

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY BOXING HISTORY

1930-1960

[INFORMATION COMPILED 2004]

WSU HEAD COACHES (source: WSU Chinooks)

Glenn "Brick" Johnson, 1926 (part-time coach; club sport; no varsity letters awarded)
Isaac "Ike" Deeter, 1927-28 (part-time coach as a student; minor varsity letters first awarded)
Isaac "Ike" Deeter, 1929-30 (part-time coach)
Fred R. Fulmer, 1931 (part-time coach)
Isaac "Ike" Deeter, 1932-60 (first and only WSC/WSU full-time boxing coach)

Interest in boxing [1925-26] was awakened and enthusiasm aroused in the men students of the State college this year by the excellent showing the Cougar mitt artists made in all their meets. Serious consideration was given the sport by the Associated Students with the view of making it a minor sport. Sufficient intercollegiate competition was not available, however, to warrant the granting of letters

-- 1926 Chinook, Page 154

NOTE: While no mention was made of boxing becoming a "Minor" sport in the 1927 Chinook, boxing was listed under "Minor" sports in that issue of the Chinook.

Boxing was not a recognized intercollegiate sport at WSC when (Ike) Deeter arrived on campus in 1923, but (Fred) Bohler was a real booster of the ring sport. Next to basketball, it might have been Doc's favorite, and he promoted it heavily in the intramural program. In 1926 Glenn "Brick" Johnson, of Spokane, a senior who'd won the Pacific Northwest Amateur heavyweight title, served as coach and Paul Ryan, of Spokane, and Deeter won PNA titles at 147 and 165 pounds.

Ike served as student-coach two seasons and after graduation in 1928 stayed around another year as boxing coach and teaching assistant in physical education. In 1929 he was offered two jobs, one at North Central high as an assistant football coach, at ninety dollars a month, the other as director of the Potlatch (Idaho) Athletic Club, at \$200 a month.

I asked Babe [Hollingbery] what I should do. "Put your pride in your pocket. Go get that dough!" Babe advised.

Deeter stayed at Potlatch for a year. The PAC had teams in practically every sport for the 300 men who worked at the big Potlatch mill in those years. Deeter coached everything and was assistant football coach at the high school. That's where he ran into a tough little kid named Roy "Pooch" Petragallo. In 1937, "Pooch" became WSC's first national champion. [Page 121]

Bohler invited Ike back to Washington State in 1931 to become the school's first fulltime boxing coach and instructor in P.E. Except for the Navy service in World War II, Deeter never left, and he built one of the nation's strongest college mitt programs. [Page 122]

In 1960, following the death of Charles Mohr, a University of Wisconsin boxer, a number of schools, including WSU, dropped the sport. [Page 260]

-- *The Crimson and the Gray, 100 Years with the WSU Cougars* by Dick Fry, 1989