

Tournament Bound Hilario Postpones Pro-Career for College Training

Local fight fans who hope to see a Billings' boxer capture the middleweight division crown in the 8th Annual Midland Empire Golden Gloves Tournament can best place their hopes on the strong right arm of Raymond Hilario, an aggressive slugging stylist, who stacks up as the number one prospect for middleweight laurels in the coming matches.



Ray is majoring in economics at Eastern. The easy-going, well-liked freshman strikes many of his less informed fellow students as more likely to be found at a serious game of chess than in the middle of a slugfest. Not so, according to the records.

The dark-haired, 19-year-old power puncher was District A.A.U. lightweight champion in 1954. He moved to the welterweight division in 1955, winning Montana's State A. A. U. crown. In 1956, as many local fans will remember—Ray put on an outstanding performance in the Golden Gloves tournament only to be deprived of boxing in the finals because of a severely cut lip.

Ray has been a participant in more than 35 amateur fights. The

Eastern Drops Dogs, 83-79

Eastern's Yellowjackets, who had been turning to pumpkins in the dying minutes of some of their opening games this season, turned the Cinderella ending inside out last Tuesday night, as the vastly improved 'Jackets handed the league leading Western Montana Bulldogs the pumpkin, seeds and all, in exchange for a thrilling 83 to 79 conference victory.

Gene Espeland and Bob McWilliams were Eastern's big guns. Gene hit for 28 points, followed by McWilliams with a total of 23.

highlight of Ray's young career came last February, when he battled his way to the Middleweight Championship in the Los Angeles Golden Gloves Tournament. He was defeated in the Pacific Coast Regionals by Ed Hickman, 1958 P.C.R. middleweight crown.

Ray Hilario, middleweight hopeful in the upcoming Midland Empire Golden Gloves Tournament and G. T. Guenin, EMCOE sports-scribe, debate the ancient proposition that "The pen is mightier than the sword."

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