

Marciano's Folk Frown On His Comeback Plans

MILWAUKEE — A Milwaukee Sentinel boxing writer said that if Rocky Marciano goes through with his reported plans for a comeback, it will be against the wishes of his mother and father.

Ray Grody, in a telephone interview with Marciano's mother, said the woman told him Rocky had talked of a comeback last week when he visited his parents at Brockton, Mass.

But under questioning by Grody, Mrs. Marciano admitted "I do not want my son to fight again. My husband feels the same way," she said.

Grody asked how serious did Rocky appear to be about fighting again? "Well, he tell us he was just thinking about it, that's all," said the mother who has never seen her slugging son in the ring.

"But it looks like someone is putting pressures on him to fight," she told Grody. "He tell us if he does fight, it will be only once, you know like for the glory of it, not the money. He would have glory to be the first man to come back and win the (heavyweight) honors," Grody quoted the woman as saying.

Mrs. Marciano told the Sentinel writer she never wanted her son to be a fighter. "So when he retired he made me happy," she said. "He make my husband happy, too, and Barbara (Rocky's wife).

"My husband is a sick man and don't feel good about Rocky fighting again," said Mrs. Marciano. "I know Barbara feels like we do and she don't want him to fight again."

In answer to Grody's question

about Rocky's back injury which was a contributing factor in his retirement, Mrs. Marciano said the back still bothers the retired champion. "Maybe not as much as before, though," she said.

When Grody asked Rocky's mom

if she really thought the ex-champ would stage a comeback, she said:

"Well, he half might and half might not. That's the way he sounded when he left," she said. "He seems to be thinking about it, though, I can tell," Mrs. Marciano replied.