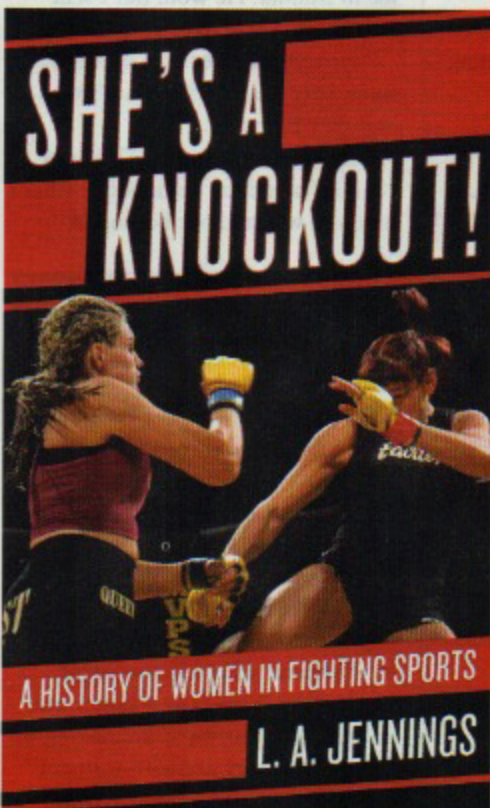


woman who was in the gym in Catskill during the Tyson years.

Hujtyn recalls D'Amato being enthralled by Tyson's potential as a fighter. But at the same time, she remembers Cus prophetically noting, "If he loses desire, it doesn't matter about the rest."



**"She's a Knockout!" by L.A. Jennings** (Rowman & Littlefield) has



an unfortunate title that obscures a serious book.

Jennings is a former mixed martial artist who researched the history of women in combat sports as part of her studies at Florida State University. The book's emphasis is on women who engaged in competition in England and the United States, rather than those who trained for the purpose of conditioning, self-defense, or simply to learn a new art.

The writing is a bit dry at times. But Jennings has conducted serious research and compiled excellent source material on her subject.

Although the book covers all combat sports, boxing is well represented.

How much have attitudes toward the involvement of women in combat sports changed over the years?

I have a collection of uncut boxing tickets from historically significant fights. As I write these words, I'm looking at a "working press" ticket for the Sept. 23, 1952, fight in which Rocky Marciano dethroned Jersey Joe Walcott to claim the heavyweight championship of the world.

The ticket is stamped in capital letters in red ink, "LADIES NOT ADMITTED TO PRESS SECTION."



**Adam Pollack is an**

Iowa attorney who loves boxing. In 2006, McFarland & Company published his first book, a biography of John L. Sullivan.

Like all first-time authors, Pollack was happy to be published. But McFarland controlled the editorial and business side of the process in ways that made him unhappy. So for his next book, he started his own publishing company.

Win By KO Publications now has 12 books in print

with more on the way. Six of the 12 are biographies of early gloved champions written by Pollack himself. There's one novel in the mix, a book by Margaret Goodman entitled "Death in Vegas." Authors contribute to the start-up cost of publication. But if their book sells even modestly well, they make it up on the back end.

Like all good publishers, Pollack rejects books that fall short of his standards for readability and scholarship. "I want to establish a brand name," he says. "It would bother me if a reader felt betrayed

## TONY ZALE THE MAN OF STEEL

His toughest battles weren't fought inside the ring.



THAD ZALE & CLAY MOYLE

"One time, I hit a fellow. I thought I'd killed him. I promised to find he'd get up." —Tony Zale

after buying one of our books."

Win By KO Publications has tapped into a niche market and is making a significant contribution to the preservation of boxing history. Its most recent offering is "Tony Zale: The Man of Steel," written by boxing historian Clay Moyle in collaboration with Thad Zale (Tony's nephew).

Zale was a good fighter and, by all accounts, a good guy. His three brutal middleweight championship fights against Rocky Graziano (Zale won two of the three) are part of boxing lore.

"Rocky wasn't the toughest guy I fought," Zale told his nephew years later. "But he got the best press."

"Tony Zale: The Man of Steel" has strengths and weaknesses similar to Moyle's earlier biographies of Sam Langford and Billy Miske. There's a treasure trove of information but the book reads at times like a 365-page Wikipedia article. On balance, it's worth the read for a look at an important fighter and a bygone era.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at [thausen@rcn.com](mailto:thausen@rcn.com). His most recent book - "Thomas Hauser on Boxing" - was published by the University of Arkansas Press.