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KAI YIP

Kai Yip off to Olympics

The City of Lethbridge has yet another representative at the 1984 Olympics.

Kai Yip, coach of the Lethbridge Boxing Club has been given special accreditation to coach at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"Peter Wylie, Shawn O'Sullivan's coach, Harry Snatic, Willie deWit's coach and myself were all given special accreditation," said Yip. "Its terrific and a big honor to be going to the Olympics. Being accredited gives me a sense of belonging."

Yip rates Canada's boxing teams chances at the Olympics as very good. "This is the strongest team we've ever had," said Yip. This team shows a lot of promise for the medal rounds. Everyone has a positive attitude and is going for gold. I think we have a chance of bringing back five medals in boxing."

Yip's accreditation means Lethbridge has six participants in the Olympics — about six times the Canadian norm of one coach or athlete for every 50,000 people.



HERALD PHOTO BY DOUG ROWE

TONY UNITAS, director of the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame presents Kai Yip of the Lethbridge Boxing Club with his award

Yip's career complete with Hall induction

By DOUG ROWE
for The Herald

CALGARY — As a 14-year-old boy just entering the sport of boxing in 1953, there was no way Kai Yip could have ever fathomed what impact he would have on the sport or what impact the sport would have on his future.

On Saturday, at the Westward Inn in Calgary, 48-year-old Kai Yip was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame. An honor few men are ever able to achieve.

"This is something, if I looked back to when I started boxing, I never dreamt, I would go as far as I would go," said Yip. "Boxing took a hold of my life, molded me and gave me something I never thought I would achieve."

Yip, coach of the Lethbridge Boxing Club, was named to the Hall of Fame as a coach and a boxer.

His career as a boxer took him through 100 amateur fights, 81 wins and four provincial titles. In 1956 he won the Canadian Flyweight Championship, and in 1958 he won the Canadian Bantamweight title and then represented Canada at the British Empire Games in Cardiff, Wales.

As a coach he has had four Canadian champions.

Being elected to the hall of fame, however, is the crowning achievement of his career.

"This is the ultimate honor you can achieve," said Yip. "The only place you can go from here is to help other people into the hall.

"All the work, time, effort, hours, things like this make it worth it. There was times when I thought I would have given up. There is the good and the bad. At times I felt like walking away, but I'm glad I didn't, and for that I'm grateful.

When Yip's name was brought forward as a possible candidate for the hall, the executive directors felt no hesitation in making him a member.

"Kai was picked unanimously, by 10 men from across the country," said Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame director Tony Unitas. "There was not one dissenter. And you can't slip anything past those guys.

"Kai is one of the nicest ambassadors to ever come out of Alberta for the sport of champions. I've always admired the man. As a boxer, I'd never miss his fights when he came east."

Another honor for boxing coach

Lethbridge Boxing Club coach Kai Yip has received yet another honor.

Yip has been elected to the Canadian Amateur Boxing Association Board of Directors. His official title is Director at Large for Western Canada, and his duties will include overseeing amateur boxing, national and international tournaments, and rules and regulations.

"I've almost come full circle now," said Yip. "I've gone from a competitor to the national Board of Directors. Getting into the National Board of Directors is a tremendous honor."

The most recent appointment is just one of a growing list of achievements for Yip, which includes: vice-president Alberta Amateur Boxing Association 1978, President Alberta Amateur Boxing Association 1986, and member of the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame.

Yip has also been instrumental this year in bringing the 1988 Olympic Boxing trials to Edmonton.

Son following path toward boxing glory

By DOUG ROWE
of The Herald

Chip off the old block is an overused cliche but there's no better way to describe boxer Steven Yip, son of Kai Yip, a former Canadian 112- and 117-pound champion.

Steven, 13, is well on his way to duplicating his father's boxing career. In his first year, he has already achieved an impressive 8-1 win-loss record, complete with 90-pound Alberta Bronze and Silver Glove championships.

Comparisons between the two are expected, but both Kai and Steven see differences.

"I actually have my own style," said Steven. "I'm a southpaw and my father was orthodox. We do have similarities though. In some ways I fight the way he fought — stick the jab and move. He was really quick with his hands."

"My goals right now are to put my mind into boxing and follow the footsteps of my father."

Kai started boxing when he was 14, but his first year wasn't as successful as Steven's. "At the same point in my career I had a 1-3 record," said Kai, coach of the Lethbridge Boxing Club. "I had three losses right off the bat."

However, he did go on to win the novice championship, equivalent of today's Bronze Gloves.

Boxing has also changed a great deal since Kai won his Canadian championships in 1956 and 1958, and he sees those changes as beneficial for his son.

"The safety aspect has changed," said Kai. "We try to match our boys more evenly now between age, weight and experience. The rounds are shorter and its harder for a boxer to get hurt in the ring.

"Coaches will throw the towel in earlier when a boy is getting beat. There is no shame in throwing in the towel. It gives the boy a chance to redeem himself later."

There are also better facilities and coaching today, Kai said.

One dilemna the Yips have overcome is the fact that Kai must play a dual role as father and coach.

"Outside the gym he is my father," said Steven. "I refer to him as father. Inside the gym it's strictly business, he's my coach.

"I don't think I should have an advantage over the other kids because he is my father."

Kai agrees. "I coach Steven the same way as I coach anyone else.

"He gets the same amount of time as the other boxers. No favoritism, except maybe in my heart."

Another dilemna faced by Kai is working his son's corner during a fight.

"In the corner I worry about him more but I keep my composure to ensure he gets the proper coaching.

"Mind you, I shouldn't worry about him — he's doing a lot better then I did."

Steven's decision to enter boxing was one he made himself, with no outside pressure from his father.

"My father always laid back. He asked me when I was younger what sports I was interested in and I told him I would try a couple of sports, maybe hockey and then maybe later on when I got older I would try boxing."

One thing which you can see is how much pride Kai has in his son.

"So far, he has done really well and I can't be more pleased.

"He has good boxing sense, he moves well and he has good anticipation.

"The other day he told me he is starting to think more now. Thinking what he was going to do to anticipate what his opponent is doing. This usually takes at least two years to learn.

"I think Steven can be national champion."