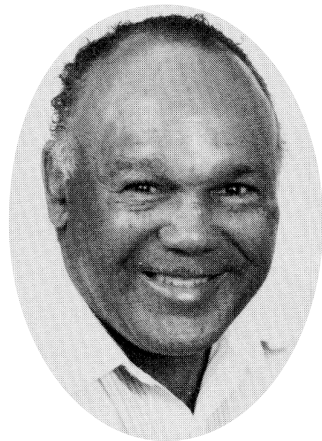


## *Jimmy Beau*



Jimmy Beau was a middleweight headliner during the late 1940s and early 1950s, who amassed a professional record of 86 wins and 12 losses. He fought the best in his weight, although he never did get a shot at the title.

He took “Irish” Bob Murphy, ranking light heavyweight of the world, into the eighth round in the main bout at the old Madison Square Garden on December 9, 1950 and he lost a tough decision to former world middleweight champ Carl “Bobo” Olsen in another featured bout at the Garden.

But as a middleweight, Beau had very few peers. In fact, in a listing from *Ring* magazine in 1951, Beau was rated fifth behind Jake LaMotta, then the middleweight champ, and the immortal Sugar Ray Robinson, who was rated number one in the field.

Beau was born in Harlem, as Jimmy Bowler. He moved to New Canaan when he was 15 and then to Norwalk a year later. As a youngster he saw Joe Louis fight and decided to give it a try. But his idol was to be Beau Jack, a great boxer of the period and, as an amateur, he decided to change his fighting name to “Jimmy Beau.”

When he turned pro in 1948, after an impressive amateur career, Beau won his first 22 bouts, 15 of them by KO. It didn’t take long for people to notice, and as an 18 year old, Beau was named Prospect of the Month by Nat Fleisher of *Ring*. Two years later he was to fight at Madison Square Garden, his real goal.

As a native New Yorker, fighting at Madison Square Garden was a real coup for the up and coming boxer. He trained at Stillman’s Gym in New York with fighters like Archie Moore. Beau fought at St. Nick’s Arena, but there was nothing like fighting at Madison Square Garden for the local boxer.

Beau won the New England middleweight championship in 1954 and, during his career, fought throughout the U.S. as well as in Argentina and Germany.

During World War II, he coached and advised the Rhineman Rocket Boxing team as a member of the Air Force. He boxed in the Air Force and acted as advisor and assistant trainer in Britannia Shield competition in England.

Married to the former Pauline Mason, the couple has three children and five grandchildren.