

# Living Arts

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THE BOSTON GLOBE THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2001



**Ann Marie Francey**  
"It's tough, especially if you're in their weight class, to get a lot of respect — you've got to earn it. A lot of people don't think they've earned it enough. They get things because of who they are not what they do."

**Monique Ward**  
"I've never seen her [Laila Ali] fight anyone with a legitimate record. I've only seen her fight a woman with a record of more losses than wins. But that's what they do in pro boxing. You can tell how good they are as a fighter by how good their opponent is, you know what I mean?"

**Raphaella Johnson**  
"This one nobody really knows anything about either fighter. You see Laila Ali showing up in Como with her nails and it's all bull. To me, there's nothing really admirable about it."

**Ashley Kalus**  
"It's like a sick fight. We don't want it to be a chick fight — Well here, take your gloves off and scratch each other's eyes out. That's not what boxing's about."

## Ringside view

Local women boxers aren't pulling punches about the hyped Ali-Frazier fight



By Vanessa E. Jones  
*SCORE CARD*

Enter Farrell's Boxing Gym in Quincy Center and immediately the nostrils are assaulted by the smell of old dirty socks," as Monique Ward describes it. Ward, 32, grew accustomed to the scent four years ago, when she started training at the gym and later began fighting competitively.

However, on this day, the battle on Ward's mind isn't her upcoming amateur bout. It's the professional one between the daughters of legendary boxers Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier taking place tomorrow at Turning Stone Casino Resort in Verona, N.Y. Ward struggles to say something nice about the skills of Laila Ali and Jacqui Frazier-Lyde, yet her dad ain't pokes through.

"Honestly, Laila Ali, I've just seen a few shots on TV," says Ward whose pink-painted nails and neatly coiffed long hair seem better suited to her job as a registered nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital. "I've never seen her fight anyone with a legitimate record. I've only seen her fight a woman with a record of more losses than wins. But that's what they do in pro boxing. You can tell how good they are as a fighter by how good their opponent is, you know what I mean?"

While the mainstream public eagerly awaits "Ali-Frazier IV," an array of local women professional and amateur boxers share Ward's tempered enthusiasm about the impending dust-up. After all, these are fighters such as Ashley Kalus, of Scituate,

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