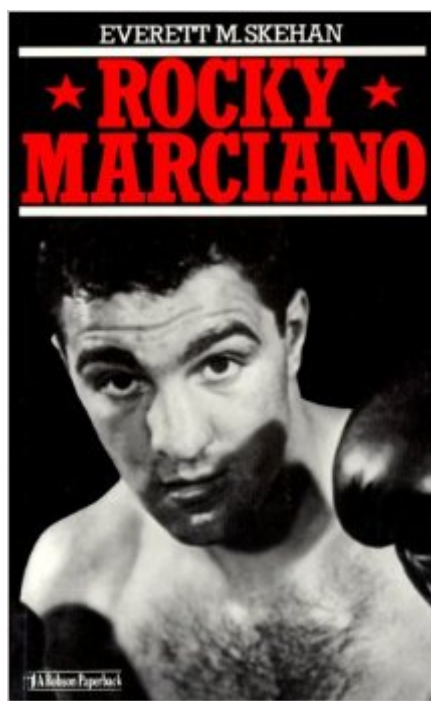


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# Rocky Marciano



## Synopsis

Rocky Marciano (1923-1969) was the only heavyweight champion ever to complete a professional career without a loss. Rocky's record was 49-0, with 43 KOs. He was the greatest slugger in boxing history and knocked out 88 percent of his opponents. Born Rocco Marchegiano, he grew up during America's Great Depression and by 1947 he was the darling of the New York fight crowd. Later that year he turned professional and he became the heavyweight champion of the world when he defeated Jersey Joe Walcott on September 23, 1952. He defended his title six times and retired undefeated in 1956. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Everett M. Skehan did a comprehensive, thoroughly professional biography on a great champion long deserving such attention. Rocky Marciano's soft spoken demeanor prompted him to stay away from media opportunities and let his fists do the talking for him. His incredible record of 49 consecutive professional victories with 43 knockouts serves as a glittering testimonial to his skills. With his quiet demeanor, often to the point of preferring to stay in the background, Marciano would more than likely led an unobtrusive life in his native Brockton, Massachusetts and never missed the publicity had it not been for the fact that he was endowed with a rock hard body and the kind of stamina that brings back memories of boxing's only 3 time champion of the thirties, Hammering Henry Armstrong. Marciano had the shortest reach of any heavyweight titlist, but made up for it with a swarming style that smothered opponents, along with a solid punch that eliminated them. Skehan's life reveals a major point of irony in life, the relativity of great talents. Marciano had

one of the solidest constitutions of any fighter in ring history, possessing awesome power, yet, when he sought to pursue his first love as a boy growing up, baseball, by trying out for the Chicago Cubs as a catcher, he was thwarted. Marciano had the same kind of stolid, stocky build as all-time catching great Yogi Berra of the Yankees. When he tried out for the Cubs, however, he was rejected for not having a strong enough throwing arm. The short term loss proved to be his long term gain since, unless he had ability to rise to the level of a Berra and become a Hall of Famer, Marciano's accomplishments would have diminished compared to his boxing achievements as one of the greatest heavyweight champions of all time.

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