

One of the greatest clowns to ever grace the hampden square, or any other sport for that matter, 'Slapstick Maxie' Rosenbloom, passed away recently. However, to those who had to face his flailing, if not lethal, fists, he was no joke.

My father, the late Frank E. Bachman, was his manager, and from him and the scrapbook of Rosenbloom's career I possess, I learned more about Maxie than the average citizen.

My father told me how he first came together with this 'wizener' of the prize ring. Maxie was a non-talent material in the old Union Settlement Athletic Club, which was located in what is now known as Harlem in New York City. Maxie lost 20 of his first 25 since pure beats, but there was something about the curly-haired youngster, which caught my Dad's eye. My father, who had been an all-around athlete and boxer for that club, approached Maxie's 'handler' and said "How much do you want for that

kid?" To which he received the following reply, "If you promise never to give him back, you can have him for nothing."

My father then took the kid in tow and spent long, diligent hours teaching him the finer points of the sport. Maxie was an apt pupil.

Rosenbloom started out as a middle-weight, and was also known as somewhat of a slugger, that was until one night he met the terrific punching 'Hammer' Kelly, a murderous hitter out of Boston, in a semi-final six at the old Pioneer A.C. in New York.

For three rounds Kelly, who had kayosed 32 of 36 opponents, and sent many of them to the emergency ward, battered our hero from pillar to post,

but Maxie always rebounded and fought back gamely. I was told by old timers that Maxie took punches that night that would sink a battleship. So exciting was the fight, that the roar of the crowd drowned out the bell at the end of each canto.

Before the fourth round my father pleaded with Maxie to change his tactics and shoot straight jabs as Kelly lunged in then follow up with a straight right hand. Maxie followed instructions, jabbed Kelly and then broke his nose with a straight right which sent the blood pouring down over Kelly's chest.

Encouraged, Rosenbloom sailed in to the Boston southerner and battered him from corner to corner, as the crowd jumped to their feet. Then the tide of battle changed, and continued that way for the balance of the bout. Rosenbloom was declared the victor by decision, and the fans carried him



Maxie squares off against Mickey Walker prior to their world title-heavyweight championship clash on Nov. 2, 1923. Rosenbloom retained his title with a 15-round decision.