



Name: Carmen Basilio
Career Record: [click](#)
Alias: Upstate Onion Farmer
Nationality: US American
Hometown: Canastota, NY, USA
Born: 1927-04-02
Stance: Orthodox
Height: 5' 6½"
Trainers: [Angelo Dundee](#), Al Silvani
Managers: [Johnny DeJohn](#) & [Joe Netro](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ISV4INTMLs>

<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/multimedia/>

[video/2008/wallace/basilio_carmen_t.html](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/multimedia/video/2008/wallace/basilio_carmen_t.html)

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xtxgi_carmen-basilio_news

Carmine Basilio, born [April 2, 1927](#) in [Canastota, New York](#), better known in the [boxing world](#) as **Carmen Basilio**, is a former boxer of [Italian-American](#) origin. Some reports have suggested that Basilio changed his name from *Carmine* to *Carmen* before he began boxing, to sound more masculine. However, the reason why he changed his name to *Carmen* is really not known.

Biography

Basilio began his professional boxing career by meeting [Jimmy Evans](#) on [November 24](#) of [1948](#) in [Binghamton, New York](#). He knocked Evans out in the third round, and five days later, he beat [Bruce Walters](#) in only one round. Although he started to box late in '48, he completed four bouts before the year was over.

He started [1949](#) with two draws, against [Johnny Cunningham](#) on [January 5](#), and against [Jay Perlin](#) 20 days later. Basilio campaigned exclusively inside the state of [New York](#) during his first 24 bouts, going 19-3-2 during that span. His first loss was at the hands of [Connie Thies](#), who beat him by a decision in 6 on [May 2](#) of '49. He and Cunningham had three more fights during that period, with Basilio winning by knockout in two on their second meeting, Cunningham by a decision in eight in their third, and Basilio by decision in eight in their fourth.

In the middle of that 24 bout span, [1950](#) rolled over, and Basilio met former world champion

[Lew Jenkins](#), winning by a 10 round decision.

For fight number 25, it was decided that it was time to campaign out [West](#). so Basilio went to [New Orleans](#), where he boxed his next six fights. In his first bout there, he met [Gaby Ferland](#), who held him to a draw. He and Farland had a rematch, Basilio winning by a [knockout](#) in the first round. He also boxed [Guillermo Giminez](#) there twice, first beating him by knockout in eight, and then by knockout in nine. In his last fight before returning home, he lost by a decision in 10 to [Eddie Giosa](#).

For his next seven bouts, Basilio only went 3-3-1, but he was able to avenge his loss to Giosa by winning a ten round decision over him in [Syracuse](#).

In [1952](#), Basilio went 6-2-1. He beat [Jimmy Cousins](#) among others that year, but he lost to [Chuck Davies](#) and [Billy Graham \(boxer\)](#). The draw he registered that year was against Davies in the first of the two meetings they held that year.

But things started to change in [1953](#). Basilio started winning big fights and soon found his name climbing up the Welterweight division's rankings. Soon, he found himself in his first world title fight, against [Cuba's Kid Gavilan](#) for Gavilan's world welterweight championship. Before fighting against Gavilan, he beat former world champion [Ike Williams](#) and had two more fights with Graham, avenging his earlier loss to Graham in the second bout between them with a 12 round decision win, and drawing in the third. Basilio lost a 15 round decision to Gavilan and went for a fourth meeting with Cunningham, this time winning by a knockout in four. Then, he and [Pierre Langois](#) began another rivalry, with a 10 round draw on the first bout between the two.

In [1954](#), Basilio went undefeated in eight bouts, going 7-0-1 with 2 knockouts, and defeating Langois in their rematch by decision.

[1955](#) arrived and Basilio began by beating [Peter Müller](#) by decision. After that win, Basilio was once again the number one challenger, and on [June 10](#) of that year, he received his second world title try, against world Welterweight champion [Tony DeMarco](#). In what has become a favorite fight of classic sports channels such as [ESPN classic](#), Basilio became world champion by knocking DeMarco out in the 12th round. Basilio had two non title bouts, including a ten round decision win over [Gil Turner](#), before he and DeMarco met again, this time with Basilio as the defending world champion. Their second fight had exactly the same result as their first bout: Basilio won by a knockout in 12.

For his next fight, in [1956](#), Basilio lost the title in [Chicago](#) to [Johnny Saxton](#) by a decision in 15. It has always been commented that the reason why Saxton got the nod that night was that he supposedly had ties with Chicago's underworld, which, according to the suggestion, might have paid off the fight's judges to give Saxton the fight. This has been an unverified rumor of which many magazines, [Ring Magazine](#) included, have talked about in the past. In an immediate rematch, which was boxed in Syracuse, Basilio regained the crown with a nine round knockout, and then, in a rubber match, Basilio kept the belt, by a knockout in two.

After that, he went up in weight, and challenged, aging 37 year old, world Middleweight champion [Sugar Ray Robinson](#), in what perhaps might have been his most famous fight. He defeated the Middleweight championship of the world by beating Robinson in a controversial decision in 15 rounds, [September 23, 1957](#). The day after, he had to abandon the Welterweight belt, according to boxing laws. In [1957](#) Basilio won the [Hickok Belt](#) as top professional athlete of the year.

In [1958](#), he and Robinson met in a rematch on [March 25](#) and Robinson easily regained the title with a 15 round decision.

From that moment, and until his retirement in [1961](#), he fought only sporadically, but 3 of his last fights were attempts to recover the world's Middleweight title, losing twice to [Gene Fullmer](#); by a knockout in 14 at [San Francisco](#); and by a knockout in 12, at Fullmer's home state of [Utah](#) (in [Salt Lake City](#)), and then also later, when he lost a 10 round decision to defending world champion [Paul Pender](#).

In between those fights, he was able to beat former world champions [Art Aragon](#), by knockout in eight, and [Don Jordan](#), by decision in ten. His fight with Pender for the title, was also his last fight as a professional boxer.

Basilio, who was also a member of the [United States Marine Corps](#) at one point of his life, was able to enjoy his retirement. During the [1970s](#), his nephew [Billy Backus](#) became world's welterweight champion after having a shaky start to his own boxing career, and Basilio declared on the day that Backus became champion, that to him, Billy winning the title was better than when he won it himself.

In [1990](#), [Ed Brophy](#) decided to build the [International Boxing Hall Of Fame](#) in Canastota, to honor the two world champions who were born there: Basilio and his nephew. Although Backus isn't a member of the Hall Of Fame, Basilio is, along with many of the fighters he met inside the ring.

In the late [1990s](#), Basilio's heart became seriously ill, and he required triple bypass heart surgery, but doctors were able to repair his heart, and nowadays, he continues working at the Hall Of Fame as a volunteer every day.

Basilio had a ring record of 56 wins, 16 losses and 7 draws, with 27 wins by knockout.

Following his esteemed career as a fighter, Basilio worked for a time at the Genesee Brewery in Rochester, NY.

Basilio was interviewed for an HBO documentary on Sugar Ray Robinson called "The Dark Side Of A Champion". He mentioned that although he respected Robinson's talents in the ring, he did not like him at all as a person. He called him a "son of a bitch" and said he was the most arrogant, unpleasant person that you would ever want to meet.



Carmen Basilio was born on 2 April 1927 in Canasota, New York, one of 4 boys and 6 daughters raised by Italian immigrant parents. His parents both found low paid and back breaking work on a local onion farm and the Basilio children would also work in the fields when they became old enough. Years later Basilio claimed that the toughness which characterized him in the ring was moulded there in the onion fields of Canasota. However, his father Joseph's idea of buying a few sets of boxing

gloves as a way of settling family squabbles may have contributed.

Despite his early introduction to the noble art Basilio took little interest in the sport. Even when he served in the Marines, spending 26 months in the Pacific, he had only three fights all of which he won. When he was discharged in 1948 Basilio went to work in a factory, but the wages were so low that the idea of a career in the ring took root. After a short spell in the Golden Gloves and AAU championships he turned professional and in November as a stocky 5ft 6 ½ inch welterweight. Boxing as a converted southpaw – which explained the power in his left hook - Basilio had a lot to learn but he did get off to a winning start by knocking out Jimmy Evans in three rounds in Birmingham, New York.

The Head Hunter

His early career was littered with defeats against ordinary performers but it should be stated that with virtually no amateur experience behind him Basilio was having to learn as he went along. “For years I was discouraged and thought about quitting the ring” he later admitted. “I used to be a head hunter. I Didn't know fighters had bodies and stomachs and ribs”.

Many of his early fights were in Syracuse, the nearest major town and were usually on the undercards of shows featuring local stars Joey De John and Nick Barone. It was during this period Basilio met his future wife, Kay Simpkins, who he married in May 1950. At the time he was in training for an upcoming contest with Gaby Ferland which he was to win inside one round. However the marriage was to cost Kay her job as a waitress when she was sacked for taking time off without permission for the wedding. Soon afterwards she became ill and Basilio had to keep fighting – despite developing an inflammation in his left elbow and shoulder – in order to pay her medical bills. The injuries became so bad that he had to take a five month lay off

from September 1951 to February 1952.

Basilio's biggest win in that first part of his career had been a ten round decision over former lightweight champion Lew Jenkins, in Syracuse, in March 1950. Jenkins was nearing the end of his career, but it was the first time Basilio had been ten rounds and the ex champ was still a good name to have on your record. Yet as he entered 1952 basilio's record stood at 25 wins, tree draws and eight defeats, suggesting that his fighting destiny was to a respected journeyman; hard to subdue, but lacking the qualities of a contender.

Prior to his enforced lay off Basilio had lost five of his last eight, and even when he came back with three consecutive points wins, nobody got too excited. But his next fight, in May 1952, proved them all wrong.

Basilio's big breakthrough came when he was matched with the unbeaten southpaw Chuck Davey in Syracuse. Basilio attacked throughout and his constant pounding of Davey's ribs had the favourite looking anxious and unsettled. Davey's jab, usually his most effective tool, could never subdue the aggressive new Yorker and at the bell Carmen celebrated his biggest win. That, at least, was how it was announced – as a split decision in Basilio's favor – but four days later the New York Commission found an error in the Referee's scorecard and the verdict was altered to a draw.

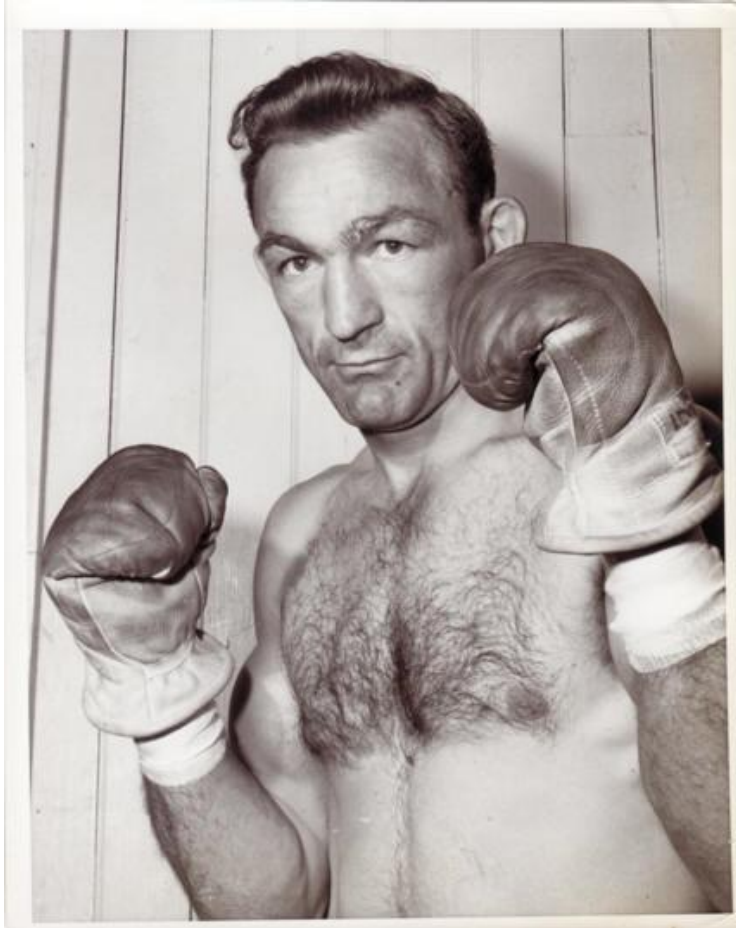
Either way it was enough to launch Basilio into the big time. Davey him in a rematch and veteran contender Billy Graham easily outscored him in his next fight, but the former onion farmer improved his ranking with a win over ex lightweight champion Ike Williams and two wars with Graham for the New York state title. Basilio won the first, in June 1953, but Graham held him to a disputed draw in the second, a fight so exciting that Ring magazine reported that "The fans were in a frenzy all the way".

Basilio had a lot of respect for Graham saying "the first time he knew far too much for me. He had a chin like iron – he couldn't hurt me, but boy I couldn't hurt him either. I hit him with everything I'd got and he just grinned at me as if to say "right it's my turn now".

The two results against the well regarded Graham were enough to earn Basilio his first world title shot against Kid Gavilan in Syracuse, in September 1953. It was Gavilan's sixth defense of the tite and the brilliant Cuban was not expected to have much difficulty . But from the moment in the second round when the challengers left hook sent Gavilan sprawling it was a desperate struggle for the title holder. Basilio seemed to have done enough to win, but two of the three judges voted against him amid a storm of boos. Basilio fanned the protests and in his dressing room said "I licked him, I licked him good, I want to fight him again as soon as I can".

Basilio had been so confident during the fight that at the end of the 10th round he said to co-managers Johnny De John and Joe Netro "You're managing the new champ".

His hoped for rematch failed to occur and Basilio spent 1945 fighting out of his natural weight class, against tough middleweights like Pierre Langlois, Italo Scorticini and Peter Muller. The welterweight crown had passed from Gavilan to Johnny Saxton in a highly controversial verdict



which was rumored to owe much to the challengers underworld links. Saxton lost it in his first defense when Boston puncher Tony De Marco left hooked him to defeat in 14 rounds. Suddenly a title defense with fellow Italian looked a hot attraction.

The fight, at the brand new Syracuse War Memorial Auditorium in June 1955 was a classic from first bell to last. Basilio's 12th round victory was so hard earned that there had to be a rematch, but first the new welterweight champion gave a hint of things to come when he let it be known that he was eyeing the richer rewards to be had in the middleweight class." I'm comfortable at 147 (the welterweight limit) but I'm even stronger at 152, 154, he said. "I'd like a crack at guys like Robinson and Bobo Olson".

The title rematch took place in Boston in November 1955 and proved to be one of the bloodiest, most exciting battles in welterweight history . For seven rounds it was all De Marco as Basilio absorbed a fierce beating that several times had him on the verge of his first knockout defeat. Somehow he clawed back and pounded the fight of De Marco until two knockdowns in the 12th brought Referee Mel Manning's intervention.

Ever the gentleman Basilio agreed to give Saxton first shot at the title. Saxton had been developed by trainer Bill Miller until the young fighter attracted the attention of the Mob who's front manager was the notorious Blinky Palermo. Miller was shunted aside and Palermo took over the reins. Basilio defended his title against Saxton in Chicago in March 1956 and by the halfway stage of the second round it looked like an easy night's work for the champ as he rocked his opponent with a big left hook to the chin. Saxton's eyes glazed and he lost control of his legs, but Basilio was over anxious and the chance slipped away.

When Saxton's glove split in the 3rd round it earned him a welcome 30 sec respite while it was replaced and after that he fought a cagey, jab and hold campaign, frustrating Basilio at every opportunity. Even so, Basilio looked to have done enough to have won, however he had not taken into account Saxton's Mob connections. All three officials voted in Saxton's favor. The verdict was so controversial that of the 27 ringside reporters polled 20 had Basilio in front. He

may have finished the fight with his face in a mess but his relentless body attack seemed to have knocked the fight out of the challenger, who concentrated on self preservation rather than victory.

The New York Commission agreed to license Saxton, who had previously been back listed because of his unsavory management, on the condition he defend his title against Basilio. The rematch in September 1956 was a box office winner with 8,546 fans paying \$134,939. This time Saxton abandoned the tactics which had won him the verdict last time and opted to go head to head. It was a catastrophic error by his manager Palermo who told the press at the weigh in “ You keep saying that my boy won the title with the help of the officials who robbed Basilio. Well tonight he’s gonna prove to everybody that he’s the master. He’ll fight Basilio’s style and beat him at his own game. He’ll prove he’s the better man”.

Basilio opened as the betting favourite , as he had in the first fight, but after the weigh-in substantial bets from Chicago shifted the odds in Saxton’s favor. For four rounds Basilio pounded away at Saxton’s body until in the 5th the champion fulfilled Palermo’s prediction by launching an all out attack. However the champion couldn’t last the pace and Basilio pounded him mercilessly. Saxton, his lip badly cut, was ready to fall when the referee Al Bert resued him after one minute 31 seconds of the ninth round.

The win meant so much to Basilio that he broke down and cried at the end of the fight. He told reporters after that “I want to give Saxton his due, he fought like a man and a champion tonight”

Basilio had been obliged to lodge a hefty bond as security to ensure a third match between him and Saxton. And in Cleveland, in February 1957, he ended the series with a second round left hook to put the matter beyond all doubt. Basilio had proved himself a worthy welterweight champion and a meeting with middleweight king Sugar Ray Robinson now beckoned. The fight offered the prospect of more money than his welterweight crown could bring and negotiations opened between the two camps. An easy going man by nature Basilio confessed to an intense dislike for the showy Robinson which dated back some years as a result of an incident in New York.

As Basilio recalled “ I was walking down the street with my wife when I saw this pink Cadillac go by on the other side of the road. I said to Kay “hey that’s Sugar Ray Robinson – I’ll go over and introduce myself”. I crossed the street and went up to Robinson – and he snubbed me so badly I came away feeling two inches tall. I swore that one day I’d get him in the ring and lick him, I was thrilled when they made the match.

Robinson, as ever, drove a hard bargain, getting 45 per cent of the gate, with Basilio taking 20 per cent. A crowd of 38,000 packed the Yankee Stadium in September 1957, and saw a classic. Basilio attacked Robinson’s slender body in the first two rounds, hammering away at his ribs until the champ’s brilliant left jab took charge of the third and fourth. He opened a cut over the challengers right eye but a brave Basilio then regained the initiative in the fifth, before being outboxed in the sixth.

Had Robinson been able to keep it going he might have broken even Basilio’s will, but the gutsy

challenger stormed back to win every round from the eighth to 11th, a sensational round in which both went all out for a knockout. Robinson rallied to win the 12th, 13th and 14th, having his man on rubber legs at the end of each round. But Basilio, his left eye closed almost completely, clinched a split decision win with a last minute surge.

Robinson's bad night was completed when the taxman, who hit him with a demand for \$514,310 and thus ensured that there would be a rematch, that was the only way he could earn that kind of money. It took place in Chicago, in March 1958, and was another thriller like the first fight. In the event Basilio was half blinded by a shocking eye injury and had to fight square on to his man from the sixth. His constant body attack kept Robinson on the defensive, but the challenger mounted a tremendous effort over the last three rounds to sneak a decision.

Basilio, ever the warrior, claimed a moral victory. "I walked to the dressing room" he said. "They had to carry him. He was on the point of collapse. I was tired too, but you don't really feel pain there in the heat of battle because your body's heated up and your moving. The next day, it (the swollen eye) hurt. The muscle had expanded and was pressing on my eyeball. I wore ice packs on that eye for about three straight days to get the swelling down."

Despite the quality of the first two fights, all efforts to make a third between the great rivals foundered. Robinson even offered Basilio a guarantee of \$238,000, huge money in 1959, but he declined, reasoning that if he defeated Gene Fullmer in their proposed fight for the title which the NBA were to declare vacant, a rubber match with Robinson would be worth more as a unification fight between two rival champions.

The NBA duly stripped Robinson of his title and matched Basilio with Fullmer, the tough Mormon who, like Basilio had won and lost to Robinson in title fights. The contest for the now vacant NBA title took place in San Francisco, in August 1959, and Basilio held his own with the brawling Fullmer for a while. However, it gradually became clear that Fullmer was too strong and rugged for him.

Perhaps the Robinson fights had taken too much out of Basilio, but whatever the reason, when he dipped into the reserve tank he found it was empty. Fullmer battered him relentlessly until the referee rescued the protesting, weeping Basilio in the 14th round. It was the first time in over 70 fights that he had failed to go the distance. Basilio had not done enough to earn a rematch but he was still given a return fight in June of 1960 in Salt Lake City. It proved the low point in Basilio's career. He could never get into the fight and took a one-sided beating before with cuts over both eyes, he was stopped in the 12th.

His reaction to the decision was totally out of character. In his frustration Basilio shoved the referee away and swore at him. He did later calm down and apologise. Basilio took six months out and came back with a decision over tough welterweights Gaspar Ortega and former world champion Don Jordan. These victories were enough to earn him a final world title opportunity, this time against Paul Pender, the fireman who had taken what remained of Robinson's middleweight title claim.

It was in Pender's home town of Boston on 22 April 1961 that Basilio said goodbye to boxing.

Pender was a clever boxer with a sharp jab and he easily controlled Basilio's rushes to build a wide lead. He was not considered a heavy hitter but when he floored Basilio twice in the 14th – the first time he had ever been on the canvas – it was obvious that the veteran was finished.

The decision was wide and unanimous and Basilio aged 34 recognised the inevitable and a short time later confirmed his retirement. In retirement Basilio was a busy man and he worked as a physical training instructor at Le Moyne College, Syracuse, was a scout master, had a deal representing a local brewery and even put his name to "Carmen Basilio" Italian sausages.

Syracuse Herald
11 June 1955

Basilio Batters Way To Welter Title

De Marco Stopped In Twelfth

At long last Syracuse has a world boxing champion who should rule for years to come! Carmen Basilio, Canastota native climbed to the highest peak in the 147-pound division with a 12th round technical knockout of a game but outclassed champion Tony DeMarco of Boston in the War Memorial setting last night. A throng of 9,070 of had paid tariff from a \$5 general admission to a \$20 ringside, let forth a mighty roar which shook the rafters as Referee Harry Kessler stepped between the bleeding, battered warriors at one minute, 52 seconds of the 12th round. The third man in the ring waved hands aloft to indicate it was over as he cast a pitying glance at the weaving champion.

It was finis for the night of June 10 at least for a well hammered New Englander who had been on the floor twice in the 10th round, once for the count of six and the second time for eight.

Took Bad Beating .

In the 11 th heat the fading titleholder showed stout-hearted courage as he caught terrific lefts and rights to the head and body. There were some protests from the fans over the unevenness of the milling, and cries of "stop it" echoed through the house. But champions are not supposed to be taken out of conflict unless they are too badly beaten to defend themselves, Kessler, abiding by the unwritten code of the ring, let the scrap go on.

Gov. and Mrs. Averell Harriman and Mayor John Hynes of Boston with State Athletic Commissioner Helfand and many other distinguished guests were in the audience, but Kessler is a highly competent workman who keeps a close check on the condition of the fighters assigned to his charge and few questioned his judgement.

Basilio, the ex Marine, son of Italian parents, who had quit the ring sport in disgust back in September 1951, had inflicted cruel punishment to the champions body through the early rounds. It was that relentless hammering which finally took toll, until a whistling right tossed with a

sodden mitten crashed against the DeMarco jawbone and dumped him on the canvas within a few feet of the Empire State governor.

Falls Against Ropes

Tony climbed to his feet at the six and stumbled back into action in that hectic 10th. Bag, bang, bang, first the crushing left hook, then a right and a left and the titleholder was back in the resin this time for eight. He fell heavily into the ropes and as he slumped to the canvas, the second trip, ringsiders wondered where he would find the strength to regain his footing. But he made it somehow.

Carmen strove desperately to inflict the third fall for automatic Disqualification but the bell came to DeMarco's rescue. In the 11th Tony, riding the trolley "on Queer Street" to the end of the line, tried to fight off the relentless Basilio, who kept plastering his head and pain racked body. He stayed aloft, but old-timers could sense the end was in sight.

Then came the 12th and final round. Tony emerged slowly from the stool in his corner almost pushed into the center of the ring by Trainer Sammy Fuller, former fighter. Carmen appeared almost as fresh as when the bout began. His blows packed power and it was easy to find deadly spots with a champion who was hardly able to keep arms in defensive position.

The rights and lefts started pouring in until Kessler could "take it" no longer. He had given a titleholder every possible chance to come back from defeat, and when there appeared no chance for a rally he sensibly called a halt,

A Joyous Scene

Almost instantly the ring was filled with Basilio handlers, and seconds later photographers took over. Carmen, rushed to the DeMarco corner to shake his battered foe's hand, and Tony proved a good loser. After he had cleared the cobwebs from a befuddled brain and blood from a nose which had dripped claret throughout and from a cut over his left eye, DeMarco came out of his corner and posed for pictures with the new champion.

Mrs. Joseph Basilio, the fighters mother, was finally persuaded to climb through the ropes, as was Carmen's wife, and made up family groups for the cameras. DeMarco's one strong bid for victory came in the 'third when Tony caught Basilio flush- on the button with a left hook and the challenger's knees buckled. Carmen may have been badly hurt but he fought back savagely to stave off the rushing New Englander who seemingly believed he had Carmen set up for the kill.

In the sixth another DeMarco left opened a gash over Basilio's right eye, but handlers did a good job 'between rounds in sealing the break. In the seventh it was reopened but the Chittenango resident who had vowed he would win by a knockout, was not bothered by the trickle of blood.

Threw Wild Rights

Tony , five years younger than his conqueror, certainly proved he was a reformed southpaw. His

left hook was pretty much his chief stock in trade, the effort to connect with the right mostly resulting in wild throws from right field.

DeMarco had won the crown but 70 days ago from Johnny Saxton, and most experts decreed he was making a sad mistake in tackling such a rough customer as Basilio before his six months of grace to hold the welterweight title was up.

However. Basilio and his manager, John DeJohn. had stepped aside to let the Saxton-DeMarco fight go on in Boston providing the winner would defend in Syracuse, and Tony's handlers kept their word.

Supposedly there is some sort of agreement the new king of the 147 pounders will give Saxton a chance to regain his lost laurels , and if the New York Negro lad wants the assignment Basilio is likely to prove accommodating.

Carmen is just about the toughest 147 pounds of fistic machinery to be found on the open market at present, and should he keep an earlier pledge of fighting often an retiring as soon as he figures he has amassed ample funds the top notchers in the division will get their chance.

Highlighting Sports

By Jack Slattery

The new welterweight champion of the world is all champion even down to his speech. The first words he said when he entered the dressing room, after a battle to get there that fell little short of the one he had in the ring, were to Jim Norris, president of the International Boxing Club. He clasped the big man's hands and said: "Thanks for giving me my chance"

And still a champion, he said of his beaten adversary, "Everyone underestimated him, including myself. He's a great fighter and a very brave fellow."

Basilio believed the early round barrages to the belly were the weapons that eventually destroyed the champion. He laid them in there consistently while DeMarco waged inside warfare infrequently and ineffectually. The fight carried on and on with Carmen bombing eight to 10 at a turn. They were powerful blows and when the end came for DeMarco there wasn't A a single telling blow struck.

In the ninth round Tony threw six or eight wild punches that went over the head of Basilio. Then all of a sudden, without even being hit, he collapsed. The strength drained from his legs. He became a sitting duck. Basilio was too eager and couldn't put across the telling blow.

A Man of Great courage

In the 10th the little fellow from Boston showed courage and determination that makes him the biggest man in all New England. If ever fans should be proud of a loser it should be the DeMarco fans. He was down twice. What brought him to his feet and out for the 11th round only DeMarco will know. It was both thrilling and terrifying to see him fight from pure instinct. At the end of the ninth and 11th rounds the game lad walked blindly into the television lights directly opposite his corner.

Dan Florio, who patched the cuts which Basilio started to inflict as early as the second round, said in the dressing room, "I wish the kid never landed that left hand in the third round. It buckled Basilio's knees and from that time on DeMarco was left hook, one-punch kayo crazy. We couldn't get him to stop after that.

"What caused him to collapse in the ninth? We don't know. Tony doesn't know. All of a sudden everything went out of his body but willingness to fight"



DeMarco was asked if he had any complaints because the fight was stopped. He soft spoken youngster just replied "That's all part of the game". There is no doubt that under any other circumstances the fight would have been stopped much earlier. But because of the twin truths – a title fight, and the bitter complaints of the Boston press that DeMarco was coming here to be robbed – the champion was given every opportunity short of risking his life to retain the championship.