

## Boxer wins decisively, prepares for 2 big events

A boxer who is a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians scored a decisive win Saturday at a Bay City tournament, and will fight in the U.S.A. Boxing Tournament next spring at Leelanau Sands Casino.

Mitchell Sullivan won a unanimous decision at the Bay City Invitational after knocking down opponent Randy Bliss twice.

"Mitchell is a powerful and exciting boxer," said Bill Bustance of Trigger Boxing in Traverse City, the club where Sullivan trains. "The taller Bliss had no defense for Mitchell's left hook to the body."

The 22-year-old Sullivan, the son of Mary Shomin and James Sullivan of Fife Lake, has come a long way since fighting his first match at the now defunct Three Fires Boxing Club in Peshawbestown as a 14-year-old, Bustance added.

"He lost that fight, the club disbanded and Mitchell lost his interest in boxing" until about a year ago, Bustance said.

Sullivan's mother, who works in the Grand Traverse Band's legal department in Peshawbestown, said she's not only proud of her son's success but of his commitment to improved exercise and diet.

"Mitchell's healthier, he's more conscious of what he eats, he works out more, and he's more focused," Shomin said. "Bill plays such an important role in mentoring Mitchell and the other boxers, and it shows."

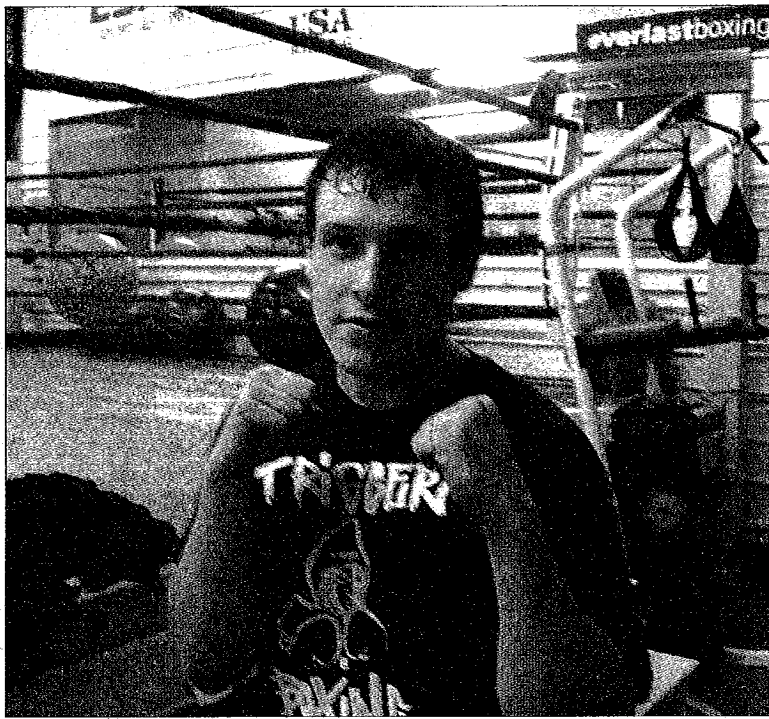
Bustance said the 5-foot-8 Sullivan's weight had ballooned to 225 pounds shortly before he expressed a renewed interest in boxing less than a year ago. "We started training and when he got to 180 pounds we started looking for a match," said Bustance.

Sullivan lowered his weight to 165 pounds when his first match was set up, but his opponent changed his mind about fighting. In August, another match was scheduled against Jose Ramirez from the Golden Gloves gym in Grand Rapids. Bustance said Sullivan lost a three-round split decision, but showed he could handle himself in the ring.

"Mitchell had him hurt with the left hook to the body but failed to come back with the jab to finish him off," Bustance said.

Bustance said in addition to Sullivan fighting at the Sands during the May 14-15 U.S.A. Boxing tournament, he'll compete for the 152-pound title at the Michigan Golden Gloves championships in Grand Rapids in March.

Shomin said her son plans to enroll in the welding program at Northwestern Michigan College.



MITCHELL SULLIVAN trains at Trigger Boxing in Traverse City.

## 13 all-league soccer players are honored

Thirteen county athletes were named to the Greater Northwest Conference All-Conference soccer team last week.

Players from Leelanau County recognized with first-team honors were:

Forwards – Zach Hawkins of Glen Lake and Shane MacDonald of Suttons Bay, both seniors.

Midfielders – Seniors Justin Dalzell and Jason McKisson of Suttons Bay, Dustin Baker of Glen Lake, and Eric Larsen of Leland.

Defense men – Seniors Shane Detweiler of Northport, Jason Schleuter of Leland, and Cody Shumway of Suttons Bay, and juniors Danny Holmes of Suttons Bay and Ryder Lewis of Glen Lake.

Goalkeepers – Senior Ben Fellows of Leland and sophomore Jared Orban of Suttons Bay.

County players earning second-team honors were:

Forwards – Seniors Ray Platts of Leland and Max Raphael of Northport, and juniors Justin Maleski of Leland and Jessie Bressette of Northport.

Midfielders – Seniors Forest Tarsa of Leland and Quinton Buss of Northport, junior Conner Ott of Suttons Bay.

Defense men – Seniors John Lee of Glen Lake and Drew Gauthier.

Goalkeepers – Juniors Ryan Black of Glen Lake and Jason Tropp of Northport.

Honorable mention selections included junior Nate Sharpe and freshman Luke Wichtoski, both of Glen Lake.

The all-league team was selected Wednesday, Nov. 12. Teams that comprise the Greater Northwest Conference include Benzie Central, Buckley, Glen Lake, Leland, Northport, Traverse City Christian, and 2008 league champion Suttons Bay.



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