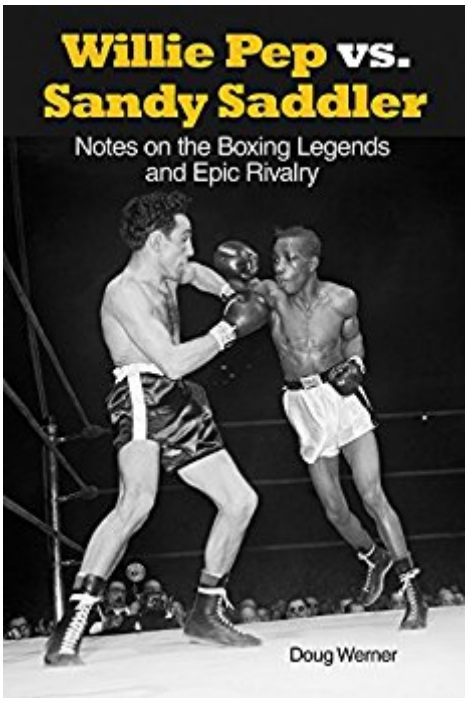
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Willie Pep Vs. Sandy Saddler: Notes On The Boxing Legends And Epic Rivalry



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Synopsis

Any discussion of great boxers must include Willie Pep and Sandy SaddlerÃ¢â ¬â •midcentury featherweight champions whose heroics electrified the fistic world then and reverberate today. This book explores the boxing lives of both pugilistsÃ¢â ¬â •early years, fighting years, training and conditioning, historical context, life after boxing, and, of course, the lasting controversy over their rivalry and legacy. Pep recorded 229 wins, only 11 losses and one draw over a pro career that spanned three decades. He won the featherweight crown twice. Sandy SaddlerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s record of 144-16-2 includes an amazing 103 knockouts. He also won the title twice and retired an undefeated featherweight champion. Their four title bouts are an epic showcase of contrasts. Pep was the exquisite dancer/boxer, a wildly popular Italian American personality who made his opponents miss and scored at will. Saddler was a curious blend of unprepossessing menaceÃ¢â ¬â •a tall, thin, black American banger who pressed and brutalized with singular leveraged force. Their matchups had it all: contrasting styles, dazzling skills, hard punching, splendid action, ridiculous brawling, heroic victories and crashing defeats. Included in this book are PepÃ¢â ¬â„¢s plane crash and recovery as well as the legal wrangling with Newsweek over his boxing reputation. SaddlerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s ongoing slight in boxing history and secondary status with Pep is examined under fresh light. The text is highlighted with several images of both fighters that bring to life the fierce glory of professional boxing in the 1940s and 50s.

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Customer Reviews

First off, when it says "notes", it really means notes. That is exactly the format of the book and way it reads. It is short, little excerpts. Excerpts the length of a small paragraph to a page or two long. It reads a bit like stream of conscience in some places as he adds tidbits here and there to build his story. It’s different, but for the most part it works. It gives you a sense of each fighter and their careers prior to their bouts, their four bouts and careers and lives after. It’s big font and lots of space between paragraphs. I almost gave it four stars, figuring that he had the space to better describe the bouts. With a smaller font and a better layout and he could have gone round by round in his fight descriptions. But, for heavens sake, here is a book on WILLIE PEP AND SANDY SADLER written in 2014?! I have always loved boxing, and it’s been painful to see the decline since the early to mid-90’s. I am just amazed and greatful that there is a good book on boxing, much less one on some All-Time Greats that some fans today may not even be aware of. Kudos, Mr. Warner. Keep up the great writing on this wonderful sport with such a rich history!

Willie PEP (The Fast) and Sandy Saddler (The Furious) The book concerns the life and times of these practitioners of the sweet science of pugilism: it is a wonderful fast read that looks at the careers of both these men, who would have had a place in boxing history if they had come along at different time but who destiny saw fit to bring them together and in so doing allowed those that witnessed their excellence in the ring; lasting memories of some of the sports greatest moments in the boxing arena. The rest of us have to be content with a book that brings the reader as close to the era when these little men were giants.

Some interesting information but it’s not really a book. It’s a bunch of snippets, slapdashedly cobbled together.

I liked the format since I knew a great deal about Pep and Saddler before I bought the book. Reading short write-ups and newspaper clips was the perfect way to enjoy this book.

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