

Keith (Tiger) Daniels Boxing History in Tasmania

Keith (Tiger) Daniels was born in Hobart on the 13 December 1937. My Father was a trainer for the Sandy Bay Amateur Boxing Club. He was also the state coach. As nine years old of age I was off to training.

There were many state champions & to name a few: - Mr Ron Gower starting boxing with dad & won several state & Australian titles. He represented Australia at the 1948 London Olympic Games, & the Empire Games in the 1950 in New Zealand as a flyweight. He also went to the Helsinki Games in 1952 as a bantam weight.

Mr Joe Dinon was a boxer before going to boxing to the 2nd World War where he was a prisoner. Upon returning to boxing Joe won many state titles but never an Australian title. In over 200 fights he was defeated only 8 times as a light weight.

Mr Kay Green was a State Champion for several years but there were no record of his amateur bouts. In 1952 he fought his only professional bout & it was against Pram Mikas. It was over in 12 rounds. Kay won on points. Straight after the bout he joined the army & went to Korea where he was shot in the right arm & later in the knee. He survived but that was the end of a good boxer.

Dennis (Basher) Burke was state middle weight champion but no record of his fights was kept but he went on to be a top referee & judge.

There were many more champions at the club but as I never kept any cuttings. This is only coming from my memory.

I think at the State Titles I would be one of the few from the club that would be beaten. I do remember that while I was a boy & sparring with Ron, Joe or Ray or any others if I never held my hands or feet right they would let me know about it.

I started competing in boxing in 1947 losing my first 14 bouts before getting a decision & after that I never lost another bout. I trained at a couple of clubs in Hobart before moving to Collinsvale where I became a Plumbing Apprentice. As an apprentice I had to attend night school four times a fortnight & I had to wait in Hobart for school to start. At 7 o'clock I went to a gym run by Mr Jimmy McGowan who trained a few professionals, one being a welterweight was All McKewan, who I sparred & worked out with, & being on a farm never had many fights. In 1959 I trained boys with my dad at Collinsvale & Chigwell before going to Zeehan in 1966. There I started a club & stayed for 16 years training many state champions. Zeehan being a small mining town it rained most days. When we went to a tournament it would be raining or snowing. I will name a few of my boxers: -

David Taylor won many state titles, & 2 Australian Titles. As a junior lightweight he beat Paul Grossi, in Dubbo, NSW. 1976 in his second Australia Title fight he beat Gary Wilson by 10 points then he went to New Zealand with an Australian team & I believe he was the only boxer to win both his bouts – one at Upper Hut & one at Lower Hut. As a senior he beat everyone he fought & could not get fights in the end so he fought & won the Tasmanian Professional Middleweight title over 20 rounds. He then retired one of the best boxers I have trained.

Clarrie Maine a great junior & senior boxer who won most of his 60 odd fights, many state titles. He represented Tasmania at the Australian Titles in Campbell, NSW winning silver. Clarrie was a great fighter who fought above his weight many times. We must remember these boys have to work shift work & was hard for these boys to get away for trips outside Tassie.

Andy Pearce junior Tasmanian Champion who fought in the 1976 Australian Titles in Dubbo 1976 winning silver. He later retired from boxing due to medical reasons. He also had a brother Sid Pearce a neat southpaw who won state title.

Jerry Oakford junior Tasmanian Champion who won the 1978 Australian Lightweight title in Toowoomba, Queensland keeping the title in the small mining town of Zeehan for 3 consecutive years. Sadly Jerry got killed in a road accident not long after. I had many good boxers in my years at Zeehan but I left in 1981 when I moved to Ulverstone & travelled to Burnie to train boxers with Wayne Gower from 1981 to 1985. One of the boxers was Robbie Blight & he won top junior State Title.

Milton Saltmarsh was a good boxer, who probably had eight fights

Craig Thomas was a good clean boxer & fought for 4 years

Shane Thomas, not many fights

I have trouble remembering names in 1985 to name a few, Robert Eudy, Phil Glover, Stephen Weeks all came to Ulverstone when I started training there

I started a club in Ulverstone in 1985 where I had a few good boxers. Robert Eudy who I trained in Burnie won State Junior Title representing Tassie in three Australian Titles winning one silver, 2 orange. I took Robert to Cobar, NSW where he beat a top NSW boxer in Southland who was a division heavier. Robert was a boxer who could also fight but retired as a junior to resume his studies.

David Chaffy senior boxer awarded best state first year boxer in 1986 fought for three years winning state titles before turning professional & won 7 professional fights in Queensland before retiring.

Peter Marshall won state titles & was awarded best junior novice in 1986 & won many fights before joining the Navy. I believe he won many fights in the Navy.

Kirt Jerkinson senior heavyweight tough boxer I had a battle to get a fight for him in 1988 & he went into the boxing league where he won state & Australian Titles. There were a lot more boxers in Ulverstone many only having a few fights.

In 1992 I returned to the Burnie PCYC where we stayed with the league. Most of the West Coast, North West Coast & the North were all in the league only here for about 4 years but was lucky to have some good boxers. In 1994 I had seven or eight state titles & at least two Australian Titles.

Frank Ciampa won the junior title in 1994, won the senior title, Australia title & still fights as a professional. In 2010 he won the WBF Asia title super middleweight champion.

Murray Brown heavy weight state champion senior

Mark Filluel senior light heavy weight & won several state & Australian titles a junior & senior

Aaron Weeks who fought for Ridgley & Burnie won 10 Australia junior & senior titles mostly with the league

Tim Brown 1994 state junior light flyweight

Andrew Lowrey 1994 state junior light flyweight

Justin Sherriff 1994 state novice welterweight title

Wayne Stafford 1991-1992 state title

From then on 1995 I have trouble remembering because I didn't keep cuttings etc. In 1995 I was thinking about retiring from coaching boxers & was going to Kalgoorlie one day then the next day was at the Kalgoorlie PCYC as a boxing trainer & stayed there till 2000 & trained a lot of boys. As I had retired from work I could train boys through the day, shift works at night. Never travelled much I would have them to fight then they would have to leave or be transferred. One boy Raymond Bentley was a fly in worker. I would go to Fremantle to train him a week or so before a fight.

1996 had a boy win a novice title Ryan?

1997 another boy won state novice title Andrew Pengelly

Also in 1997 an indigenous boy Michael Jones won a state junior title & a silver medal at the Australian Titles in Adelaide.

I returned to Tassie in 2000 & could find anywhere to train in Burnie as the PCYC had stopped boxing there so returned to WA this time to Forrestfield when medical problems had me return to Tassie.

Back in Burnie a young boy by the name of Danny Gould came & asked me to train him. I thought I'd give him a go as he had been training at Devonport. He showed promise so I took him to Ulverstone for sparring with that club till the end of 2010 when I change back to the league taking 4 boys with me. I then entered them in the 2010 state titles with the four of them winning gold, juniors Decar Stevens, Declan Kurrie, Luke Plan & Jeb Cornish at the league title in Hobart. Jeb Cornish – Gold, Luke Plane – Silver, Declan Kurrle – Silver & Decar Stevens – Bronze.

In 2011 I joined Oscar Harding & with Jeb Cornish & Luke Plane we started a Burnie Boxing Club & started getting more boxers in at the league titles with Oscar. We won Gold with Jeb Cornish taking the lightweight & heavyweight titles seniors.

Adam Cook Gold in the junior light heavy.

Wilber Frankcombe Gold in the 60kg division

Cameron Anderson 69kg division

David Lowry 62kg division

We are back with Boxing Australia Ltd. It's thanks to Oscar Harding for allow me to help at the Burnie Boxing Club, how long for I don't know but I will be teaching till the body says no more.

Thank you for taking the time to read this story.

Yours in Boxing

Mr Keith (Tiger) Daniels