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# Ringside seats

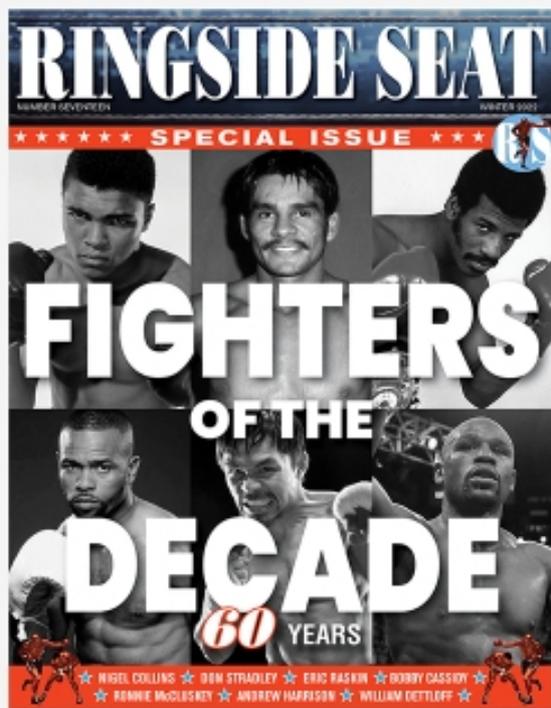
A thoughtful boxing magazine for the discriminating fight fan

By **Declan Ryan**



November 4, 2022

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## IN THIS REVIEW

### RINGSIDE SEAT

Quarterly. \$35 per year.

William Dettloff, editor

**M**any boxing fans who were long-time readers of *The Ring* magazine - the so-called bible of Boxing - were dismayed when it was bought by Golden Boy Promotions, an influential outfit with a large roster of fighters, in 2007. Fears about the harm such a move might do to editorial independence and the legitimacy of its rankings of fighters seemed at least partially confirmed by the removal of many of the magazine's editorial staff in 2011, including its then editor, Nigel Collins. Collins is now a regular contributor to *Ringside Seat*, a glossy quarterly magazine (international, with an online-only option) founded in 2017. He is not the only former *Ring* journalist represented here. Others include William Dettloff, who is now *Ringside Seat's* editor-in-chief.

As well as luxuriating in its independence, *Ringside Seat* benefits from its cast of knowledgeable stalwarts in other ways: the long view tends to be the best one when it comes to analysing new fighters (whose breakthroughs are often slicked in the hype of invincibility, even though their early careers are usually spent fighting journeymen who could be mistaken for pacifists) or giving a general sense of the health of the sport away from its bottom line. Dettloff's is a forthright voice: he decries amateur judges as "sightless jackasses" who used to spoil Olympic boxing until a recent revamp boosted fairness; and he makes an impassioned case against systemic failures that compound the hardship of boxers such as Donald Curry, who since his retirement in 1997 has suffered alone with the after-effects of a punishing career in the sport.

The magazine contains book and film reviews, as well as reports and debates on contemporary superfights, but perhaps the biggest draws are the well-researched in-depth pieces on fighters from the past. Highlights of this year's issues include a feature by Don Stradley on Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales (1928-2005), a Mexican-American featherweight who was also a campaigning activist and poet, and Andrew Harrison's portrait of Mick Leahy (1935-2010), an Irish middleweight who mixed it with some of the best of his era. Seemingly

unafraid of controversy, one issue even dared to choose its fighters of the past

unavoidable controversy, one issue even dared to choose its fighters of the past six decades, opting for Michael Spinks as the 1980s poster boy over more storied alternatives such as Marvin Hagler and Sugar Ray Leonard. Not every piece hits home, but the variety and depth of insight on offer make it a genuine contender, rather than a journeyman fighter, for the discriminating fight fan.

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