BENGAL BOUTS
Feduska continues to contribute to Bouts despite injury

By KELEY MANNING
Sports Writer

Senior captain and Bengal Bouts co-president Collin Feduska has been an Irish gradu- ate in waiting ever since he took his first steps on Notre Dame's campus.

"I was indoctrinated pretty early on," he said. "I actually took my first steps here, which is kind of funny. I have the pic- ture of me taking my first steps. It's very triumphant too, with me holding my hands up and every- thing."

Though that was undoubtedly his first epic moment on cam- pus, Feduska cited a couple other epic moments in his four years at Notre Dame — namely his favor- ites from fighting in Bengal Bouts.

The first two years, [my favor- ite moment] was definitely wait- ing for my fight the first night, sitting there with your robe up. The priest comes over and gives you the blessing, your heart rate starts going up as you stand up and start walking toward the ring, the lights are on you. That was definitely my favorite part," he said. "Even sometimes sitting in class I get flashbacks and my heart will start going up again, as a recurring shoulder dislocation during his sophomore year.

Feduska added a few other memories to his Notre Dame highlight list.

"Looking back on his time at Notre Dame, it was a special place for Feduska and his said his favorite moment in col- lege is his favorite moment of his career, which was fighting in Bengal Bouts.

"It definitely helped out just having the social atmosphere and the adrenaline from the ring with a healthy dose of fear instead of walking around the ring with a healthy dose of fear," Bortolotti said.

Feduska's work ethic has not been forgotten in the ring. "I'm a pretty technical box- er," he said. "I don't like to throw a ton of punches. I like to put on a good boxing match, to the delight of some fans and the disgust of others. Some people are just there to see a gladiator match."

Bortolotti, who is also a So- rin College Resident Assistant, said his style is pretty technical and not too aggressive. "I think my style predicated on the social atmosphere and the adrenaline from the ring with a healthy dose of fear," Bortolotti said.

Feduska's work ethic has not been forgotten in the ring. "I'm a pretty technical box- er," he said. "I don't like to stand there and throw every five or six punches." Bortolotti also competed in the tournament a year ago be- cause he was studying abroad in London during the spring semester.

"It was a tough decision to make, he said. "I was a third-year Notre Dame football season was while I was a student was playing for the Fighting Irish, so I sacrificed a year of Bengal Bouts," he said.

In his first two years of fight- ing, Bortolotti advanced as far as the semifinals during his sophomore year before losing. During his experience with the boxing club, he said he has learned to respect his oppo- nents.

"I definitely learned to re- spect every other fighter for what they are," Bortolotti said. "I'll always be jumping around the corner on an open corner I'll just jump into it. Even if I don't know the guy you're fighting you'll just get re- ally into the fight, just be pound- ing on their backs and yelling stuff at them. It's not hard to get wrapped up in the fight of some- one you have no idea who they are."

Despite missing a year of the tournament, Bortolotti was able to take his first steps on Notre Dame's campus and a captain for this year's Bengal Bouts.

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"I definitely learned to re-
Bouts legend Mike Lee inspires Fessler to begin boxing

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

If you ever need a suggestion for a good television show, senior Bengal Bouts captain Andrew Fessler is the person to ask.

“I’m telling you, I watch a lot of TV. I mean, I gave up Internet TV for fun,” Fessler said. “I can’t wait until ‘Mad Men’ comes back. And if you ever need boxing advice, ‘Fess the Mess’ can help out there as well.

Fessler, who worked with Baraka Bouts in the fall in addition to his captain duties, said one of the highlights of his Bengal Bouts experience was sparring against a novice boxer and watching him improve over the weeks leading up to his first fight.

“I was a lot more experienced then, but he was, and then I helped him out afterwards, trying to tell him what he was doing wrong and how to improve, and in the last session up winning his first fight,” Fessler said.

Fessler is training daily: “Since the beginning of the semester. I thought that was really cool seeing those kids improving and coming back the following week to be a part of the program.”

Before Fessler was a mentor for younger fighters, a Bengal Bouts legend persuaded him to give boxing a try.

“I heard about Bengal Bouts when I was in high school and I thought about going, and I talked to a lot of friends about it, and they lived at a house together when I was a sophomore — but [Lee] convinced me my freshman year.”

While Lee, a professional boxer and three-time Bengal Bouts champion, and his mentor certainly helped, Fessler said he was also attracted by the prospect of joining a new group with other people.

“I really like the whole camaraderie aspect of it,” Fessler said. “As a former football player, that was definitely something that was appealing to me when I heard people talk about Bengal Bouts.”

Fessler said his family and friends back home were generally supportive of his new hobby.

“A lot of people thought it was cool. They were kind of jealous that they would have to do all the boxing at some of their schools, and a lot of people didn’t want to put that much time into it,” Fessler said. “As for my parents, they weren’t too concerned. I’ve always done contact sports — I wrestled, I played football, and they were like, ‘You know what, go for it.’ Though my dad doesn’t really like watching my fights.”

Although Fessler enjoyed his new sport, it was not always smooth sailing in the ring.

“In my freshman fight I got paired up against a former champ in the first round,” Fessler said. “I wasn’t a very good boxer back then, so my goal that fight was just not to get knocked out. I accomplished that goal, but I definitely did not win that fight.”

Fessler improved his sophomore year, reaching the second round. Though he did not fight his junior year due to scheduling conflicts, Fessler returned this year with a vengeance.

“Knocking a kid out in the first round this year — that was pretty cool,” Fessler said of his first round victory over freshman Pat Gallager.

But Fessler’s season ended in the quarterfinals when he lost to sophomore Joel “Hooligan” Hauk by unanimous decision.

“I definitely didn’t fight my best. I gave it my all, but my head wasn’t in it and I couldn’t get comfortable in the ring,” Fessler said.

Fessler said although he will appreciate the free time he has now that he is no longer practicing and competing, it was a disappointing way to end something that was such a large part of his life.

“It really stinks losing, but there’s also a sense of relief when you’re done, because of all this work and time you’ve been spending,” Fessler said. “You obviously want to see it through to the end, so it’s bitterly sad in the sense that you’re free to go on about your life again, but without so much commitment.”

“I think that just bonding with the other captains has been my favorite memory,” Fessler said. “As for my parents, they were cool. They were kind of jealous that I’ve been able to do boxing.

Arnold has gotten off to a good start this year and started competing in the Pit in which he was pleased with the results of his first experience with boxing.

“Going into last year, I hadn’t done an individual sport since high school wrestling, and I had no boxing skills, so I didn’t have really high expectations in the beginning,” Arnold said. “I would have liked to have won all my matches, but I exceeded my own expectations at least.”

With one Bengal Bouts tournament under his belt, Arnold said he knew much of the last year focusing on boxing-specific strength and conditioning.

“I was a bit rusty at the start of the season, so I had to work all summer to get into shape,” Arnold said.

Arnold’s first experience with boxing

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With one Bengal Bouts tournament under his belt, Arnold said he knew much of the last year focusing on boxing-specific strength and conditioning. His training regimen includes a short run in the morning, followed by a session in the Pit in which he practices on the heavy bag or uses focus mitts. Afterward, he usually spars with other boxers and then caps his evening with another short run or a swim.

Training is difficult enough for any Bengal Bouts athlete, but Arnold said boxers must observe different precautions in their training due to their unique style of fighting.

“For heavyweights, the thing that makes you different from other fighters is that you have to be a little more cautious and defensive, since one big punch from another heavyweight boxer can end a fight pretty quick,” Arnold said.

These precautions, however, are not the only caveat in Arnold’s training regimen. Arnold also faces the obstacle of balancing his Bengal Bouts training with the intense workload of his final year of law school. He said these two commitments have forced him to be incredibly efficient at managing his time.

“I think that really what gets sacrificed is my social life, since there’s so many responsibilities I need to meet,” Arnold said. “I just have to manage my time and make sure I’m getting all my work done and getting all the training in.”

Fortunately for Arnold, his dedication to both facets has yielded great benefits, as he will be working in commercial litigation at a Seattle law firm after graduating from Notre Dame.

“I really like the whole camaraderie, but I also have the added benefit of being able to go through all of this with other sports,” Arnold said.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

National football champion Arnold comes to Bouts

By BRIAN HARTNET
Sports Writer

As Bengal Bouts is a taxing competition of physical endurance, it comes as no surprise that many competitors are impressive athletes who can list numerous athletic achievements.

Third-year law student Nate Arnold, however, boasts one unusual accomplishment— he was a member of an NCAA national championship football team.

The Edmonds, Wash., native attended Linfield College in McMinnville, Ore. for his undergraduate studies. While at Linfield, Arnold spent four years on the football team as an offensive tackle, helping the team win the NCAA Division III national championship his freshman year.

Arnold said while the skills needed for football don’t necessarily translate to boxing, his experience as an offensive tackle instilled in him a strong work ethic which he now applies to his boxing career.

“Just as you have to put a lot of time in to box, you have to put a lot of time in to football, you have to devote a lot of time to boxing,” Arnold said. “I’d say the dedication would not be defined by the amount of time you spend at the gym, but more so by your commitment to the sport.”

Arnold continued to pay homage to his alma mater with his unique nickname— “Cadome.”

“Cadome’ is a saying used by my undergrad football team, similar to how “Roll Tide” is used by Alabama,” Arnold said. “It’s a thing that Linfield alumni say to each other, and it embodies the Linfield football spirit.”

After Arnold began law school at Notre Dame, he looked for some sort of athletic activity to fill the void left by football. After devoting his first year of law school to adjusting to the increased workload and more strenuous academics, he decided to take the advice of several of his fellow law students who were involved in Bengal Bouts and started competing in the program last year.

Arnold concluded his first year of competition in Bengal Bouts last season with a strong second-place showing in the heavyweight division, falling in the finals to then-seventh Kevin Cregues. Despite losing his final bout, Arnold said that he was pleased with the results of his first experience with boxing.

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Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu
Following the dodge. Body and head for a jab. Quick duck opens up the rounds where he has the most impact. His quickness allows for advantageous positions. He does not seem to tire easily, so the later rounds are where he has the most impact. His quick duck opens up the body and head for a jab following the dodge.

Kevin Ortenzio vs Ben Eichler

Ortenzio’s quick movement allows for him to dodge and then throw punches from advantageous positions. He does not seem to tire easily, so the later rounds are where he has the most impact. His quick duck opens up the body and head for a jab following the dodge.

Lally def. James Doan in quarterfinals def. Joe Decker in semifinals

Siem def. Mark Frego in quarterfinals def. Tony Luciano in semifinals

Seim wants to make the fight a close bout but is willing to close the gap and take a punch. He is strong and quick and takes up tight spaces and patient enough to find the weakest parts of his opponent’s game.

133 pounds
Jack Lally vs Niels Seim

142 pounds
Nick Bortolotti vs Will Peterson

Bortolotti’s desirable combination of strength and quickness allows him to break down an opponent’s guard with quick combinations. If he can push his opponent to the rope, look for him to unleash huge punches.

148 pounds
Kevin Ortenzio vs Ben Eichler

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Eichler, a showman who looks for the opening his is accurate but powerful. He wants to control the fight using his aggression and strength. When he senses a victory, Eichler’s killer instinct kicks in and he goes for the spectacular finish.

154 pounds
Sunoh Choe vs Garrity McOsker

Choe, a calm and collected fighter, prefers to keep the fight at his pace so he can exhibit his technical prowess. When he is on the offensive, Choe is a powerful attacker that can overwhelm an opponent.

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158 pounds
Greg Cunningham vs Joey Kim

Kim has a long arm reach, so he tries to keep opponents at bay while he figures out their defenses. He is strong on defense and waits for the opponent to let their guard down, then uses his long arms to unleash a series of punches.

165 pounds
Inoh Choe vs Alex Oloriz

Orliz, a quick fighter, dodges a lot, mainly to the right and sweeps punches out of the way with his left hand. He has the most impact. His quick duck opens up the body and head for a jab following the dodge.
171 pounds
Ryan Alberdi vs Jake Joe

Alberdi, strong on defense, does not have the most movement but throws strong calculated punches when he sees the chance. He blocks both body and head punches well, then exploits the opening.

Joe returns to the finals after finishing second in the 167-pound division last year. Joe is an aggressive fighter who wears opponents down by throwing many punches and maintaining a high intensity throughout the fight.

204 pounds
Bart Dear vs Brian Salat

Dear uses his smaller build and low stance to counter his opponents with an array of body shots. He shows a unique ability to anticipate his opponent’s next move, allowing him to protect his body and outlast other fighters over the course of the bout.

Salat utilizes a quick and powerful jab-hook combination. He also features a strong uppercut that he uses frequently and is strong on the defensive end, showing an ability to keep his opponent at bay by deflecting many punches.

180 pounds
Joe Garrity vs Connor Skelly

Garrity displayed his strength, causing multiple stoppages.

Skelly, a veteran boxer, has relied on a mix of strong defense and aggressive punches thus far. He blocks well against opponents’ punches and then uses his long reach to launch high attacks, showing an ability to land many headshots.

PATH TO THE FINALS
Alberdi
def. Zach Harris in quarterfinals

Joe
def. Bryan Cooley in quarterfinals

Joe
def. Jeff Ulrich in semifinals

PATH TO THE FINALS
Dear
def. Ricky Neville in quarterfinals

Salat
def. Robert Hammer in preliminaries

PATH TO THE FINALS
Garrity
def. Peter Ingallina in preliminaries
def. Eric Palatus in quarterfinals
def. Brian Salvi in semifinals

Skelly
def. Steven Kraska in semifinals
def. Nick Grasberger in semifinals

PATH TO THE FINALS
Arnold
def. Rob McKenna in quarterfinals
def. John Rompf in semifinals

Yi
def. Mike Voge in quarterfinals
def. Brian Ellixson in semifinals

PATH TO THE FINALS
Moreno
def. Tim Crowley in quarterfinals
def. Frank Conway in semifinals

Salvi
def. Carl Ianiro in semifinals
def. Brian Tower in semifinals

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PATH TO THE FINALS
Salvi
def. Carl Ianiro in semifinals
def. Brian Tower in semifinals

188 pounds
Adrian Moreno vs Chris Salvi

Moreno possesses an ability to finish strongly, as he has run away with both of his previous matches in the final round. He relies on his strength to defeat opponents, attacking them with a series of well-timed powerful punches.

Salvi, a Notre Dame football player, has simply over-powered his opponents thus far. Salvi uses his muscular build to pound his opponents with powerful punches, but he also demonstrates great quickness in the ring.

PATH TO THE FINALS
Moreno
def. Tim Crowley in quarterfinals
def. Frank Conway in semifinals

Salvi
def. Carl Ianiro in semifinals
def. Brian Tower in semifinals

Bengal Bouts Finals
Saturday, March 3 | Purcell Pavilion | 7 p.m.

Heavyweight
Nate Arnold vs Daniel Yi

Arnold, who is surprisingly quick, looks to get his opponents backing up with furious jabs and powerful hooks. He fights aggressively and likes to attack first with his deadly combination of agility and strength.

Yi is nimble for the heavyweight division, but he also has the expected strength. He has an impressive dodging ability and has quick hands. He is able to attack his opponent with both jabs and hooks that can catch the other fighter by surprise.
Skelly grows from sophomore novice to senior captain

By ISAAC LORTON
Sports Writer

Senior Connor Skelly, left, exchanges blows with senior Nick Grasberger during his semifinal win Feb. 28. Skelly will fight in the finals against senior Joe Garrity on Saturday.

“Every year in boxing is a new experience,” he said. “I went through all of them to get here. You always have to keep thinking about how you’ll get the best punches in and what your opponent is going to do and how you’ll counteract them.”

This year as a captain, Skelly has taken extra responsibilities. He has a variety of duties, including organizing practices and work-outs, calling coach-es, selling shirts and performing other small tasks. He jokes about some of these duties, but nonetheless takes them all seriously and realizes their value towards developing a good year of bouts.

“It’s a totally student-run thing and the captains have to organize everything,” he said. “I have been typing up a lot of emails lately. I didn’t realize before all the little things I had to do as a captain, but I’ll do whatever I need to in order for Bengal Bouts to be the best. My duties as captain don’t go against my training though. As captains, we prepare a hard work-out and then do the work-out with everyone else.”

Skelly put a lot of emphasis on the team aspect of the Bengal Bouts and said his favorite task is helping novices. He said he hopes he can be a positive influence on the younger fighters and emulate what the older fighters did for him.

“My favorite thing about Bengal Bouts is the team aspect,” Skelly said. “I know everyone comes to the tournament and that’s exciting, but we’ve been training since October. I like working with the guys. A lot of my good friends I have met through Bengal Bouts. I want to keep that going with the novices and then have them keep it going. I want them to have the same experience of camaraderie I had and continue this tradition with future fighters.”

Skelly said he has learned numerous lessons throughout his years of Bengal Bouts and wants to share these lessons with the other fighters, especially the novices.

“I think you gain a lot of self-discipline,” he said. “Also, working as a team is something I’m really proud of. Although boxing is an individual sport, all of the workouts and sparring together build teamwork.”

The San Diego native was never a competitive person and said his family has expressed mixed feelings about his boxing career.

“My mom hates it, but the rest of my family thinks it’s really cool,” Skelly said. “I send videos of my fights to them and they usually enjoy the fights. I always bring home shirts for my brother and cousins, and they like me boxing.”

Skelly will fight in the 180-pound weight-class finals against senior Joe Garrity with his eyes on the prize, but most importantly, the senior said he is happy passing on the tradition of Bengal Bouts.

Contact Isaac Lorton at ilorton@nd.edu

By ERNST CLEOF
Sports Writer

Children aided by Bengal Bouts inspire captain Oloriz

“Every year in boxing is a blessing because I know it’s more than fighting,” he said. “We’ve got to get out there and fight for a higher purpose.”

Recently, the training room walls were decorated with various letters from children in Bangladesh expressing their gratitude to the boxers. The visible manifestation of Bengal Bouts’ impact has only enhanced the meaning of the fights for Oloriz.

“I went through all of them to post a couple on the website and the thing that I can be most proud of is that the biggest reward is seeing that you are really making a difference,” he said. “I can show them they say, ‘I send you all of these letters and it feels like I have a little bit of Bangladesh around.’”

This season, Oloriz has used the money raised to support the kids in the finals, defeating junior Dallas Bums in a unanimous decision. He will look to take his first Bengal Bouts crown as he takes on junior Inoh Choe in the 165 lbs final Saturday.

Contact Ernst Cleofe at ecleofe@nd.edu
Lally looks to take home third consecutive championship

By BRENDAN BELL

Junior captain Jack Lally returned from studying in London last semester with a greater sense of focus, as well as a different perspective on boxing thanks to his experiences in Bangladesh.

"Coming back, everyone else was already in full stride," Lally said. "It was a matter of getting used to how things work. All of a sudden I come back from being abroad and have different position as a captain."

Lally, a resident of Keough Hall from New Jersey, said that his past experience has made the adjustment back to Bengal Bouts in the spring semester easier.

"I was at first nervous about this year, being away for so long and coming back," Lally said. "But it was also nice coming in and knowing what I am capable of, knowing the sport and having two years of experience."

That experience has helped Lally continue to win this year, defeating senior James Doan in the 157 lbs. division. Lally brought back his experience back to Notre Dame in a way consistent to serve the mission in Bangladesh. One of Ulrich's main responsibilities as a captain this year was marketing and advertising for Bengal Bouts.

"The captains thought it would be valuable to have me on the team helping out and being able to share some of that experience, especially because they put me in charge of marketing," Ulrich said. "I had to go out and have a hundred meetings with different people. I always get to talk about being in Bangladesh, which is helpful for marketing and advertising."

Even though Ulrich has been busy fundraising for Bengal Bouts, he has also worked hard in the ring this year.

"With two years of experience under his belt, Ulrich now understands the importance of training with the team."

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"Those two aspects came to the forefront and I realized that I'm not the fairest person to come to school, so when I really just wanted to try something new, I heard it was fun and it would keep me in shape," Lally said. "It is much easier to push yourself physically when there is a competition involved."

While Lally has been successful in the ring, he realizes his role as a captain goes beyond the scorecard decision at the end of the day. As a captain, he said he sees the true value in being a Notre Dame boxer.

"With that experience and the role as a captain comes responsibility," Lally said. "I had never done an individual sport before boxing, but at the same time there is a very strong team element to this program. I'm training for bigger things."

Lally humbly admitted his success during his novice year, winning the 133 lbs. division. In his sophomore year, he moved up to the 154 lbs. division and won his weight class once again.

"In my sophomore year was a 100 percent commitment to make myself as good as I could get," Lally said. "In boxing, you really have to focus a lot on every single aspect. It isn't a sport where you can go from 4:30 to 6 and then do whatever else you want the rest of the day — it is a lifestyle."

When Lally came to Notre Dame, he was not familiar with boxing, but he said his past athletic experiences helped speed up his development.

"In high school I was a big-time soccer player and that was my passion," Lally said. "I also picked up hockey goalie and ran track toward the end of my high school career." Lally said. "I ran the 400-meter and 800-meter, which is convenient because it is one to two minutes of endurance training, much like boxing."

"It's true value in being a Notre Dame boxer," Lally said. "He's watched videos, but he [got] to watch from a different year and I [got] to have an extra fan."
Ortenzio serves as co-president in his final Bouts

Senior Kevin Ortenzio, left, prepares to throw a punch at junior Alex Calderon during his quarterfinal win Feb. 22.

By MIKE MONACO
Sports Writer

For a right-handed fighter like senior co-president Kevin Ortenzio, the jab — the fundamental punch in the sport of boxing — is thrown with the left hand. Thus, it would be seemingly impossible to fight without a left arm.

For Ortenzio, this reality hits close to home, as his boxing career was almost brought to a screeching halt before it even started.

As a high school freshman, Ortenzio was hospitalized with a bacterial infection known as Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). The bacteria cause something similar to a staph infection but, as the name suggests, are resistant to many commonly-used antibiotics. In Ortenzio’s case, things got so bad that he was days away from having his arm amputated.

Ortenzio, an avid high school wrestler, eventually survived the perilous situation and used it as a learning experience.

“After I recovered, I used what I learned from [the experience] to take that move forward and keep going on with life,” Ortenzio said. “And that’s what I did with my wrestling season and with my schoolwork.”

Now seven years removed from the scare, Ortenzio is in full control of his left arm every time he unleashes a quick jab. However, that hasn’t stopped him from realizing just how blessed he is. Ortenzio said, “God has blessed me with good health up to this point and I thank him each day for the doctors that were there seven years ago.”

Ortenzio said, “[It] feel so blessed and now I try to take advantage of it and make the most of it because you never know when the opportunities will go away. You never know when you could lose an arm or be sick or very ill.”

Ortenzio has certainly made the most of his opportunities through his four years of participating in Bengal Bouts.

As a freshman, Ortenzio won his preliminary fight before getting eliminated in the quarterfinals by one of the then-senior captains. During his sophomore campaign, Ortenzio made it all the way to the finals before losing by split decision to then-senior Kieran Bulger. Last year as a junior captain, Ortenzio took the next step and won the 148-pound division championship.

Ortenzio is hoping to defend his title this year and get the ball rolling in the quarterfinals with a victory over junior Alex Calderon. Despite the unanimous decision, Ortenzio said he saw some room for improvement in the fight.

“That fight went very well but I still have a few things to work on,” Ortenzio said. “[Calderon] put in all three rounds against me. I was able to stick it to him in the end but we both had fun and he landed a couple good blows at me. So it’s something I need to work on for the semifinals.”

In addition to the boxing side of things, Ortenzio has become more involved with the service aspect of the club both as a junior captain and a co-president. The native of Siegfried Hall and Camp Hill, Penn., had the opportunity to travel to Bangladesh last summer and see firsthand where the Bengal Bouts proceeds were going. Ortenzio said the experience, organized through the International Summer Service Learning Program, has changed his outlook on the boxing club.

“Through that experience I knew my mission for being part of this club,” Ortenzio said. “My sole intent of going to practice and working out with the guys and doing the whole fundraising aspect has really changed.

It used to be something really small things which is the same thing here — you appreciate the small things like ‘I landed a pretty good jab today.’

Fortunately, Ortenzio still has his left arm for all those jabs.

Ortenzio will face sophomore Ben Eichler in the finals Saturday.

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