

Willie deWit: the public hero...

Willie deWit started out as a kid who had a dream. His dream was to one day be the Professional Heavyweight Champion of the World.

At 17, deWit embarked on his boxing career. Against all odds, he dispelled any sceptics doubts by establishing an impressive amateur record.

As an amateur boxer, deWit compiled a record of 67-12, captured the World Amateur Heavyweight Championship twice, and won a silver medal at the 1984 Olympic Games.

deWit's dream is quickly evolving into reality. Saturday evening, before 7,130 fans at the Northlands Coliseum, deWit successfully launched his professional boxing career with a technical knockout.

His opponent, Ed Morgan (the fourth and final match-up in a week-long controversial search) went down at 1:37 of the second round of the scheduled six round-bout. Morgan lumbered about the ring like a wounded bear. When not defending himself, the portly mechanic from Lake Charles Louisiana, was only able to land one weak left jab.

deWit, however, patiently waited for the right moment to land his punishing hooks and jabs. Although Morgan was no match for deWit, deWit looked in top form. He displayed an improved jab, better balance, and a more upright stance.



Eva Goes Pro

The fight, referred to by critics as a farce and a disappointment, can be viewed in a different light: a maturation process in deWit's professional career.

During the span of his career, deWit shall encounter boxers who will present him with a greater challenge. Even if deWit does face more Morgans in his future, one factor will always remain constant. He will be fit to fight, be it for one round or for 15.

"I will have a lot of tough fights coming up," said deWit. "I don't care whether they schedule it for 50 rounds; if I get him down in the first round than that's the way it goes."

Harry Snatic, deWit's manager, summed it up this way, "It's not very easy to find someone who is willing to fight Willie."

deWit added, "Just in the last month and a half I went through seven sparring partners."

Morgan should be given credit for his courage in facing deWit. deWit was prepared; Morgan was not.

"If I hit anyone with a good body shot like I gave Morgan, I can assure you they would not get up again," said deWit.

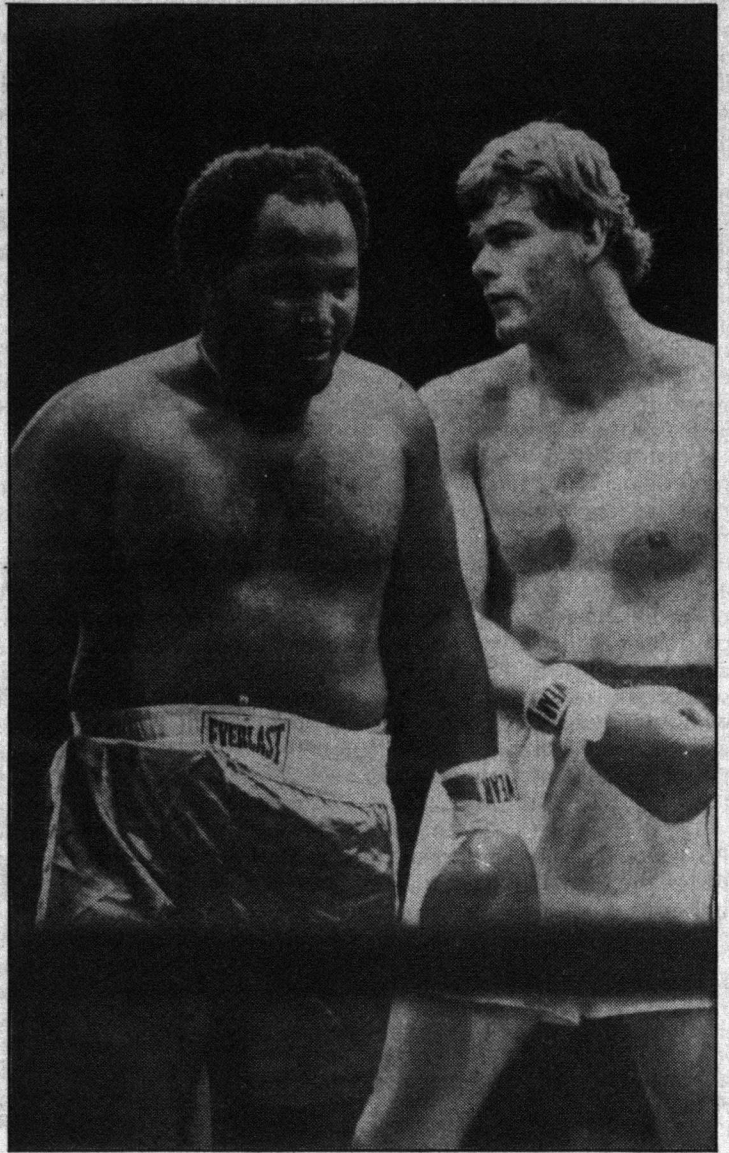
The difficulties involved in finding deWit a suitable opponent illustrates a need for the establishment of an International Boxing Commission. A requirement for such a commission would have all boxers carry a "passport" which would "license" them to fight. The passport would contain all of the necessary information (names fought under, record, height, weight, picture, etc.). This would eliminate considerable hassles involved in determining a boxer's fight record.

deWit is easily a favorite with the public. The 23-year-old is articulate, well-bred, and grateful for his fan following.

"Tonight, (Saturday) the majority of fans came to support me and I love them for it," he commented.

Next on his agenda: "I'm looking for a fight at the end of January in Houston Texas."

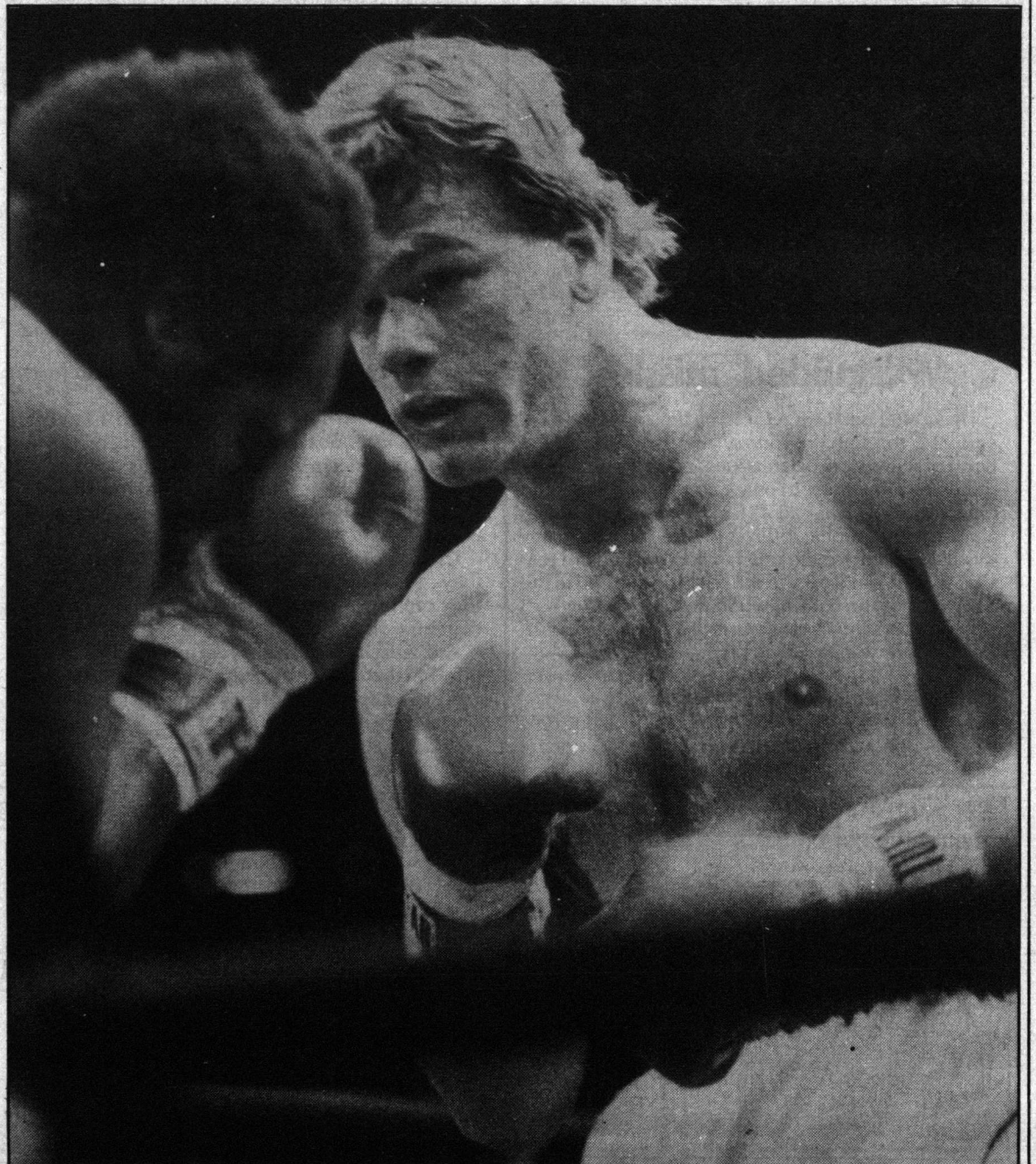
Hopefully deWit's next opponent will prove to be more of a challenge to him in his fight to establish professional credibility.



Photos Tim Kubash

Willie deWit had an easy time Saturday night in his professional boxing debut as he faced opponent Ed Morgan.

The question was not if deWit would win but when. The answer came early in the second round when Morgan went down on a technical knockout. The contrast in physical fitness is evident in the photo above as the two boxers met in the centre of the ring. Below, deWit's aggressiveness and determination are evident.



Willie Dewit	Tale of the Tape	Ed Morgan
6'2"	Height	5'10"
211 lbs	Weight	247 lbs.
76"	Reach	72"
44"	Chest Normal	47"
46 1/2"	Chest Expanded	47 1/2"
17"	Neck	17"
16 1/2"	Bicep	17"
13 1/2"	Forearm	13"
35"	Waist	39"
23 1/2"	Thigh	27 1/2"
15"	Calf	18"
12 3/4"	Fist	13"
June 13 61'	Birthdate	Oct. 17 56'
Grande Prairie	Place	Hattisberg, Miss.

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