

Float like a butterfly and sting like a bee

Fists fly at Black History Month Boxing Tourney

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

More than 600 soldiers and family members packed Fliegerhorst Fitness Center Feb. 8 for 15 bouts of fisticuffs at the 15th annual Black History Month Boxing Tournament. The bouts featured soldiers from Hanau, Büdingen, Ansbach, Friedberg, Giessen, Heidelberg, Vilseck and the local German Freigericht Boxing Club.

Fliegerhorst's Jamarco Mims put away Ansbach's Earl Jordan in the first bout of the night as the crowd roared encouragement. "I'm good," said Mims, who won his event at last year's Black History event as well. Like a number of Hanau area boxers, Mims works out with local trainer Gerd Wolf, and like many others said the individual effort involved was the main attraction for getting into the ring.

"It's a one-person sport. It's only you testing your skills against another man. I do it on my own time and work out whenever I can," he said. Win or lose, most boxers claimed the experience in the ring was worth whatever punishment it cost.

Giessen's Milford Corb went down to defeat at the hands of Fliegerhorst's Freddie Walker in the third of the evening's welterweight events. "He was a good opponent," said Corb. "He did have height and reach advantages, and that helped him. I just tried to stay in there and give him the best I could. He's the better man. Boxing is my dream," said the Augusta, Ga., native.



Raymond Myers, 104th Area Support Group, celebrates his welterweight win over Ansbach's Charles Perry. Referee Tony Lee awards the victory.

"It was a definite advantage," said Walker, who hails from Columbus, Ohio. "But he hit pretty hard too. It keeps me in shape, introduces me to a contact sport." His advice to other novices interested in getting into the ring? "Train. Train hard."

Walker stayed ringside after his bout, as did many other boxers, to cheer on their pals.

Raymond Myers of Hanau scored the first knockdowns of the night in his welterweight tussle with Ansbach's Charles Perry. "I feel good, but it was a tough fight," said Myers afterward. "The guy was hitting pretty hard. My training, my instincts came back to help me through. It was my straight right hand, the straight right hand that knocked him down both times. I wanted to get a knockout, but it was just as good."

There were in fact no knockouts during the event. Five bouts were called by the referee, and the other 10 went the distance, the winner being awarded by decision of the judges.

"It was my first fight, but I train to work out on my own," said Büdingen's Tyler Pavao. "I've been practicing with Lt. Johnson. We don't have any equipment so we use his," said the middleweight from Waipahu, Hawaii. "I was always attracted to boxing. Back home I studied karate for nine years. I promised my dad I would give boxing a try, and a promise is a promise."

Pavao gave Senol Topgu of Freigericht such a tough fight that the referee called the bout in the second round.

Pavao's aggressive attack and undaunted focus made him a favorite with the crowd.

"They're great, great for the experience they have," said Tony Lee, Sports and Fitness director for the 100th Area Support Group, one of two referees at the tournament. "The caliber they've shown is excellent. It's always nice to come back to Hanau because Hanau is where it's at. It's crowded, it's loud, it's warm and it's welcoming."

"It's the longest continuously running boxing event in U.S. Army Europe," said Doug Stanley of the 414th Base Support Battalion Sports Office, who emceed the event.

"There have been some good fights out there," said Streitman Strong, Fliegerhorst Fitness Center facility manager and tournament director. "We had more people here last year, but with everything that's going on it's a lot."

"We're having an excellent night of boxing," said Ken Wetherill of the Army Sports Program Office in Heidelberg. Lee's fellow referee. He said the tournament setting is perfect for novices. "They've got to learn from getting in the ring."

"It's interesting, really different," said Hauptgefiere Marc Elsner of 1-12th Panzergrenadier, from Osterode. Elsner was one of a handful of Bundeswehr soldiers assigned to force protection duties in the 104th ASG who took in the evening's events. "In the German army we have only handball, soccer and running," he said.

"It's like not just boxing — it's a slug match," said Frances Forand

of Hanau, who attended with her husband Jason and their 17-month-old daughter, Haleigh. "One gets hit, then he gets mad, then they really start throwing punches."

"I came so I can cheer on my squadron," said Jason, a medic with 1-1st Cavalry in Büdingen.

In the only female bout of the evening Vilseck's Corina Bevins bested Hanau's Sally Carlson. In other welterweight action Büdingen's Edward Hager bested local boxer Imdaf Tivicki.

Among the middleweights Ansbach's Rafael Lopez beat Büdingen's Christopher Kealoha, Hanau's Charles Gardner beat Ansbach's Leon Harrison, and Fliegerhorst's Nicholas Wiggington bested Giessen's Richard Caro in a hotly contested match.

Light heavyweight Everett Colby put away John Brown in a 4-1 decision that pitted two Fliegerhorst boxers against each other. Büdingen's Joseph Scruggs beat Freigericht's Hasah Calik in a bout stopped by the referee.

The one heavyweight bout turned out to be the fastest and most furious encounter of the evening. Heidelberg's Jermaine Ellis proved the winner, putting away Ansbach's Gregory Murphy.

Damon Schaffer of Ansbach slipped in the first round of his super heavyweight bout against Fliegerhorst's Henry Well. The referee called the fight five seconds into the second round, giving the title to Well. Büdingen's Daniel Johnson bested Fliegerhorst's Paul Dymen in a tightly contested super heavyweight bout, taking the win in a 3-2 decision.

Freigericht's Sascha Wolf took the third super heavyweight trophy when the referee stopped the contest 18 seconds into the first round in his matchup with Fliegerhorst's Joshua Kitching.

The next opportunity for area boxers to show their stuff will be March 15 in Baumholder. Weigh-ins will be from 10 a.m. to noon, and the bouts begin at 6 p.m. Call mil 485-7176 for details. Hanau will host the USAREUR Boxing Championship in May 2004.

Photos by Karl Weisel



John Brown, Company D, 1-501st Aviation, glances a blow off the head of Everett Colby, Company D, 2-501st Aviation, during their light heavyweight bout. Colby won the fight with a 4-1 decision.



Corina Bevins (left), Vilseck, ducks as a blow by Sally Carlson, Hanau, sails overhead. Bevins won the featherweight bout in the only female fight.



Referee Ken Wetherill starts the count on a knocked down Joshua Kitching, 127th Military Police Company. Kitching lost his super heavyweight bout to German boxer Sascha Wolf. The fight was stopped after 18 seconds.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Sledders enjoy a day's outing on the Feldberg between Friedberg and Frankfurt. The sledding area near Ober Reifenberg features a large parking area and refreshment stands serving hot and cold beverages.

Things to do ... Things to do

Math Museum

The German-American Club, "Die Brücke," is sponsoring a guided tour in English of the world's one and only Math Museum in Giessen Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m. followed by coffee and cake at 3:30 p.m. at the Dachcafe. Admission is €3. The first three American families to sign up will get one free ticket per family. The museum is located at Liebigstrasse 8 (near the train station). RSVP by sending an email to petra.roberts@us.army.mil by Feb. 19 if interested in attending.

Wild West Night

The 284th Base Support Battalion Hearts and Hands Community Club hosts its annual Wild West Night March 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Villa Calabria on Friedberg's Ray Barracks. The event will feature a Bonanza-style saloon, cancan girls, gaming tables, line dancing, a silent auction, a country store and a jail. Call Judith Brown at mil 324-3282.

Theater auditions

The Kaiserslautern Army Community Theater holds auditions for the comedy, "Over The Tavern" Feb. 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. at the Music and Theater, Building 1304, on Miesau Ammo Depot. Two actresses, one actor and four teenagers (age 12-17) are needed. The play will be Kaiserslautern's entry for this year's Army Europe 2003 Tournament of Plays. For more information call Jim Sohre at mil 370-7499 or civ (06221) 57-7499.

Music Messe

The world's largest international music trade fair will

be featured at the Frankfurt Trade Fairgrounds (Frankfurter Messe) March 5-9. Musicians will have a chance to examine state-of-the-art equipment, instruments, lighting and recording gear. Musical demonstrations by both well-known and up-and-coming artists are featured throughout the event. Those without credentials may purchase visitor's tickets on the weekend for €19 for adults, €6 for children age 6-12 or €21 for a family (up to two adults and three children). To get to the fairgrounds by public transportation take the U-4 or S-3, 4, 5, 6, or 8 to the Messe Frankfurt station. For more information browse to www.musikmesse.com.

Black History

Hanau's Illusions Roller Rink at the Wolfgang Shopping Center hosts a Black History Month celebration featuring door prizes, vendors, food, entertainment, African-American exhibits and an art display Feb. 22 from noon to 4 p.m. A skating party will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight.

USO trips

The Büdingen/Hanau USO, located in Building 2207 on Armstrong Barracks and in Building 4 on Pioneer Kaserne, features a variety of



Photo by Karl Weisel

Fasching will soon get into full swing. Join the USO on a trip to a nearby parade.

trips in the coming weeks including an **Amsterdam Express** Feb. 21, **Frankfurt Train and City Tour** Feb. 25, **Cologne Cathedral and City Tour** Feb. 27 and March 27, **Carnival in Venice** Feb. 28, **Wiesbaden Fasching Parade** March 2, **Mainz Fasching Parade** March 3, **Poland Express** March 7, **Heidelberg Castle and City Tour** March 11, **Würzburg Tour** March 13, **Milano and Lucerne Tour** March 14-16, **Rothenburg Medieval City Tour** March 15, **Nürnberg City Tour** March 18, **Paris Trip** March 21. Call mil 321-4253 or 322-8725.

Concerts

The Jahrhunderthalle in Frankfurt-Höchst presents **Tracy Chapman** Feb. 27 and **Coldplay** March 31. **Harry Belafonte** sings at the Frankfurt Festhalle March 1. **Matchbox Twenty** performs at the Offenbach Stadthalle March 27. Pick up tickets at major ticket offices.

Live comedy

Comedians will be featured at Hanau's Paradise Club on Cardwell Kaserne Feb. 22 at 10 p.m. An After Hours Party runs until 4 a.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door or \$10 in advance. The performance is restricted to adults only. Call mil 322-9045 for details.

Alte Oper highlights

Frankfurt's Alte Oper features the **Gary Burton and Makoto Ozone Duet** along with the **Christian McBride Group** March 5, the **Radio Symphony Orchestra Frankfurt** performing works by Britten and Rachmaninov March 13 and **Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance** April 15-18. Call civ (069) 1340400.