

# Collected Wisdom: Sean O'Grady

Interviewed by Robert Przybylo

One name that is synonymous with Oklahoma and boxing is Sean O'Grady. It's been 27 years since he won the WBA lightweight title, but his name is still fresh. O'Grady was recently named the best boxer ever from Oklahoma on ESPN.com.



While O'Grady retired in 1983, he's never left the fight game. He's been a broadcaster and now he's service the role of teacher. O'Grady has taken lightweight Noah Zuhdi under his wing for Zuhdi's bout with George Colbert for the vacant Oklahoma lightweight title Monday night at Remington Park.

*When I was a kid, I knew I wanted to be an athlete. I wanted to play football. I loved it. During the offseason, I would box. It was my boxing career that really took off. My parents owned a gym, so it was only natural.*

*I wanted to be somebody. I wanted to something and have people like me. I told my best friend in fifth grade that I would one day become the champion of the world.*

*It was imperative things turned out the way they did. I had a sincere belief that boxing was for me. I had to box. I never had any doubts. If I wouldn't have won the title, I might have had some regrets. But things turned out well for me. I love being me.*

*My championship belt is in the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame. That's really special to me. It was at that point I realized all the sacrifices-the early-morning workouts, the strict diet-everything was worth it.*

*Boxing is its own worst enemy. The sport needs to build stars, but it can't right now. Boxing used to always be free on TV. Everybody knew about it because of ABC's "Wide World of Sports." The best fights are seen by the fewest amount of people because they're all on pay-per-view now.*

*I miss the immediate gratification from fighting. It's not the same feeling announcing the fights, but it's kept me in the sport. It's allowed me to build even more relationships.*

*I work in real estate now. It's a different kind of challenge, but it's something I've learned to enjoy.*

*I like working with young fighters and helping them grow. But I could never see myself being trainer and working in the corner. I'll help the guys in the gym and help them with things I see, but that's where it stops for me.*

*It's tough and takes a long time to build trust in boxing. I've seen a lot of good and bad things. But I still love the sport. It's still my passion.*