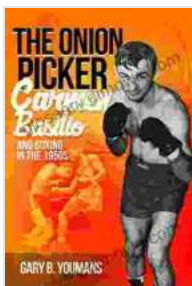
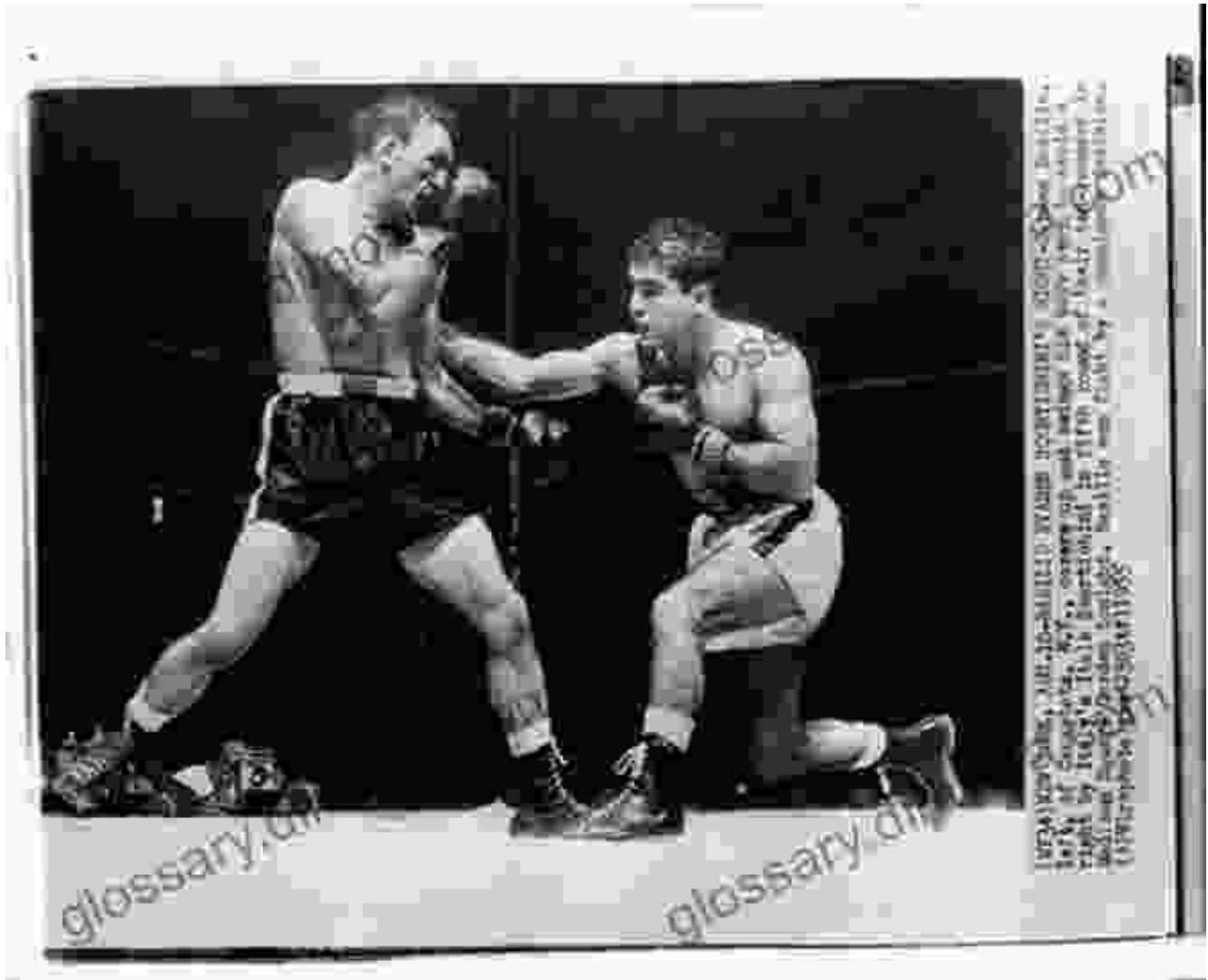


Carmen Basilio and Boxing in the 1950s: A Defining Decade



The Onion Picker: : Carmen Basilio And Boxing In The 1950s by Gary Youmans

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

- Language : English
- File size : 1193 KB
- Text-to-Speech : Enabled
- Screen Reader : Supported
- Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
- Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 173 pages
Lending : Enabled



The 1950s was a golden era for boxing, with legendary fighters like Sugar Ray Robinson, Rocky Marciano, and Jake LaMotta captivating the world. Amidst this pantheon of greats, Carmen Basilio emerged as a formidable force, leaving an indelible mark on the sport.

Early Life and Career

Born in Canastota, New York, in 1927, Carmen Basilio began his boxing career at a young age. As an amateur, he won the National Golden Gloves Welterweight Championship in 1948 and 1949. Turning professional in 1950, Basilio quickly established himself as a contender in the welterweight division.

Welterweight Champion

In 1953, Basilio faced the reigning welterweight champion Kid Gavilan. In a thrilling 15-round battle, Basilio emerged victorious, becoming the new welterweight champion. He successfully defended his title twice before losing it to Johnny Saxton in 1955.

Middleweight Success

After losing his welterweight title, Basilio moved up to the middleweight division. In 1956, he challenged the legendary Sugar Ray Robinson for the world middleweight championship. Despite being an underdog, Basilio fought valiantly and knocked Robinson down in the first round. Although he

ultimately lost the fight, Basilio's performance earned him widespread respect.

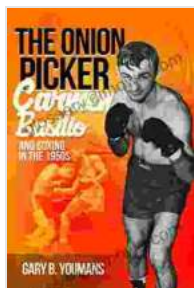
Legendary Rivalry with Jake LaMotta

One of Basilio's most memorable rivalries was with Jake LaMotta, the former middleweight champion known as "The Bronx Bull." They fought three times between 1955 and 1958, with each bout delivering intense action and undeniable drama. Basilio emerged victorious in two of the fights, cementing his status as one of the top fighters of the era.

Legacy and Impact

Carmen Basilio retired from boxing in 1961 with a record of 56 wins, 16 losses, and 1 draw. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990 and the World Boxing Hall of Fame in 1998. Basilio's relentless spirit, unwavering determination, and legendary battles have made him an unforgettable figure in the history of boxing.

Carmen Basilio's career in the 1950s was a testament to his exceptional talent, resilience, and fighting spirit. As a welterweight and middleweight champion, he faced some of the greatest fighters of all time and emerged as one of the most respected and beloved boxers of his generation. Basilio's legacy continues to inspire generations of fighters and boxing enthusiasts alike.



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