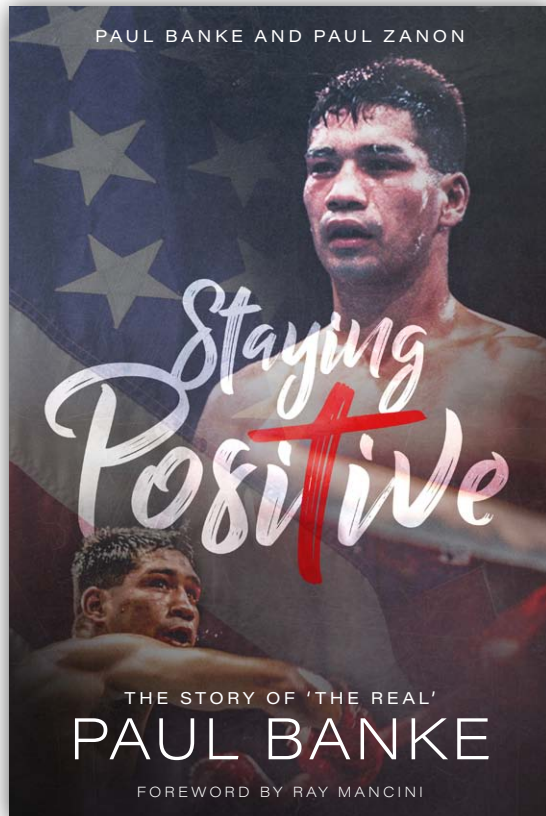




Title information



Staying Positive

The Story of the 'The Real' Paul Banke

By Paul Banke, with Paul Zanon

Key features

- A cautionary tale of overbearing relevance to a generation of young sports stars and fans worldwide
- Huge human-interest value ensures appeal to mainstream as well as sporting readership: Banke was the first US boxer with AIDS to go public
- Inspirational and appalling in equal measure – but a story that is impossible to ignore
- Written in the first-person voice of Paul Banke, in collaboration with his close friend, bestselling author and boxing journalist, Paul Zanon
- Colour photo section including pictures from Paul's personal collection, as well as other ephemera
- Publicity campaign planned including radio, newspapers, websites and magazines

Description

A member of the USA's stellar 1984 Olympic boxing team, Paul Banke then scaled the heights as a professional to become world champion in 1990. Unfortunately, throughout his career, he was at the mercy of his secret mistress – drugs. As part of the celebrity slipstream, Banke often had free access to heroin, crystal meth and cocaine. Best remembered for his epic trilogy with Daniel Zaragoza, drugs overtook him and Banke soon became a forgotten champion. Shortly after retiring in 1993, he was homeless and destitute. Having not eaten for three days, Banke found himself lying in a dumpster in Vegas, ecstatic at finding a partially consumed cheeseburger. Arrested for grand theft auto in 1995 he was urged in jail to take an HIV test, due to sharing needles. He had contracted full-blown AIDS. Miraculously, after three decades of drug abuse, Banke turned his life around in September 2014 and became clean and sober. Now once again warmly embraced by the boxing fraternity, he shares his story to inspire and deter those on a similar path.

Details

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