



Staff photo by Chuck Daugherty

Bob Boggs throws a kick to sparring partner Mark Payne while preparing for Friday's state title bout as Jeff Payne watches.

Boggs fights for state crown Friday

Olathean Bob Boggs will make his debut in full contact karate Friday night in Wichita when he takes on Alan Santiago of Wichita for the Kansas state heavyweight title.

Boggs and three others from the Kansas City area will fight at the West Branch YMCA in Wichita in a tournament sponsored by Roger Carpenter and recognized by the Professional Karate Association.

Five state title matches in all will be held beginning at 8 p.m.

Boggs, chief instructor at Kenukan Academy in Olathe, is a blackbelt but has never ventured into full-contact professional karate.

"This is a new experience for me," he commented. "I'm looking forward to the challenge.

"I think I can take Santiago in two rounds (of a scheduled three-round bout)," Boggs added. "The thing I have to be careful about is to get the required amount of kicks per round (eight)."

Boggs has trained for this fight by working out with Steve Mackey of Shawnee who is rated number nine in the world for light heavyweights.

Joining Boggs from Kansas City, Ks. are Mark and Jeff Payne and Ray Patton.

Mark Payne, a 24-year-old who is undefeated in six full-contact bouts, fights Earl Gilkey of Tulsa, Oklahoma for the state middleweight crown. Mark is fighting his way back into national contention after suffering injuries two years ago.

"I was rated number five in the world in 1976 and was going to fight Bill (Superfoot) Wallace in Jamaica," Payne commented. "But one-and-a-half weeks before the fight, I broke my arm while sparring."

Mark's brother Jeff takes on Alan Kelly of Tulsa in a lightweight match. Kelly is also a national contender. Jeff, 5-7 145 lb. 23-year-old, is 5-1 with his one setback coming on a split decision with world welterweight champion Bob Ryan of Rhode Island.

Patton is 5-2 and is paired against Tommy Williams of Oklahoma City in a super lightweight fight Friday. Patton is 25 years old.

One other bout is scheduled between Tony Georgiades of Oklahoma City and Greg Gorrell of Wichita.