

The METROWEST DAILY NEWS

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BOSTON COLLEGE HOSTS EXHIBIT OF IRISH BOXING HERITAGE

PICK THIS FIGHT

By Chris Bergeron
DAILY NEWS STAFF

CHESTNUT HILL - Long before Notre Dame's Fighting Irish won gridiron glory or The Cooz electrified Boston Garden, the original Celtic warrior was a long-armed boxer named Dan Donnelly who trounced the hated English champ in a bloody bare-knuckled brawl in 1815 that made him a national hero.

Since then, Fighting Irishmen from "Boston Strong Boy" John L. Sullivan to Micky Ward of Lowell have punched their way from

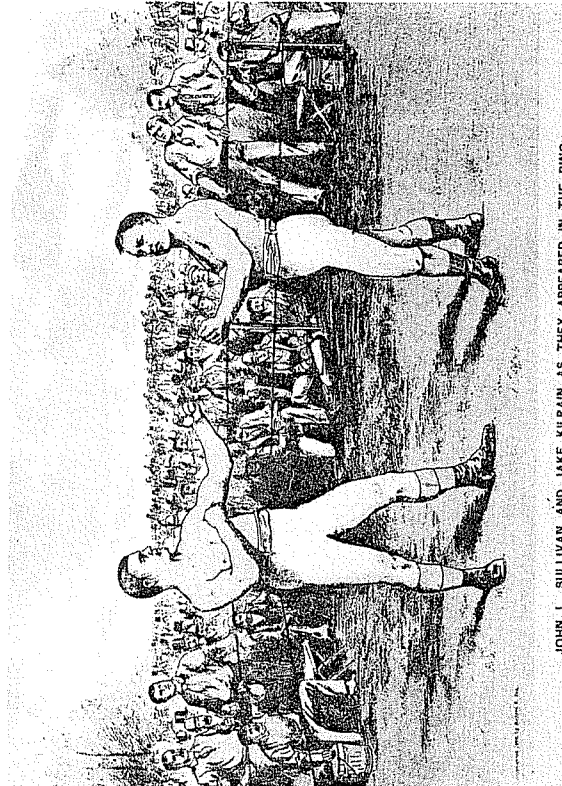
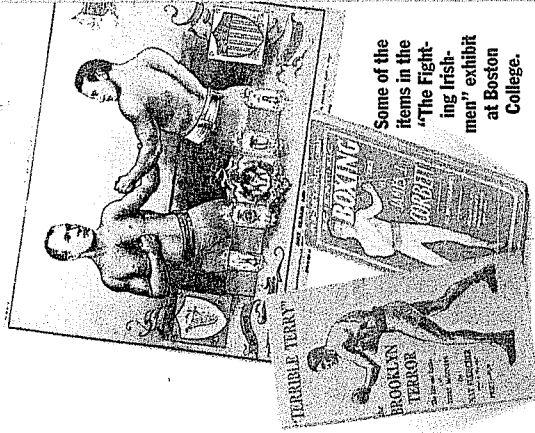
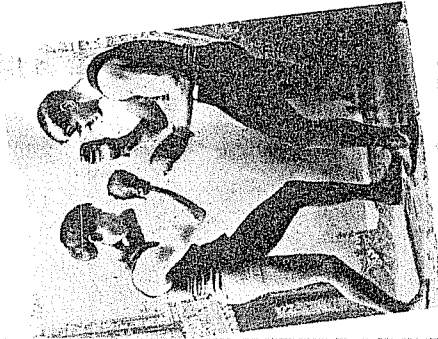
Paloakaville to world titles in a sport that gives immigrants a fighting chance at the American Dream.

The battling sons of Ye Ouid Sod are back in the ring again - including honorary Irishman Mohammed Ali - in a barnburner of an exhibit at Boston College.

Arriving like a haymaker in the stately Burns Library with its glorious stained glass windows, "The Fighting Irishmen: Celebrating Celtic Prizefighters, 1820 to the Present" delivers more knockouts than the Friday Night Fights.

Organized by James J. Houlihan, a New York businessman who promotes Irish culture, it By

"Terrible" Terry McGovern vs. Kid Dougherty in 1897



JOHN L. SULLIVAN AND JAKE KILRAIN AS THEY APPEARED IN THE RING