

# Local duo sells women's boxing well

Erin Krekoski and Lita Mae Button, two Peterborough boxers, are taking part in the Double Duel Women's Boxing Tournament in Nashville, Tenn. this weekend.

Krekoski, a Trent student, said she always wanted to box but there was never any club nearby in her home of St. Paul, AB.

"When I came to Peterborough to the club," she said last week, "the first thing the coach said was,

"What do you want to box for with a pretty face like that?"

Now coached by Scott Eccles and Terry Dummit, she finds her current club, Bel Boxing and Kickboxing Club in Bridgenorth very supportive.

Krekoski added: "I was always attracted to really challenging sports.

I played high school football on an all-boys team."

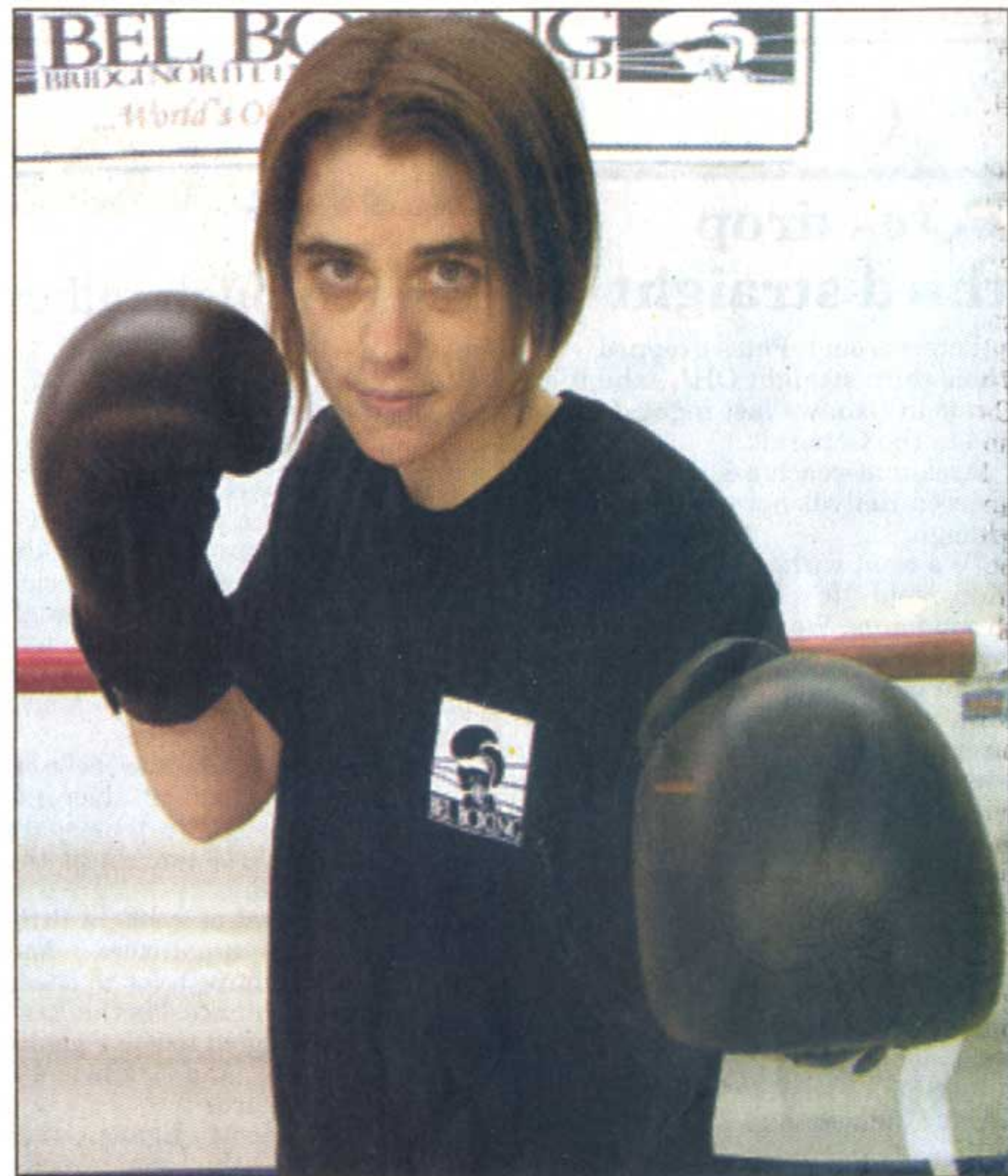
Krekoski competes in the Senior Open Women's category and is the 2005 Ontario Open silver medallist in the 66kg division.

Button, a mother of a three-year-old boy and also a student, did some kickboxing when she was a student in Barrie. Raised just north of Peterborough, Button's motive for taking up boxing was different.

"I did it for protection," she said, "after reading about a brutal attack of a young woman."



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gible for limited financial support. The national team travels to meets around the world. Canada also has a 34-year-old limit on

A novice fighter would never be paired with a more experienced one. When women's boxing is dis-

Bel Boxing Club photos  
Lita Mae Button (left) and Erin Krekoski have promoted women's boxing locally

On a positive note, both women felt the movie tweaked the interest of a number of women to explore the possibilities of getting into box-

For more information the women ask anyone to contact Scott Eccles at (705) 768-0327. The boxing club also has a web

Button also competes in the Senior Open category and was the 2005 Ontario gold medallist and Canadian silver medallist in the 75kg Novice division as well as the 2006 75kg Canadian silver medallist.

Each girl will box two bouts in Nashville. They are funding the trip themselves hoping to gain experience and eventually recognition for a place on the Canadian International team.

Women's boxing is currently not an Olympic event so government funding is limited. If they make the national team, they will be eli-

international team members. This creates a small window of opportunity for women boxers.

Bouts are three two-minute rounds. The boxers use 10-ounce gloves, wear headgear, breast and pelvic protection.

"I never fear for my safety," Krekoski added. "My coaches look out for what is best for me."

Like the men, women compete in weight divisions. Unlike the males, female divisions are more defined, often with only a four-pound differential. Also boxing experience is a major determinant in who fights who.

cussed, the recent hit movie on the topic, *Million Dollar Baby*, is brought up.

"I was so excited about the movie when it was coming out," Krekoski explained. "There was finally going to be a movie about women's boxing."

But the movie was such a let-down for both women because, in their opinion, women in boxing clubs are always respected, unlike what was depicted in the movie.

Button added: "I never experienced a coach who would refuse to train a woman, and women would never get a \$1-million title shot."

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Button's immediate goal is to make the national team. Afterwards she would like to take her experience into coaching

For Krekoski, a spot on the national team is also her goal but she sees eventually using her experience to bring more girls and women into the sport.

Both girls hope the awareness of their trip to the Nashville meet will attract some local girls and women to the sport. Also, they would welcome any sponsors to assist in the finances of the trip and those in the future.

site at [www.belboxing.com](http://www.belboxing.com).

A suggestion of rather than purchasing a copy of *Million Dollar Baby* and add to Clint Eastwood's millions of dollars, maybe a cash donation along with a trip out to Bridgenorth to see what women's boxing is really about, may be in order.

*Don Barrie is a retired schoolteacher, former scout for the NHL's Buffalo Sabres and a member of the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame and the Peterborough and District Sports Hall of Fame. His column appears Saturdays in The Examiner.*