

Sportslight

Interest is beginning to jump again in boxing circles now that Rocky Marciano has decided to hang up the gloves and make money like a true gentleman. Though his retirement was more or less expected, the heavyweight division still has been caught with its pants drooping.

Last Wednesday, Johnny Holman and Bob Baker squared off in a 12-rounder billed as one of a series of "elimination bouts." On the strength of the showing by both men, this bout merely served to "eliminate" each boxer.

Now boxing fans have shifted their interest to a couple other matches scheduled within the next few weeks. Detroit's Johnny Summerlin meets Bob Satterfield at Olympia on May 23, and two weeks later, Floyd Patterson will be taken from the deep-freeze for a skirmish with Hurricane Jackson.

Of the two bouts, it is the feeling of this writer that the Summerlin-Satterfield meeting will produce the most excitement and probably the best match.

Patterson has been brought along with all the tender care and solicitude that accompanied Marciano's rise for his payoff shot. Manager Gus D'Amato has screened Floyd's opponents much in the same fashion as a U. S. security committee might check through a presidential appointee.

There is more than a sneaking suspicion that the obviously-talented Mr. Patterson still has yet to be "tested" in the true sense of the word. Certainly fighters such as Alvin Williams, Dave Whitlock, Jimmy Walls, and the like cannot be considered "rough customers." The boys along Cauliflower Row hinted that Jimmy Slade "wasn't feeling too good" the night he was stopped by agile Floyd. And not so surprising is the growing rumor that quite a bit of cabbage will be riding on the Hurricane at long odds. We'll still have to go along with Patterson in this one — simply because we just can't see Jackson as a fighter.

There is considerable opportunity for several of the younger, more legitimate heavyweights who up to this point have been on the outside looking in. Young Summerlin, for instance, stands a great deal to win and even more to lose, should Satterfield club him into submission next week.

Other heavyweights who bear watching are Sonny Liston, now of the Tom Tannas stable, and Eddie Machen, a promising youngster from San Francisco.

Even so, with all the cards in the deck, ole Archie Moore, de-

spite falling victim last year to the human meat grinder that is Marciano, still looks like the best bet to claim the throne Rocky vacated.