

# Rocky Blasts Clay's Knock of Old-Timers

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 30 (UPI) — Undefeated, retired heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Marciano has blasted present heavyweight champ Cassius Clay for belittling former titleholders.

"I never thought I'd see the day when a heavyweight champion of the world would belittle the old time fighters," said Marciano at a boxing luncheon. "I never thought I'd see the day when a heavyweight champion would challenge the great Joe Louis, who is 25 years his senior and who is 15 years out of boxing. I never thought I'd see the day when a heavyweight champion would not praise his trainer and the people around him."

Marciano didn't mention Clay by name, but it was obvious who he meant.

## Guest Referee

Marciano is here as a guest referee for the two-day International Diamond Belt boxing tournament which will start tomorrow.

"I hope there is one person here who will turn boxing back into a sport we can be proud of," he said.

The Rock said he was proud to have belonged to the "Golden era of boxing," 1948 to 1956, a time when the champ says boxing was at its peak with a good fight at least every week.

"There were a lot of great fighters then," he said. "They wouldn't believe the changes that have happened now—and I'm talking from the inside of boxing—I know."

## He Would Answer

"I may not be among the greatest," he said. "But I was one of the guys who if you

asked them what their name was, they would answer 'eight, nine and 10.'"

Marciano said professional boxing is at an all-time low in the United States because of the low caliber of amateur boxing.

He spoke of his intense dislike for his manager, Al Weill, who instilled in him from the beginning a dislike for boxing that prompted his early retirement from a professional boxing career. He said Weill belittled his small stature and his age [22] and told him to keep his mouth shut and leave everything outside the ring to his manager.

## Was Too Hungry

"If I wasn't so hungry, I would have taken a poke at him right then and there," Marciano said of his first meeting with Weill.

"He was a good manager, but he wasn't a nice guy—I couldn't like the guy. Instead of dreaming of my opponents, I'd be dreaming of him—I'd see his face instead of the faces of Louis or Charles or all the rest of them. I knew I'd have to tell him sometime where to get off."

Marciano, who looked remarkably young and physically fit said he retired when Weill told him he'd have to go on tour for a year to wait for Olympic gold medalist Floyd Patterson to reach contender status.