

Chicago Police Star



Vol. 34, No. 4, Dec. 2003

Chicago Police Pound Fire “Fighters” In Worthy Cause

The Chicago Police Department earned bragging rights for another year by pummeling the Chicago Fire Department in the 2nd Annual “Battle of the Badges” boxing event for police and fire charities. The event was held on September 20, 2003, in the St. Rita High School gymnasium, 7740 South Western.

In donning boxing gloves and headgear and armed with the courage to enter the ring, members of both Departments helped raise more than \$30,000 for worthy causes. Police charities benefiting from the event included St. Michael’s House, the Chicago Police Peer Support Program, and Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS).

Officer **Ken Corcoran**, Unit 132, served as the Department’s principal organizer, utilizing his vast experience as a boxer, trainer, promoter, and judge. To provide the best competition,



Officer Mark Sedevic (008) lands a vicious left to his Chicago Firefighter opponent.

Corcoran carefully matched CPD and CFD members of various ranks, ages, weight, and experience levels to engage in the three one-minute round contests.

The Chicago Police won seven of

the 11 action-packed bouts in front of about 1,800 spectators.

The participants, who underwent months of intense training, deserve high praise because the contests were serious competitions. Retired Chicago Police Detective **Austin Corcoran**, Ken Corcoran’s father, helped train the CPD fighters in Leo High School on the South Side. “They impressed me with their determination and dedication,” said the elder Corcoran. “A couple of these fighters could legitimately compete professionally.”

The young boxers were equally as impressed with the rugged 66-year-old pugilist’s strength-conditioning program. “I told them that I don’t expect them to do anything that I can’t do myself,” said the elder Corcoran as he lifted dumbbells and then dropped for a series of push-ups.

Assistant State’s Attorney **Mike Joyce** helped secure Leo High School

continues, see “Fighters” at bottom of page 9



Chicago Police and Fire boxers receive a standing ovation by 1,800 spectators as they enter the arena at the start of the 2nd Annual “Battle of Badges” charity competition. In foreground, from left, are Det Joe McCarthy (640), Sgt Buddy Lopez (009), Civ Keith Spurlin (011), and PO Patrick Thelen (011).

“Fighters”

continued from page 7

for the training sessions and, being a former professional boxer himself, assisted in training our fighters. **Patrick Mulkerrin Sr.**, veteran Chicago Park District boxing instructor, also helped train our Department fighters in the Brooks Park gym on the North Side. Officers said that the expertise of these veteran trainers surely helped them win this year’s event.

Chicago Police Department members who either fought or were ready to fight were: Sergeants **Jim Eldridge** (153), **Rich Kearney** (153), and **Buddy**



Members of the CPD Honor Guard conduct the opening ceremony as Officer Arturo Andonaequi (001) sings our national anthem.

Lopez (009); Detectives **Gerald Hamilton** (620) and **Joe McCarthy** (640); FTO **Sidney Pennix** (353); P.O.s **Chris Barajas** (012), **Carl Carter** (006), **Nick Cortesi** (715-B), **Bryan Farrell** (001), **John Frano** (014), **Larry Gade** (153), **Courtney Johnson** (006), **Patrick Mulkerrin Jr.** (015),

Mark Sedevic (008), and **Patrick Thelen** (011); and Civilians **David Lewis** (127) and **Keith Spurlin** (011).

Article by Mr. Dennis Bingham, News Affairs, Office of the Superintendent. Photos by Ms. Deborah Trainor, Graphic Arts Section.