

Seattle resident and US National Boxing Champion Wins Bronze at Pan American Games in Guayaquil, Ecuador!

-Seattle, Washington



Queen Underwood
US Light Welterweight Champion

US National Light Welterweight Champion and Seattle resident Queen Underwood took home the bronze for Team USA at the **Pan American Games** in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Queen scored an impressive first round stoppage of Nadia Ballot of Isle de Guad and then lost a decision to Katie Dunn of Canada by a 10-20 score in the final round. Katie Dunn of Canada went on to win the best boxer of the tournament award. Queen is ranked #1 in the country and this marked her very first Competition on the international stage.

Queen is a Sprinkler Fitter 3 year apprentice for local 699 and works for McKinstry Co. She won the 2005 National Golden Gloves as well as the 2007 US Nationals that took place at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs earlier this year. Queen trains with coaches Cappy Kotz, Julia Baker, Margaret Savas, and Tricia Turton at Cappy's Boxing on 22nd and Union in Seattle, Washington.

While boxing is still the only sport that does not include a single women's event in the Olympic Games, Queen hopes women boxers will reach the top of the Olympic podium with it's anticipated inclusion in London 2012. Queen's goals are to one day turn professional and to help women's boxing get the media, sponsorship and marketing attention it deserves. While known as compassionate and caring outside the ring, Queens strength's in the ring include her aggressiveness, timing and defensive skills.

The 12 member women's Team USA reported to training camp at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs on September 18 and the competition took place in Guayaquil, Ecuador October 5-10th. Other countries that competed include Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Trinidad, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Bermuda, Peru, Ecuador and other countries in the Americas. Team USA coaches included 2001 World Championship head coach Dr. Christy Halbert and WCAP coach Charles Leverette. Team USA brought home 3 gold medals, 2 silver medals and 4 bronze medals.

In the United States women's boxing is enjoying a surge in popularity. ESPN ranks boxing as the toughest sport in the world based on overall athleticism, endurance, strength, power, speed, nerve, durability, coordination and analytic aptitude compared with 63 other sports. In October 1993, women's boxing recorded its first victory in the United States. Acting on a lawsuit filed by Dallas Malloy, a 16-year-old female from Bellingham, Wash., USA Boxing officially lifted its ban on women's boxing. Not only are the number of women boxers growing rapidly in the U.S., there is a dramatic increase in female boxing numbers around the world. As of 2007, female boxers from 120 countries compete on local, national and international levels. Currently boxing is the only sport in the Olympic Games that does not yet include women. Athletes around the world are training in it's anticipation of inclusion in London in 2012.



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