



Heavyweight champ Lennox Lewis can breathe easier thanks to the Bengal Bite mouthpiece, designed by *Jeff DeMartino, D.D.S., '84.*

Bengal Bites

Boxers and the Bengal Missions both are benefitting from the ingenuity of *Jeffrey DeMartino, D.D.S., '84,* of Bethlehem, Pa. Once a Bengal Bouts boxer himself, Jeff has designed a new mouthpiece that's already used by pro boxers Larry Holmes and Lennox Lewis. What's so special about this one? The fighter can open his mouth when needing to breathe full force. Jeff knows firsthand the consequences of not keeping the jaw clenched. Three weeks into training for the Bengal Bouts, he was hit in the face while gasping for air and sustained permanent jaw damage. After studying dentistry, he sought a better design. The result: The Bengal Bite.

The mouthpiece is named for the nationally recognized boxing program at ND, started in 1931, which benefits the Holy Cross Missions in East Pakistan. Some 100 students participate in the Bengal Bouts each year, and crowds of nearly 10,000 attend the three-day tournament, which netted \$27,000 for Bengal Missions in 1997. Jeff's days in the ring may be over, but in step with tradition he is devoting a portion of the Bengal Bite's profits to the Bengal Missions.