

Schmeling Says Fighters Of His Time More Skilled

By CAY BROCKDORFF
United Press International
Hamburg, Germany - UPI -
The big man gestured a well-
manicured hand and said:
"You just can't compare to-
day's fighters with the cham-
pions of my time. There was
more skill, better know-how
in the old days. We were bet-
ter trained."

He talked with a United
Press International reporter
in his office about the death
of Davey Moore and other
ring fatalities. His theory is
that it's the present day state
of boxing and the calibre of
the men in it that explain
such tragic accidents.
Slips in 30
"Boxing has made no ad-
vances since the '30's," he
said. "In fact it has been
slipping ever since then. Too
many of the fighters don't
really know how to box, to
defend themselves and to car-
ry out a proper offense. To-
day's matches often turn into
free-for-all style fighting."
"In my day we put the em-
phasis on self-defense, ex-
cellent technique, skill,
brains, a quick eye. How
many boxers can you really
say that about today?"

"And then there's a change
in the whole attitude. Now-
adays too many boxers have
families, need to make money,
need to accept fights even
when they should avoid them
because of their health. That
helps explain Moore's case."
"They should have stopped
Moore's fight much earlier,
thrown in the towel after he
showed signs he was not his
usual self."
Schmeling doesn't think
boxing should be banned as
a professional sport.
"They shouldn't stop box-
ing just because fighters have
died," he said. "People get
killed in other sports. They
don't stop motor racing be-
cause people get killed by
the dozens."
But, in the opinion of Der
Maxie, the fighters them-
selves and the people who

train and manage them
should do a better job.
Many boxers nowadays
wait until five or six weeks
before a fight to get into
shape. This doesn't leave
them time to prepare for their
opponent. You've got to be
in good condition all the
time if you want to be a top
boxer — not just condition
yourself for one fight and
then taper off. Staying in con-
dition is a full time necessity."
Schmeling grinned. "I
know," he said. "When (in
a 12th round knockout on
June 19, 1936) I defeated
Louis I was clearly the best
boxer in the world. But I
didn't stay that way. When
Louis kayoed me in the first
round of our second fight
(June 11, 1938) he was clear-
ly the better man and deserv-
ed the victory."

Schmeling has said it be-
fore but he said again in this
interview that he regretted
"the Nazi propaganda at the
time saying Joe beat me un-
fairly by punching my kid-
neys."
"Nonsense," he said. "Joe
fought correctly. One reason
was my own fault — I turned
right into his fist for a punch
he already had fired off. Joe
was just the better man."
He and Louis "today are

friends," Schmeling said. "He
was one of the world's truly
great boxers."
How does he rate the pres-
ent heavyweights? "Men like
Sonny Liston, Floyd Patter-
son and Ingemar Johanson
are the best of their class
now," he said. "I wouldn't
compare them to the boxers
of my time."
On an all-time basis Schmeling
rates Jack Dempsey "the
greatest boxer of all time."

Joe Louis is next — but some
think Joe was better."
Schmeling returned to the
ring briefly after the war to
get himself a little stake but
then quit and went into busi-
ness.

In the war he was drafted
and wound up in a parachute
unit. He broke both knees
jumping into Crete and was
discharged in 1943. "Some
people have wondered," he

said, "whether I became a
Nazi because I was a Ger-
man soldier. Rubbish. I was
drafted like anybody else.
That happens in war and I
see nothing wrong in it."

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
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That was Max Schmeling
talking, the man who fought
his way to the world's heavy-
weight championship in the
1930's but is best remembered
for the terrible pasting he
took from Joe Louis.
Schmeling, at 57, still looks
like a fighter despite his man-
icured nails and tailor-made
suits. As half owner of a soft
drink (Coca Cola) bottling
plant he is a financially suc-
cessful business man with 200
employees.

at the Hotel Astor during a dinner celebration on the
fourth anniversary of the U.S.
"People-to-People" program. (UPI)



IN SECOND FIGHT—Max Schmeling hangs on the ropes as Joe Louis keeps banging away during their second fight in New York. The two ring foes, now friends, met again at the Hotel Astor during a dinner celebration on the fourth anniversary of the U.S. "People-to-People" program. (UPI)

Patricia Lawford Forfeits Judgment
Santa Monica, Calif. - UPI -
Mrs. Patricia Lawford for-
feited \$100 in a default judg-
ment Wednesday when she
failed to appear in Small
Claims Court.
The award favored Mrs.
Lenore A. Foote, Glendale,
Calif., whose car was involved
in a collision with a car driven
by the sister of President Ken-
edy Sept. 15.

Salem Man Held In Beatty Slaying
Klamath Falls - UPI - Arch-
bald Foster, 26, Salem, was
arrested by state police and
sheriff's deputies Wednesday
a few hours after being charg-
ed with first degree murder
in the Monday night slaying
of Mrs. Richard Biss, 37.
State police also charged
Wilma Williams, Klamath
Falls, with assault with a dan-
gerous weapon. They said she

CUBS ABANDONED—Life looked pretty
dismal for these little tiger cubs after they
were born earlier this month at Highland
Park Zoo in Dorleyville, Pa., where they
were abandoned by their mother. Betty
Stadler, veterinarian's assistant at the zoo,
took it from there and has been feeding
the waifs by bottle at her home where they
will stay until they are moved to the
Children's Zoo next month. (UPI)

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