



SCOOP'S CORNER

By Scoop Galileo



FRANK & AL BACHMAN - A BOXING DYNASTY

The names of fistic Champions of years gone by such as *Maxie Rosenbloom*, *Lew Jenkins* and *Bob Nieto* stir up a mountain of pleasant memories. This illustrious threesome, Maxie and *Bub Lightcap*, and *Lew the lightweight King* reached the pinnacle of lightdome thru the fistic artistry of good management. A boxer can have a load of fistic talent, but if he is not guided correctly, he can fade by the wayside. The man who made the right matches, and seen to it that these three received the proper training was the coolly and dedicated *Frank Bachman*. He not only handled the business for these three illustrious champions, but did business for many ring hopefuls down thru the years. This was as truly dedicated man to the sport of boxing. His main purpose for his fighter was always for him to win, the purse was secondary. His greatest asset was his complete honesty, not only with his boxers, but with promoters and anyone he dealt with in or out of boxing. Boxing man Joe Nieto summed it up best many years ago with this quote: "Our paths often crossed, and on occasion one of my fellows would meet someone from Frank's stable. He never suggested that we proceed other than the decent way. I can't think he knew how to approach a deal. He didn't have the slightest trace of larceny in his makeup." While he engaged himself in boxing, he ran a very successful printing business in New York City. He did not need the sport of boxing to enhance his name, he did it mainly for the love of the sport.

As the old saying goes, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree" I make reference to Frank's son *Al*, who has handled his share of good ringsters.

Back in October of 1979 *Tony Unitas*, who at that time was the Chairman of the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame wrote of his praises of *Al Bachman*, dubbing him the "trainer emeritus". He went on to say, "Having a man like *Bachman* in your corner can give any fighter a lot of confidence." Down thru the ears *Al* has handled such leather pushers as *Chris Lark*, *Buster Mathis*, *Tony Salvatore*, former Canadian Heavyweight Champion *Bob Cleroux*, *Ralph Jacine*, *Marciano Bernardi*, *Tommy Marra*, *Rory Alboun* and many other ring hopefuls. He was also instrumental in the early guidance of my boxer *Roy Cohen*. In this lies a story that I am not too proud to reveal. At this time *Cohen* was knocking

dead around the local area. I was hooked up with *Al* in handling *Ronnie*, but I held the contract on his services. *Cohen*, due to his punching power, was in demand by many promoters, as well as so-called "wise guy managers." Both *Ronnie* and I were headbanded into premises of big bouts as well as tremendous purses. The catch was to roll ourselves of *Al Bachman*. This was not an easy task, for I took an interest liking to *Al* and all he stood for. As days rolled by, we had a few disputes, which probably were mostly my fault. Eventually we broke up, and as it turned out, it was the worse thing for *Cohen* and myself. I am sure if I had stuck with *Al*, our future would have progressed to greater heights. The tipoff came to me the night *Ronnie* faced Canadian Champion *Gail Kerwin* in Madison Square Garden. *Kerwin* was then being handled by the ringwise *Al Beaverman*, whom *Bachman* knew well. No doubt *Al* dropped a hint to *Beaverman* about *Cohen's* shortcomings, with *Kerwin* emerging the winner. I honestly did not blame *Al* if this was the case. For a few years *Al* did not speak to me, but being the man he is, we are friends again. I value his friendship. He no doubt will be surprised of the contents of this column.

Al is in semi-retirement from the fistic scene, and enjoying life in his home in Chappaqua, N.Y. Both *Al* and his dad *Frank* certainly know how to train and move a boxer in the right direction, avoiding the many pitfalls that face a young pugilist. Not too many years ago *Al* instituted a drive to have any person in quest of a manager's license, to undergo a test by the athletic commission. As things are today, you plunk down your license fee, and more often than not, you will be licensed. Boxing is a strange sport, with many evil people in its ranks. Most of them are honorable people, and if the sport of boxing is to survive, it desperately needs more people of the calibre of *Frank* and *Al Bachman*. ←