



Tommy Kost

Year of Induction: **2023**

Year of Graduation: **1966**

As a student in his last years in high school, Tommy Kost was drawn to the work-study program that would allow him to make money. While it was common for many upperclassmen at that time to pair their high school studies with a job in a local business, it also meant giving up participating in high school sports.

However, high school was not the end of Kost's athletic career. In fact, it was a beginning in the world of boxing and it all began in Binghamton, New York. Kost was discovered as a boxer at the Binghamton YMCA where he regularly sparred. A man named Jimmy Gallagher discovered him there recognizing his talent in the ring. Gallagher became his manager and stood by Kost's side in his first ten fights. He won two Golden Gloves- one in Buffalo and one in Las Vegas where he had two one-round knockouts.

After his amateur bouts and changing managers for the lure of the promise of making money, Kost turned professional. His pro-fighting career extended from 1970 to 1978 with 20 wins and only eight losses. These matches took place in Binghamton, Scranton, Alexandria Bay, Madison Square Garden, and even as far as South Africa.

By his own admission, he was always looking for that one big shot as a pro boxer. He loved his boxing career which earned him the nickname Tommy "K.O." Kost. He was competitive and appeared on the same cards as Muhammed Ali, Floyd Patterson, and Jerry Quarry and even sparred with the well-known boxer, Gerry Cooney.

Leaving his professional boxing career behind him, Kost continued to keep boxing alive in the Binghamton area for eighteen years. Teaching at the Binghamton YMCA led to starting his own business in the Endwell and Endicott area. Nautilus of Endwell and Tommy Kost Nautilus were both successful enterprises.

Eventually, Kost settled in Saratoga Springs with his wife, Elaine. He is still teaching at the Saratoga YMCA with classes in conditioning which includes shadow boxing and with the bag to both males and females. He no longer teaches sparring.

The Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes Tommy Kost as a 2023 member of the Johnson City Hall of Fame for his athletic achievements and his continuing contributions to the sport he loved.