

LIONEL ROSE WINS WORLD TITLE



Lionel (with his ever-present pipe) is welcomed at Sydney airport on his return from Japan as the world bantamweight champion. Melbourne is his home-town now, and when he arrived there later in the day he couldn't believe so many people (in their thousands) were thrilled by his win (picture courtesy Sydney Morning Herald)

Nineteen-years-old Lionel Rose realized a life-long ambition to become a world boxing champion when he beat Japan's "Fighting" Harada in Tokyo late in February for the world bantamweight title.

It took him 5 years and 48 fights to get a shot at the titleholder in Japan, but Lionel pulled it off and brought the title to Australia.

His father was a fighter, too, who died 6 years ago of a heart attack after a life of taking on all-comers in boxing tents at country shows.

Lionel said that his father, Roy, taught him a lot more than how to throw a punch. Lionel has

invested his winnings (he received \$7,500 for his share of the title bout) into safe investments. "This is one Aboriginal boxer who will not die broke or finish up a tent fighter," Lionel said about himself. (In the first few days since he returned from Japan, Lionel received six offers totalling \$250,000 to defend his title.)

Jack Rennie (Lionel's manager) and Mrs Rennie practically adopted Lionel when he turned professional in 1964. They have advised him how to invest his money safely and treat him as a member of their family.