

Lodi Boxers 1930

Artie Maglionico

On the 17th of January in the year 1930 the Passaic Boys Club held the first of its monthly amateur boxing matches. Lodi boys made up half the card and took the “leather slinging” event by storm. The contenders from the neighboring towns had to be carried out after paying a quick visit to what the fight game called “the lily field.” Lily field, in case you were wondering, was a temporary vacation spot where a boxer went when he ran into an opponent’s right hook. The pre-fight write up which appeared in the Lodi Bulletin and was written by Matthew J. Lalumia included the following sentiment; “Lodi’s reputation as a fighting town depends on these boys. If these boys fight anything like our politicians, there is no fear of losing that reputation. Folks, no fear!”

Topping the list of young Lodi boxers was a kid named Sal “Dodo” Barcia. Barcia wasn’t a newcomer to the fight scene. He was known for his fast foot work and, what sports writers of the era termed, “a pistol like jab.” Why he was nicknamed “Dodo” remains a mystery. Barcia was instrumental in the training of the rest of the Lodi card. There were seven standouts in all. Two of them were stepping into the ring for the first time. Their names were Louis Garcia and John Mirti. The rest of the card boasted the following names. George Siconolfi, Louis Scuttillo, James Hutton, and Lefty Lattanzio. A promising young light weight by the name of Joe Annichiarico was undecided as to whether or not he was going to sacrifice his good looks for glory’s sake. There is no information regarding his decision. My guess is that he played it smart and stayed home that night. It was better than a trip to the Lily field.