She began to box professionally as a welter in '93, making her debut in the Czech Republic on February 22 with a four-round unanimous decision over Ludmilla Michalkova.

In November of '95, Sjauw fought Anne-Sophie Mathis of France for the WIBF European 154-pound title. Marischa dropped the eighteen-year-old Mathis, who was in just her second pro bout, three times on the way to a fifth-round TKO.

In September of 1999 in Michigan, Marischa came down to 130 lbs and took a six-round unanimous decision over Beverly Szymanski. Szymanski, the IWBf 126-pound champion, had gained a few pounds for this lightweight tilt with the trimmed-down Sjauw.

If Sjauw's hectic fight schedule was slowing her down, it didn't show in October of '99 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada where she won a four-round unanimous decision over Isra Girgra. Girgrah had injured her hand during this fight with Sjauw. To prepare for this fight Sjauw had been training with Roger Mayweather at the time.

Marischa fought many of the top female boxers in her time in the sport that included Lisa Holewyne,

Liz Mueller, Summer DeLeon, Kathy Collins, Lisa Ested, Jane Couch, Zulfia Koutdoussova, Britt Van-Buskirk, and more.

Talking about the sport, Sjauw said, "You like what you do, that's the nicest part of this, If you're in this for the money only, it's hard, because the money is not there yet. You hope for it. But the most fun of it is that you get to meet a lot of different people, and you see how the boxing world is, the good and the bad part of it."

Marischa credited her early boxing success in Europe to Henk Moerkerk, a long-time fighter in Germany, and Turkish coach Sefket Ramadam, who she claims to have been her greatest motivator. Sjauw fought professionally from 1993 to 2004, with a boxing record of 22-6-1 (7KO). [photo credit: Mary Ann Owen]



Carol Steindler

Carol Steindler is a pioneer advocate of Women's boxing and was a driving force behind the initial publication of female rankings in Boxing Illustrated magazine. She also operated a West Coast gym that welcomed early female boxers including Lady Tyger Trimiar.

Carol Steindler (in her 80s) and a Hall of Famer from California is a pioneer outside the ring. She was on the original board for the history-first female boxing ratings that were published in the Boxing Illustrated Magazine. If it were not for dedicated women in the sport, in the 70's and 80's many of the pioneer boxers would not have had the benefit of knowing they were world rated in that magazine that printed monthly top ten boxers in each weight class.

The first time that Sue Fox learned about the ratings was one day in 1977, a fellow female boxer, Toni Lear Rodriguez, told Fox about the ratings, and Fox immediately went to the nearest store to buy a copy of the Boxing Illustrated. This was such an important footprint for the past pioneer boxers, who benefited little otherwise trying to participate in the sport when many times the media referred to past female boxers as a novelty act, or a special feature on a boxing card.

Steindler many achievements include the following: She was on the Board of Directors of the "WBB" women's boxing board which was the first women's boxing organization; presented a flyweight championship belt to Rosie Reid (Pioneer Boxer from the 1980s); there were many stories written about Steindler in the women's magazine, "The Glove", "Women's World" and "Women's Day", "Sport's Illustrated", "Fight Beat", "Caesar's Seven" and more.

Steindler was the first to let a woman boxer train at the Main Street gym, and one of the most noted pioneer female boxers in the sport at the time had Lady Tyger Trimiar, a boxer who was inducted in 2016 with the IWBHF. Britt VanBuskirk, another one of our IWBHF Inductees worked out in her gym, also Jake LaMotta's daughter Stephanie trained at her gym, in addition to many actresses trained there for boxing related films.

Steindler became owner and manager of the Main Street Gym as well as the first woman to manage a gym when her father, the famous Howie Steindler was brutally murdered. She became a California and Nevada Licensed manager and corner person.



Dora Webber



5'5" super lightweight Dora "The Destroyer" Webber of Patterson, New Jersey, has had a vast number of years in the sport. Dora who is a twin to Cora was part of the only set of twins to enter the sport of professional boxing in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Cora Webber, the eldest of the twins began boxing in 1979, while still in her teens. Dora began boxing five years later, and quickly became very noted for her skills and abilities. Cora and Dora did share one thing in common. Early on in their careers they both had a chance to fight southpaw Tony Rodriguez, aka Toni Lear. Cora fought Rodriguez in Ogden, Utah, winning a unanimous decision earning \$100 for her efforts.

When Dora was set to fight Rodriguez at a later date, apparently Rodriguez thought that Cora was pulling some kind of scam, and Dora ended up having to produce enough proof that she was actually Cora's twin, before the fight could go on. Needless to say, Dora knocked Rodriguez out.

When Cora and Dora had trained in boxing in the earlier years where there were no female sparring partners to box against, she was able to spar with one-time World Welterweight Champion Carlos Palomino, Hector Gomez and other noted fighters.

Dora's highlights of her career was re-entering the sport in 1997, and she fought Leah Mellinger, having a four-round draw by points. She then faced Kathy Collins about a week later, and having another four round draw by points.

Two months later, Dora next opponent was fighting against Lucia Rijker, where she lost by a decision, but was one of only a few that had lasted the whole match with such a tough fighter as Rijker.

Staying very active in 1997, her next opponent was Zulfia Kutdyusova, where she won an eight-round unanimous decision, then just over one month later she fought Jane Couch, defeating Couch by a six-round split decision, and then rematched with

Couch in 1998 winning yet again in a 10-round world title bout, where she won the vacant IWBf Super Lightweight title.

Other highlights of her boxing career was fighting one of the most feared boxer at the time Sumya Anani, where she lost by decisions. Most boxers at the time would not enter the ring with Anani. Her boxing career took place from 1983 to 1999.



Jo Jo Wyman

5 '4" southpaw featherweight Jo Jo Wyman from Woodland Hills, CA, first entered combat sports in 1993 when she signed up for a class in the martial art Tang Soo Do. It didn't take her long to realize that she had found her niche.

Wyman said, "my first class was complimentary to see if I would like it. I was hooked! Loved the physical challenge. Setting my goals high for a black belt, I trained six days a week sometimes three classes a day. My instructor had us sparring from day one. I just loved it! It is almost hard to explain. People ask me all the time, 'why?' It is one of those things they would not understand unless they did it and felt it."

"I also ride motorcycles and we always say if I had to explain you wouldn't understand," added Wyman.

Despite needing foot surgery in '94, Wyman kept her spirits high and attained her black belt in '97. During that time she had a few amateur kick boxing matches and posted a 2-0-1 record. Once she had reached her black belt, she focused strictly on boxing competing in the 125 lb. division as an amateur.

In early '99, she made her pro debut against Jayla Ortiz winning a five-rounder by a clear unanimous decision. That same year she had four more pro bouts against Tracy Moulton, Copitzi Mendivil, Leilani Salazar and Para Draine.

In 2000, Wyman continued to be extremely busy fighting five times against some heavy hitters including Kelsey Jeffries, Sandra Yard and Sharon Anyos.

In '01, she had an impressive fight against Layla "Amazing" McCarter ending in a draw. The two were fighting for the IFBA 126-pound title.

In '02, Wyman again was very active and in one bout against Karen Martin she won a close split decision giving Martin in a six-rounder.

In her final year of fighting as a professional, she fought five times in 2003. In this year she fought all top-rated female boxers in the sport that included Isra Girgrah, losing a ten-round unanimous decision when they were fighting for the vacant IFBA Super Featherweight title; Laura Serrano (defeating Serrano in their second fight in 2003 in a six-round bout by a unanimous decision, after losing to Serrano earlier in 2003 where the fight needed to be stopped due to a swelling of Wyman's eye); and Kelsey Jeffries, losing once to Jeffries in 2003---but in a rematch of that year Wyman defeated Jeffries by a close majority decision in an eight-round bout.

Wyman was a warrior in the sport---always fighting many of the most noted and top female boxers in the world. She fought professionally from 1999 to 2003 with a 11-9-1 record.





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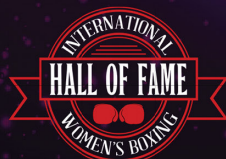
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