SAM BRUCE
WELTERWEIGHT
1924-1935

During the 1920's in Buffalo, Charley Palmer managed a stable of fighters, including Joey Coffman, Battling Norfolk, Carl Cannon, and Jimmy Hayden. His pride and joy, however, was a young, sleek, slugger named Sam Bruce, who moved here from Memphis, Tennessee, in the summer of 1928.

According to the Buffalo Evening News' sports writer, Frank Wakefield, Bruce "could have made a small fortune today" (1957) as he reminded observers of top contenders, such as Spider Webb and Virgil Akins.

Bruce had a number of bouts in Tennessee and California (his early record is incomplete), and at the age of 22, moved his headquarters to Buffalo, and came under of the management of Palmer. After only 2 bouts in Buffalo, where he KO'd Joe Scinta and Frank Petrone, he was matched with Buffalo's best junior welterweight, Bobby Tracey, over which he scored a 6-round decision win. Two weeks later, Bruce was pitted against Young Jack Thompson of California, who at that time was considered the uncrowned world welterweight champion, and ranked #2 among the junior welterweights.

Spectators at this fight in the old Broadway Auditorium, saw a tremendous battle for nine rounds, and with only a very few seconds to go, Thompson blasted Bruce cleanly through the ropes, referee Chuck O'Connor counting him out. As a result of this close bout, The Ring Magazine elevated Bruce to its number 2 ranking among the junior welterweights, and he remained in the top ten for the next three months. Thompson went on to win the welterweight championship in May 1930, outpointing Jackie Fields in 15 rounds.

Thereafter Bruce had 60 more bouts, mostly in Buffalo (24), Albany, and upstate New York. His most notable wins during this period were over Freddie Mueller, Jack Britton, Joe Trippe, Bucky Lawless, and Tony Tozzo.

Tonight Ring 44 of the National Veteran Boxers Association is pleased to induct Sam Bruce into the 2012 Buffalo Boxing Hall of Fame.

RECORD				
Won 47	KO's 14	Lost 30	Drawn 8	Total 87