

# ProFiles

Daniel Peltz

## BOXER THEN, TAX GUY NOW.

**Y**ou could say that boxing is in Dan Peltz's blood. The son of Hall of Fame boxing promoter J. Russell Peltz, Dan grew up around the sport but never actually stepped into the ring until 2002, when he was home in Philadelphia on a summer break from Indiana University (IU) in Bloomington, Indiana.

His boxing career started innocently enough: just a few weeks in a downtown Philadelphia gym, where he learned the fundamentals and sparred with experienced fighters. He returned to the gym the following summer and began to feel proficient. That led to more serious training—three times a week at a gym near the IU campus. And that led, inevitably, to an urge to compete.

With a bit of gentle encouragement from his dad, Dan entered the Indiana Golden Gloves, a well-regarded amateur tournament. Fighting in the 165-pound middleweight class in front of a small but rowdy crowd, Dan won his first match.

But then he came up against a truly imposing force—his mother.

"I knew my mom would kill me if she knew I was fighting, so I didn't tell her," says Dan. "But she found out. She was surfing the Web and found an article about me in the *Indianapolis Star*. She got mad, mostly at my dad, and we told her I wouldn't fight again. But you can't pull out in the middle of a tournament. It's not right."

Dan forged ahead, winning his second-round match and advancing to the third and final round of the tournament. He lost that bout, but it was close. "I thought I beat the guy," says Dan. "And so did the crowd."

Dan graduated with a master's degree in accounting soon after the Golden Gloves ended. A few months later, he started work in KPMG's Philadelphia office. His brief but thrilling boxing career was over.

"I don't have time for boxing now," says Dan. "Besides, my mom *really* would kill me if I fought again." Dan's girlfriend wouldn't stand for it either. "She'd kill me too," he says, laughing. "I'm very happy here at KPMG, and I'm focused on my work. Maybe someday I'll go back into the gym for exercise."

Maybe. It's in his blood. ▲

