



BOXING'S BAD BOYS

Remembering "The Brown Bomber" 1914 - 1981

Largely forgotten by this generation, boxing superstar Joe Louis was able to use his skills and talents to change not only the world of boxing but the face of professional athletics. Except for the four years Louis spent training and motivating soldiers during World War II, he was the world's unbeatable heavyweight boxer, winning title after title until his retirement from the sport in 1949.

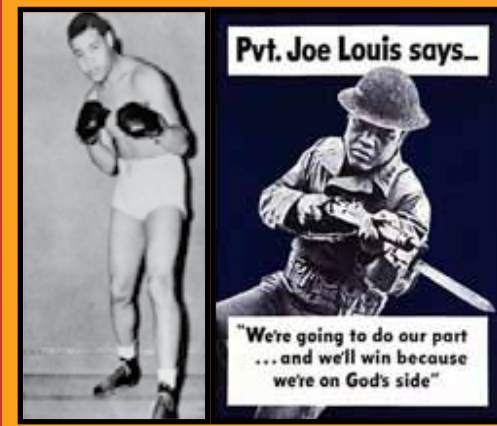
Louis still holds the record for knocking out the most world champions, and is considered the greatest fighter in the history of the sport, having successfully defended his title 25 times, all but four by knockout.

Louis' role in American history goes beyond that of an athlete, however. He was the first African-American man to be enthusiastically embraced by white Americans, enjoying enormous popularity in part because of carefully orchestrated public relations handling. He paved the way for black golfers by being the first man of color admitted to the PGA, was awarded the Congressional Gold Metal for his efforts during the war, and was the first boxer to be featured on a postage stamp. Through it all, he conducted himself with a dignity unknown to today's sportsmen.

Although married four times, Louis' public reputation was one of an upstanding, moral and modest family man.

May 13 marks 97 years since Louis was born in a small Alabama farming town. He spent his retirement years working as a celebrity greeter at Las Vegas casinos, staging exhibition matches, doing product endorsements and playing a lot of golf. Under special arrangements made by President Reagan, Louis was buried in Arlington National Cemetery when he passed away in 1981.

Whereas "The Brown Bomber," as Louis was called, stands as a model of professional pugilism, many of his brothers of the ring are not so distinguished in their actions or beliefs. A blood sport like boxing tends to attract some violence-prone types. Their stories don't end as well as the story of Joe Louis.



Joe Louis

On a wartime recruitment poster

TEFLON

Theresa Evans wasn't around to testify in her husband's assault trial last month. Ronald "Ronnie" Boyd, a 31-year-old lightweight who last year had six wins and 11 losses, will be sentenced on June 3 after being convicted of beating, kicking, and choking his Theresa at a sports bar a year ago. A Prince George County, Md., judge found the boxer, who is nicknamed "Teflon," guilty of aggravated assault. He may be sentenced to 25 years in prison.

The assault, which took place in the parking lot of a neighborhood sports grill, left the 31-year-old mother of a 12-year-old girl unconscious with a shattered

cheek bone. Boyd held his wife off the ground by her neck, strangling her, and punched her repeatedly in the face, making reconstructive surgery necessary to repair the damage. But just six months later, and two days



Theresa Evans and Ronald Boyd

after the couple's divorce was final, Theresa was gunned down in her driveway as she left her Suitland home for work.

Nobody has ever been arrested, although Theresa's friends and family are certain Boyd is behind her murder.

What precipitated the April 2010 attack was Theresa hugging a male friend good-bye.

Family members are rearing her daughter.

THE HAMMER

By the time he was 30, Garry Delaney's career as a cruiserweight champion in Britain was over. His stint was respectable, ending with 30 wins in 37 bouts. And after leaving boxing in the early 2000s, "The Hammer" could still use his bulk to make a living as a bouncer in an over-35 nightclub in London.

It was at the club, in the fall of 2005, that one uppercut ended Delaney's career forever.

A man upset over his friend being denied entry by Delaney confronted the former fighter. The gent didn't meet the dress code, Delaney explained, and the two friends could instead have drinks in the hotel's bar. Dissatisfied with that solution, the man made such a ruckus that the bar-

tender asked Delaney to remove him from the premises. In doing so, Delaney ejected him out the door, where his head hit the concrete sidewalk, then the ex-fighter delivered one swift uppercut to the man's chin as he lay flat out, hitting him so hard witnesses say the victim's body flew upward.



Garry Delaney

Delaney sped away from the scene in his personal car. The 23-year-old man died later after surgery.

Because of his profession, Delaney was charged with murder rather than manslaughter.

In determining his fate, the judge said Delaney was aware that, unlike an ordinary citizen, he had enough power in his punch to kill someone. Delaney, 40, is serving a life term.

JO-EL SCOTT, RAPIST AND MURDERER



Jo-El Scott

Many fight fans believed New York native Jo-El Scott could have become the heavyweight champ one day. His future was looking bright in the early to mid-1990s. But in 1996, Scott was convicted of raping two children and sent off to prison to serve out a short sentence. Then in 2005, he was found guilty of rape and murder and ordered to serve two life sentences without parole.

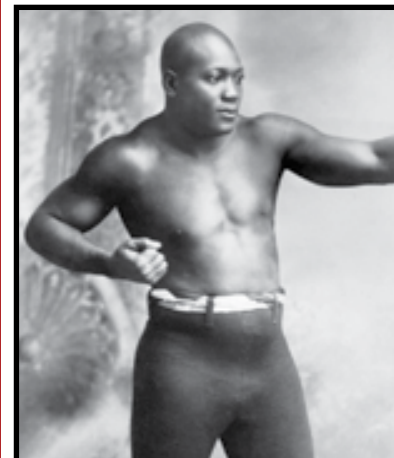
A super heavyweight who had 18 consecutive knockouts, Scott never got off the mat after

he was released from prison on the rape charge.

His attempts to get on his feet were not helped by his drug use, and by the summer of 2004, the then-33-year-old was so far gone that he brutally attacked a woman in full daylight, savagely beating and raping her in a public park as passersby tried to run to her aid. The 59-year old victim, who was collecting bottles and cans for deposit money, died at the scene.

Scott's appeal of the sentence has been denied.

THE GALVESTON GIANT



Jack Johnson

Jack Johnson holds the distinction of being the world's first African-American heavyweight champion and, according to many sports historians, the first black sports superstar. The Texas native last held the title in 1915 but continued to fight exhibitions for the next 20-odd years.

While he never again enjoyed his earlier notoriety, his name stayed in the headlines for a different reason. Johnson was arrested and tried for violating laws by transporting women across state lines for immoral purposes; specifically, women who were prostitutes.

Johnson left the country rather than turn himself in to serve a prison sentence, making his home in France from 1913 until 1920, when he returned and bought a Harlem nightclub that became the world-famous Cotton Club. (He did serve 10 months in federal prison after sail-

ing back from France.)

Johnson's crimes were peculiar to the times in which he lived. Had his intimate companions been of his race, there probably would never have been an arrest or trial, but his inclination toward white women at a time when even speaking to one could cost him his life made his personal escapades newsworthy.

Married three times, always to white women, Johnson never had children. He died in a car wreck in North Carolina in 1946. Efforts to acquire a presidential pardon for his so-called crimes have been unsuccessful so far.

In a footnote, singer Chuck Berry was ordered to serve three years in prison for transporting a teenage girl across state lines in 1962. He served less than a year behind bars.

THE HARLEM HAMMER

"The Harlem Hammer" tried to use mental illness as an out when he found himself in deep trouble, but crimes have consequences in spite of sickness.

Sportswriter Sam Kellerman, 29, knew there was something wrong with The Hammer, James Butler. Kellerman's final attempt to help the once-promising fighter was by opening his Hollywood, Calif., home to him when he was down and out. Butler repaid Kellerman by beating his head 32 times with a real hammer, then setting his home on fire to try to cover up his crime.

Kellerman died on October 12, 2004. Butler was arrested eight days later and charged with murder and arson.

Butler's short stint on the pro cir-

cuit had been marked by nasty behavior, concluding with a stunning sucker punch in a fundraising match for firefighters and police officers who survived the 9/11

attacks. The fighter who won the bout, Richard Grant, had already removed his gloves when Butler, without warning, smashed him in the jaw, shattering it and splitting his tongue open. The Hammer went to Rikers Island for a four-month sentence in that case.

Butler explained that his anger toward Kellerman, his friend of many years, arose from being asked to move out of the apartment where his overnight stay had stretched to two weeks. He entered a guilty plea to voluntary manslaughter and is serving a 29-year term.



James Butler

ANDREY NEVSKY, LIFE IN RUINS

The shining career of a Russian national who made Boston his home abruptly ended in a sweeping federal raid on a drug smuggling operation.

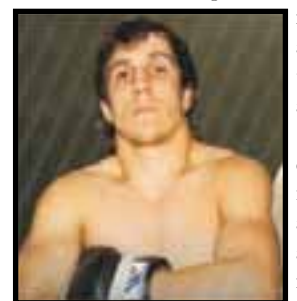
Andrey Nevsky, a 25-year-old middleweight, arrived in the U.S. as a student in 2005 and perfected his boxing skills in Boston-area gyms. Besides classic boxing, the middleweight also excelled in mixed martial arts, going undefeated in every match of both sports. An accomplished chess player who spent six years in chess school, he could have become a very successful young man had he stuck to the legitimate path he was headed down. Instead, he went for the quick riches and ended up ruined.

Nevsky was one of 45 people arrested in July 2009 in a multi-agency op-

eration extending the length of the Atlantic seaboard. Federal agents seized \$5 million in cash, 4,000 pounds of marijuana, and 25 kilograms, or 55 pounds, of cocaine in the course of the roundup.

Authorities say the smuggling operation brought drugs into this country and laundering the drug money in Canada. Nevsky was accused of driving a rental car across the Canadian border to transport marijuana in 100 pound packages.

His lawyer appealed his May 2010 conviction of conspiracy to distribute marijuana, saying Nevsky was working as a bodyguard for a high stakes poker player and had no knowledge of any illicit activity. His presumptive sentence would be 10 years.



Andrey Nevsky

SHAKE N BAKE

"Shake N Bake" is what super middleweight Antonio Baker of Fayetteville, N.C., likes to be called. It seems like a lot of letters to sew onto a shiny robe, but if Baker's wins column continues on its latest track, he'll only need the robe for sipping his coffee in the mornings, anyway.

Already a ripe 34 years of age, Baker, who worked as a boxing coach, was sidetracked in 2004 after inflicting serious head injuries on a live-in girlfriend during a domestic assault. Shanita Gardner was found bloody and unconscious in the couple's

home. Baker, who was discovered hiding under a pile of laundry in his toddler daughter's room, explained that Gardner had hit her head in the tub.

The DA charged Baker with assault with a deadly weapon, proposing that, under the law, a boxer's fists are classified as deadly weapons. When he came to trial, however, the jury chose to convict on a lesser charge of assault inflicting serious injury.

Baker served just two and a half years. He has had one fight in three years but hasn't had a victory in four.



PROFESSIONAL BOXING WEIGHT CLASSES

- Heavyweight. No limit
- Cruiserweight. 200 lbs. (max.)
- Middleweight. 160 lbs.
- Welterweight. 147 lbs.
- Lightweight. 135 lbs.
- Featherweight 126 lbs.
- Bantamweight 118 lbs.
- Flyweight 112 lbs.
- Minimumweight 105 lbs.
- Paperweight 80 lbs.