

Frazier Takes Same Path Rocky Took—Kayo Route

NEW YORK — When the oldtimers in boxing say the modern heavyweights "ain't what they used to be" they're not referring to Joe Frazier.

The unbeaten, five-state heavyweight champion, whose fighting style resembles that of Rocky Marciano, is rumbling along the Marciano path in knockout victories.

Marciano, the retired, undefeated heavyweight champion from Sept. 23, 1952, to April 27, 1956, scored 19 knockouts and two decision victories in his first 21 pro fights. That's a .905 knockout percentage. He finished with 43 kayos in 49 fights for a .878 knockout percentage, tops among all heavy-weight champions.

Frazier, an inch taller and 15 to 20 pounds heavier than Marciano, has racked up 19 victories and two decisions in his 21 fights, equalling Rocky's early pace.

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Rocky was 24 by the book, but actually closer to 26 when he started fighting for money. Frazier, the Olympic heavyweight champion in 1964, turned pro when he was 22. He's now 24.

Marciano had 25 fights before he met his first name fighter, Roland LaStarza, and won a narrow decision.

Frazier already has beaten Oscar Bonavena, Eddie Machen, Doug Jones, George Chuvalo, Buster Mathis and Manuel Ramos. Machen and Jones were over-the-hill. The others may not be regarded too highly but they are among the best of what is around today.

Chuvalo, the durable Canadian champion, had never been stopped before and that included a 15-rounder with Cassius Clay. Frazier pounded Chuvalo's face into a lopsided mess and halted him in four rounds.

Mathis was unbeaten and had never been floored until Frazier draped him over the ropes and stopped him in the 11th round to win five-state recognition as world heavyweight champion.

Ramos had won 15 straight and had never been floored or stopped in 28 fights until the strong, muscular Frazier dropped him twice and forced him to surrender under gunning in two rounds.

Like Marciano, Frazier comes to fight.

"I'm coming out smoking," is his pet expression.

The resemblance to Marciano is striking in many more ways.

Frazier is dedicated in his training just as Rocky was. Marciano trained as he fought and his gym fights were wars. The same goes for Frazier.

Rocky was willing to take a punch to get one, and usually more, of his own blows

home. The Brockton Bomber used to batter an opponent's arms to force him to drop his guard. He broke blood vessels in LaStarza's arms.

Marciano smashed away at the body to soften up an opponent and to open up the head defences.

There's an old saying in boxing that "when the body dies, the head rolls."

Frazier fights the same way. But Rocky was vulnerable to cuts. Frazier is not. He has a tough skin over his tank-like body.

The Philadelphian, a 5-foot-11½, 205-pounder, has improved with every fight.

"He throws more punches and throws them faster than Rocky ever did," says Teddy Brenner, matchmaker from Madison Square Garden. "He's a helluva fighter now and he has tremendous potential. When he's in there, you're guaranteed a good fight. He comes to fight."

"I feel I've learned something with every fight," says Frazier. "Someone asked when I'll reach my peak. I can't say. How can anyone say, I'm 24 now but at what age do you reach a peak? Age may have nothing to do with it."

"All I know is that I may wrap it up in a couple of years. I'd like to fight Jimmy Ellis and Cassius Clay. That would settle any doubts about the title but I feel now that I am the champion."

Ellis, of Louisville, Ky., is recognized as world champion by the World Boxing Association. Clay, still appealing his conviction for refusing military service, is considered champion in some parts of the world and by Ring Magazine.

"I believe I can beat anyone now," says Frazier. "I'd like to get the chance to prove it."

Harlem Negro

(Continued from Front Page) a dairy farm. A number of dinners and receptions are included.

Mr. McAlister said that now that the visit is becoming known in Woodstock doors are opening everywhere. The YM-YWCA pool and museum will be kept open for them on the weekend and an individual has invited them to his home and to use his swimming pool. Other facilities normally closed that weekend will also be opened to them.

The Harlem visitors will be accommodated in Woodstock homes during their five-day stay. They will visit Niagara Falls, take in a Stratford Festival performance, attend a barbecue at Bayfield and visit

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