

MISSISSIPPI

A New Beginning



WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
CAMPBELL vs. GUZMAN

IN ASSOCIATION WITH ONE PUNCH PRODUCTIONS

BEAU RIVAGE THEATRE, BILOXI, MS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13, 2008

OFFICIAL EVENT PROGRAM

 **DONKING.com**

Beau Rivage
Resort & Casino • Biloxi

ONE PUNCH
PRODUCTIONS

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FIGHT CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

BOUT SHEET

WORLD LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

in association w/ One Punch Productions - 12 ROUNDS

NATE “Galaxy Warrior” CAMPBELL

IBF, WBO, WBA Champion
Tampa, Florida
39-5-1 (25 KOs)

VS.

JOAN “Sycuan Warrior” GUZMAN

Undefeated Former Two-Time WBO Champion
Brooklyn, N.Y. (Dominican Republic)
28-0 (17 KOs)

WBC SUPER LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

in association with Gary Shaw Productions 12 ROUNDS

TIMOTHY BRADLEY

WBC Super Lightweight Champion
Palm Springs, CA
22-0-0 (11 KOs)

VS.

EDNER CHERRY

No. 6 WBC Contender
Nassau, Bahamas
24-5-2 (12 KOs)

WBC FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP ELIMINATION

12 ROUNDS (Final Eliminator)

HECTOR VELAZQUEZ

No. 1 WBC Contender
Tijuana, Mexico
50-11-2 (35 KOs)

VS.

ELIO “The Kid” ROJAS

No. 2 WBC Contender
Brooklyn, N.Y. (Dominican Republic)
19-1 (13 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHT ATTRACTION

10/8 ROUNDS

NELSON LINARES

Undefeated No. 3 WBA Contender
Barnitas, Venezuela
15-0-1 (8 KOs)

VS.

THOMAS DAVIS

Tennessee Terror
Knoxville, Tennessee
12-8-2 (7 KOs)

SUPER WELTERWEIGHT ATTRACTION

8 ROUNDS

LUCA “Bergamo Bomber” MESSI

Former WBA Inter-Continental Champion
Bergamo, Italy
32-7-1 (11 KOs)

VS.

ANTHONY BOWMAN

Tough Journeyman
Jackson, TN
10-30-2 (3 KOs)

SUPER FEATHERWEIGHT ATTRACTION

8 ROUNDS

ANGES ADJAH

Former African Champion
Orwell, Ohio (Benin)
23-1 (13 KOs)

VS.

LUIS BOLANO

Former World Title Champion
Cartagena, Colombia
41-11-0 (31 KOs)

HEAVYWEIGHT ATTRACTION

10/8 ROUNDS

CARL “Iron Fist” DAVIS

Hard Punching Prospect
Evanston, Ill.
11-2 (8 KOs)

VS.

WADE “Rock” LEWIS

Solid Veteran
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
14-19-1 (12 KOs)

(ALL BOUTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Saturday
September 30, 2008

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A New Beginning

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Dear Fight Fans:

I am so pleased to be here on the Gulf Coast promoting a big boxing event at the wonderful Beau Rivage in Biloxi, Miss.

It is ironic that recent Hurricane Gustav would come almost three years to the day that the Gulf Coast experienced the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. Thank goodness Gustav didn't pack the punch of Katrina, but it warmed my heart to see the effective governmental relief effort led by people like Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour being ready and able to help the resilient Americans living along the Gulf Coast.

With everyone safe, it's time to look forward to enjoying the entertainment of an excellent world championship boxing card. I've brought the best lightweight fighter in the world, International Boxing Federation, World Boxing Organization and World Boxing Association champion Nate "Galaxxy Warrior" Campbell (39-5-1, 25 KOs), from Jacksonville, Fla. to demonstrate his considerable skills for you.

Campbell will be challenged by former two-time WBO champion Joan "Sycuan Warrior" Guzman (28-0, 17 KOs), a native of the Dominican Republic now fighting out of Brooklyn, N.Y.

A World Boxing Council featherweight championship elimination bout will also be showcased with No. 1-ranked Hector Velasquez (50-11-2, 35 KOs), from Tijuana, Mexico, against No. 2-ranked Elio "The Kid" Rojas (19-1, 13 KOs), from the Dominican Republic, now fighting out of Brooklyn, N.Y. The winner becomes the WBC featherweight mandatory challenger, guaranteeing a title shot.

Please take a moment with me tonight during a break in the action to remember all the brave men and women of the American armed services who are working tonight to keep us free.

Sincerely,

Don King
Don King



Don King President & CEO
Don King Productions, Inc.




Dear Boxing fans:

On behalf of the citizens of the state of Mississippi, I welcome you to Biloxi and tonight's fight – "A New Beginning."

We are proud to host championship boxing on our Gulf Coast, and I would like to thank Don King Productions and the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino for bringing this world-class entertainment to Mississippi. After all, it is not every day when multiple world boxing titles are up for grabs.

I hope you will take time to enjoy our delicious Southern cuisine and hospitality, not to mention the local art and culture you will find nearby. Internationally known for its Blues musical heritage, I am proud to say Mississippi is the "Birthplace of America's Music."

Again, we welcome you to the main event and hope that you will enjoy your stay here.

Sincerely,

Haley Barbour



Governor Haley Barbour
State of Mississippi
Office of the Governor



WELCOME TO BEAU RIVAGE RESORT & CASINO

We are delighted to host this exciting evening of internationally televised Showtime boxing action, culminating in the long-awaited Lightweight World Championship bout between Nate “Galaxy Warrior” Campbell and Joan “Sycuan Warrior” Guzman. With eight intense, hard-hitting matches on the schedule, this night is sure to be remembered long after the final punch!

As the South’s premier MGM MIRAGE resort, Beau Rivage is proud to be a destination that combines high-energy entertainment with sublime relaxation. Play a round of golf at Fallen Oak, designed exclusively for our guests by the legendary Tom Fazio. Savor an innovative array of dining options, including celebrity chef Todd English’s Olives and sophisticated BR Prime. Treat yourself to a day of pampering spa treatments. Enjoy the region’s hottest nightlife at award-winning Eight75 and Coast nightclubs. Embrace the adrenaline rush of having the ultimate combination of slots, tables and high limit gaming action at your fingertips.



George P. Corchis
President & CEO
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino

Whether you are with us for one evening or the weekend, I invite you to experience all that Beau Rivage has to offer. Enjoy the boxing!

Warmest wishes,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Corchis, Jr.' with a large loop at the bottom.

George P. Corchis, Jr.

Beau Rivage
RESORT & CASINO • BILOXI

TALE OF THE TAPE

Nate Campbell

HEIGHT: 5' 7"

WEIGHT: 135

REACH: 72"

NECK: 15"

CHEST (NORMAL) 38"

CHEST (EXPANDED) 41.5"

BICEP: 13.25"

FOREARM: 11.25"

WRIST: 7"

FIST: 13"

WAIST: 28"

THIGH: 22"

CALF: 15.5"

ANKLE: 8.5"

Joan Guzman

HEIGHT: 5'7"

WEIGHT: 135 lbs.

REACH: 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

NECK: 16"

CHEST (NORMAL) 36 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

CHEST (EXPANDED) 38"

BICEP: 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

FOREARM: 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

WRIST: 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

FIST: 11"

WAIST: 27 $\frac{3}{4}$ "

A portrait of Nate Campbell, a Black man with a short beard and mustache, looking directly at the camera. He is shirtless and wearing several large, ornate boxing belts. The belts are primarily black and red with gold-colored metal plates and emblems. One prominent belt features a circular emblem with a star and the words 'WORLD CHAMPION'. Another belt has a large 'W' emblem. The background is a dark, textured blue.

NATE "THE GALAXY WARRIOR" CAMPBELL

by Ron Borges

Nate Campbell knows everything there is to know about being an underdog. It's being the top dog that is new to him.

For most of his life, Campbell has struggled against the longest of odds. He grew up living in 15 different homes after his father's alcoholism forced him to turn his seven-year-old son over to the Jacksonville, Fla. foster care system for a decade.

At the age of 18 he was an under-educated father working two and three low-paying jobs to make ends meet. At 24, he found his calling in a Winn-Dixie warehouse when a white man challenged him to use a talent he didn't even know he possessed.

That night, while working the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift cutting boxes open, a co-worker watched Campbell shadow box, as he often did to entertain himself during lulls in the late-night shift. The man challenged Campbell to stop wasting what the man felt were obvious boxing skills and take the risk to be great.

The age of 24 is no time to start a boxing career but Campbell was coerced into it by that challenge in the same way he first learned how to slap box as a five year old after a fifth grade bully chased him home from school and his father found out about it. His family believed in frontier justice and the importance of never backing down so they not only gave Campbell the beating he was trying to run away from but his father took him to the bus stop the next day and ordered him to walk up and start punching that bully until ordered to stop.

Campbell did as he was told and he was never bothered by bullies again but that encounter was not enough to convince him that the prize ring was any place to spend his free time. That didn't happen until that night in a grocery store's warehouse 19 years later when a shadow boxer came out of the shadows and became something more.

It would be three years before Campbell would turn pro, winning his debut at the age of 27. World champions do not often start so late nor wait so long to be tested for the first time but Nate Campbell's story is all about firsts. Remarkable firsts. But it is more than that. It is a story about perseverance rewarded, difficulties defeated and, finally, a champion's hand raised.

The latter didn't happen until March 8, one day after his 36th birthday. Champion's don't often win their first world title at such an advanced age and 36-year-old lightweights with a checkered 31-5-1 record doesn't often get a title shot but all those odd circumstances came together for Nate Campbell after his career had a resurrection following a stunning upset of previously undefeated Kid Diamond three years ago.

A year and a half later, Campbell would fight the first of what would become three straight IBF elimination fights to become the mandatory challenger for unified title holder Juan Diaz. Like everything else in his life, it was a struggle and it took longer than it should have but on March 8 there he was, beating and battering poor Diaz, closing his eye and forcing the always aggressive Diaz into submission to win a split decision and the IBF, WBO and WBA versions of the 135-pound title.



Now, six months later, Campbell will defend that title for the first time against undefeated Joan Guzman, a two-time WBO super featherweight champion and a guy much respected by everyone in boxing except for the guy he's about to challenge.

"Guzman doesn't know what's going to happen to him," Campbell said during a recent break in his training. "He has no idea where I'm taking him on Sept. 13. I love it when they feed me these guys with these big fat shiny 'Os' on their records.

"Everyone thinks they're gods because they're undefeated. All being undefeated means is that you haven't fought anybody yet or you've never had to deal with any adversity in or out of the ring.

"I'm collecting all those '0' and changing them to 'Nates.' Kid Diamond is 26-and-Nate. Juan Diaz is 33-and-Nate. And on Sept. 13 Joan Guzman will be 28-and-Nate. I fought too long and too hard to let anyone take these titles from me, especially Guzman. He doesn't know what he's in for."

Regardless of how it goes, Campbell knows what he's in for. He's in for a fight because he's come to learn that's what life is. It's a struggle, a battle against forces over which you often have little or no control. Survival in such a world is about preparation, courage and, most of all, being ready when your moment comes.

Campbell admits he wasn't always ready early in his career for an assortment of reasons but by the time Diaz stepped into the ring to face him, Nate Campbell was fixated on only one thing.

"I came to win," Campbell said. "I knew who I was. I knew what I could do. I knew I was faster and stronger and hungrier. I been through things the rest of these guys couldn't dream about.

"I don't care who they put in front of me. I'll fight anybody."

That would include WBC lightweight champion Manny Pacquiao, the reigning pound-for-pound champion who will challenge Oscar De La Hoya on Dec. 6 at 147 pounds. After that fight if Pacquiao wants to come back down to try and unify the lightweight title, Nate Campbell believes he'll still be here waiting for him. But before he can think about that he has to first deal with another guy with another "0," an "0" who will soon have to deal with a Nate, as well.

"Right now my future is only about Joan Guzman," Campbell said. "He's a good fighter. He has speed. But he can't hurt me. He don't know where I've been."

Joan Guzman doesn't know yet but Nate Campbell intends to show him tonight.





JOAN "SYCUAN WARRIOR" GUZMAN

by Ron Borges

Tonight is no night for a power outage, although that is what undefeated Joan Guzman has to worry about most. That and the unrelenting pressure of having Nate Campbell in his face.

The latter is significantly more likely to be a factor in Guzman's quest for the unified lightweight titles held by Campbell if the former is a problem, which the champion insists it will be. Although undefeated and a two-time world champion himself at junior featherweight and junior lightweight, Guzman has not knocked out an opponent in four years and seven months, a streak that now runs through seven fights dating back to Feb. 26, 2004.

Now he is moving up in weight for the fourth time, stepping into the 135-pound division ruled by Campbell, who holds the IBF, WBA and WBO versions of the lightweight championship, and Manny Pacquiao, who won the WBC portion several months ago against David Diaz.

Once Guzman was such a force that he was nicknamed "Little Tyson," a name that came to him because of his concussive punching power. He knocked out 17 of his first 21 opponents and was one of the most feared little men in boxing but as often happens, as Guzman advanced from 122 pounds to 126 pounds and finally to 130 pounds that power did not come with him.

Although he was still able to win because of his adroit skills, movement and general command of the ring, Guzman was no longer a feared puncher; a point Campbell (39-5-1, 25 KO) has reminded him of at every turn.

The 36-year-old champion is making his first title defense against a man he insists cannot hurt him. If that is true, then Campbell seems sure to put suffocating pressure on Guzman, who insists he will welcome it if he does.

"Most fighters think they have me figured out simply by watching my recent fights," Guzman (28-0, 17 KO) said. "Campbell is no different. He thinks he has the keys to victory but watching film and actually fighting me are two completely different things.

"If he thought I was fast and skilled on tape, wait until he tries to hit me inside the ring. It won't happen. I'll make Nate look so bad he'll retire after I wipe the floor with him. Twenty eight boxers have tried to beat me and none of them came close to succeeding."

Well, that's not exactly true but there's no disputing the fact that no one has beaten Guzman yet. Then again, there's also no disputing that this is Guzman's first foray into the 135-pound division and even he concedes that is a new test for him.

It is a test he will not know if he has the answers to until some time tonight when it's only he and Nate Campbell measuring each other in the ring at the Beau Rivage Theatre in Biloxi, Miss. Only then will the truth be told. Only then will the test be administered by both men.

"The weight won't be an issue because I have a great strength and conditioning coach in my corner," Guzman insists. "One of the goals in training camp was to adjust and maximize my speed and power to the lightweight division. Guys are bigger and stronger here so I needed to spice things up in the gym. I'm confident you'll see the strongest, fastest and best conditioned Joan Guzman ever on Sept. 13."



Guzman will have to be because it has been a long time since anyone thought of calling him “Little Tyson” any more. Yet there’s also no denying that in his last outing against Humberto Soto, Guzman was dominate without being domineering. He beat Soto to the punch all night long, using his speed advantage to land searing combinations and present an all but impenetrable defense.

Before that match Soto sounded much like Campbell, insisting Guzman couldn’t hurt him. Perhaps he didn’t but he at least hurt his feelings by easily outboxing him to retain the WBO super featherweight title by wide margins on all three judges’ cards.

If he can do the same to Campbell, Guzman’s punching power will become a non-issue, at least until he finds himself in the ring with Pacquiao. Yet, in the end, even he knows it’s an issue tonight until he convinces Campbell during the fight that it isn’t.

“Honestly, I believe I’m the total package,” Guzman said. “I’m not only one of the best punchers, I’m the best boxer at 130 and 135. Campbell is a very intelligent boxer as well as a fighter so it’s going to be a great fight but I know what I’m capable of. I can beat them all.”



HECTOR VS ELIO "THE KID" VELAZQUEZ ROJAS

by Ron Borges

All his life Elio Rojas has dreamed of one thing – to become a world champion. Now he stands two fights from that opportunity but the 25-year-old Dominican understands these are the leaps that are the highest.

Tonight, at Beau Rivage Theatre on Mississippi's stormy Gulf Coast, one of Don King's hottest prospects faces a difficult test in Hector Velazquez in a WBC featherweight championship eliminator, a fight in which the winner will go forward to mandatory challenger status and a guaranteed shot at world title holder Jorge Linares. Where the loser goes is back to the tough climb the 33-year-old Velazquez knows well and young Rojas is only beginning to understand.

In his last outing 13 months ago Rojas got his first taste of the difficult side of boxing in another title eliminator in which he lost a hotly disputed split decision to Gamaliel Diaz in Durango, Mexico, an outcome that was so controversial the WBC agreed to have eight neutral judges review the tape and re-score the fight. Seven of the eight saw Rojas as the winner.

The WBC refused to reverse the decision but based on that information it ordered another eliminator for Rojas against Velazquez (50-11-2, 35 KO), a wise ring veteran who has nearly twice as many knockouts in his career as Rojas has fights.

That is as razor-thin a road to a title shot as a young man can follow but that is the boxer's life. It is a life chosen for him by his father when Rojas was barely nine. For seven years they were together, the father training the son each day in steamy gyms in the Dominican Republic to fight for a better life for himself and his family in Villa Arriba San Francisco de Macoris, a place known more for producing major league shortstops than world championship boxers.

But Rojas lost his father when he was 16 and a few years later his new trainer, Rudy Zapata, passed away not long after his amateur career ended with a 208-2 record but failure to make the 2004 Dominican Olympic team.

After some self-doubt and thoughts of retiring from the spot, Rojas signed with Don King and began what has been a four-year process of converting himself from a stylish amateur to a hard-knock professional who today is considered perhaps King's best young prospect.

Elio
Rojas



Hector Velazquez



"I've seen it written that some believe I'm his best prospect," Rojas said. "I'm proud of that. I think I'm ready. I want a world title shot."

To get it, Rojas will have to fight his way through Velazquez, who is the kind of guy you beat if you are world championship caliber or you learn from him that you are not on that level. Velazquez has beaten many of boxing's contenders and pretenders but when pushed by the sport's biggest names he has tested them but found himself wanting.

He has lost a split decision to Israel Vazquez, a majority decision to Orlando Soto, close decisions to Robbie Peden and Rocky Juarez and was stopped three years ago in six rounds by today's reigning pound-for-pound champion, lightweight title holder Manny Pacquiao. There is no shame in any of those defeats because in all but the Pacquiao fight Velazquez was more than competitive despite coming up on the wrong side of the scorecards, so the task in front of young Rojas is to prove that he is a cut above a gritty trial horse who has proven to be the better of 50 of the 63 men he's faced and nearly the equal to all of them but Pacquiao.

As tests go this will be both a stern one and a pop quiz because one thing Rios understands after his only defeat is that at boxing's highest level he won't be the only one doing the hitting. It's a two way street at this level and often a dangerous one that one has to walk with an odd combination of wary confidence.

"I like to hit and not get hit," Rojas (19-1, 13 KO) said wisely. "I want to be known as an intelligent boxer. If knockouts come, they come but I don't come in to get a knockout like Mike Tyson. I'm a technician in the ring."

He is also, in the words of veteran trainer Lenox Broadmore, "The best prospect I ever worked with. Elio makes things look easy." If he can do that against Hector Velazquez he will also have made a statement. A statement that he may soon do what he always thought he'd be doing inside a boxing ring – fighting for a world championship.





FIGHT^{TO} LIVE LIVE^{TO} FIGHT



THIS IS YOUR STORY.
From challenger to champion.
Through adversity and triumph.
Will you go down in history,
OR JUST GO DOWN?
You've got ten seconds.



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DON KING ★ PRESENTS ★ PRIZEFIGHTER



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MISSISSIPPI

A New Beginning

"Let's Drill in

AMERICA

For

AMERICA"

Ms. Kelly



DON KING CAREER FACTS



- World-renowned promoter of boxing luminaries including Muhammad Ali, "Smokin'" Joe Frazier, "Big" George Foreman, Larry "The Easton Assassin" Holmes, "Iron" Mike Tyson, "Sugar" Ray Leonard, Roberto "Manos de Piedra" Duran, Julio Cesar Chavez, Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield, Roy Jones Jr., Felix "Tito" Trinidad, Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins, Ricardo "Finito" Lopez, Salvador Sanchez and Wilfredo Gomez, to name a few.
- Promoter of over 500 world championship fights—so far. Nearly 100 boxers have earned \$1 million or more in Don King Productions-promoted fights—so far.
- Don King Productions holds the distinction of having promoted or co-promoted seven of the 10 largest pay-per-view events in history, as gauged by total buys, including: Holyfield vs. Tyson II, 1.99 million buys, June 1997; Tyson vs. Holyfield I, 1.6 million buys, November 1996; Tyson vs. McNeeley, 1.58 million buys, August 1995; and Bruno vs. Tyson, 1.4 million buys, March 1996.
- Don King Productions holds the distinction of having promoted or co-promoted 11 of the top 15 highest-grossing live gates in the history of the state of Nevada including four of the top five: Holyfield vs. Lewis II, paid attendance: 17,078, gross: \$16,860,300 (NOTE: Also second-highest live-gate gross for any event in the history of the world.), date: Nov. 13, 1999; Holyfield vs. Tyson II, paid attendance: 16,279, gross: \$14,277,200, date: June 28, 1997; Holyfield vs. Tyson I, paid attendance: 16,103, gross: \$14,150,700, date: Nov. 9, 1996; Tyson vs. McNeeley, paid attendance: 16,113, gross: \$13,965,600, date: Aug. 19, 1995; and De La Hoya vs. Trinidad, paid attendance: 11,184, gross: \$12,949,500, date: Sept. 18, 1999. (Second-most pay-per-view buys ever for a non-heavyweight fight, 1.4 million.)
- His first boxing promotion is staged on Monday, Aug. 28, 1972, a charity event to benefit the minority Forest City Hospital featuring Muhammad Ali in his hometown Cleveland Arena, which becomes the second-largest gross in history for a boxing exhibition (\$80,000).
- First to guarantee the then unprecedented amount of \$10 million, split between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman to participate in the classic Rumble in the Jungle in Zaire, Africa, on Oct. 30, 1974. This prizefight also holds the place in history of being the first television boxing event to be viewed by one billion people worldwide.
- First to receive \$1 million to deliver a prime-time network television match for Muhammad Ali vs. Ron Lyle on May 16, 1975.
- Promoted the classic third and final epic battle between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier dubbed by King as the Thrilla in Manila viewed by over one billion people worldwide on Oct. 1, 1975, in Quezon City, Philippines.

- First promoter to sell a fight for \$2 million to a network featuring heavyweight contenders when Ken Norton faced Jimmy Young on ABC at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev., on Nov. 5, 1977.

- First promoter to sell Home Box Office a heavyweight world-title fight telecast for I Love New York featuring Larry Holmes vs. Mike Weaver at Madison Square Garden in New York City on June 22, 1979. He declined an \$800,000 bid from ABC in favor of HBO for \$125,000.

- Promoter of The Last Hurrah featuring Larry Holmes vs. Muhammad Ali, which produced the then-largest live gate in history, \$6 million, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev., on Oct. 2, 1980.

- First promoter to guarantee a boxer \$10 million when he paid that amount to Sugar Ray Leonard to face Roberto Duran at Olympic Stadium in Montreal, Canada, on June 20, 1980.

- First promoter to guarantee \$1 million fight purses to featherweights when Salvador Sanchez met Wilfredo Gomez at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev., on Aug. 21, 1981. It took 13 years for another boxing promoter to match this feat.

- Promoter of The Pride and the Glory featuring Larry Holmes vs. Gerry Cooney, which produced the then-largest live gate in history, \$8 million, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev., on June 11, 1982. The event is also remembered for then being the highest amount paid for a tape-delayed re-broadcast of a boxing match, \$3 million, by ABC.

- Promoted an unprecedented 13 world champions, exclusively, and was the first promoter to stage 23 world championship fights in the same year—1982.

- First promoter to sell Home Box Office a fight for \$2 million for Michael "Dynamite" Dokes vs. Mike Weaver at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev., on Dec. 10, 1982.

- First promoter to establish his own television network, the Don King Sports and Entertainment Network, in 1982.

- First and only promoter to place two world-heavyweight title bouts on the same card during The Crown Affair, which pitted Larry Holmes against Tim Witherspoon for the World Boxing Council title as well as the second clash between Michael Dokes and Mike Weaver for the World Boxing Association championship in Las Vegas, Nev., on May 20, 1983. First promoter to sell a package to these three television entities: closed circuit, pay television and network television.

- Promoter of the Jackson Five's Jacksons Victory Tour in 1984. This worldwide mega-event grossed \$150 million. Don King then brokered an enormous product-endorsement deal on behalf of Michael Jackson to appear in a series of television commercials for Pepsi-Cola.

- Sold Home Box Office a \$26 million heavyweight elimination series in 1986, which resulted in Mike Tyson being crowned the fist undisputed heavyweight champion since Muhammad Ali.

- First promoter to stage 25 world-title bouts in one year, 1986, breaking his record of 23 set in 1982. Named Promoter of the Year by the World Boxing Association for 1986.

- Named Promoter of the Year by the World Boxing Association for 1987.

- Promoter of Once and for All featuring Mike Tyson vs. Michael Spinks, which became the then-highest-grossing event in history exceeding \$13 million at the Trump Plaza Convention Center in Atlantic City,

N.J., on June 27, 1988. The fight also held the distinction for the then-largest single payday in history with Mike Tyson receiving an estimated \$22 million and Leon Spinks \$13.5 million.

- Promoter of Ultimate Glory between legendary Mexican champion Julio Cesar Chavez and Hector "Macho" Camacho, which became the then-highest-grossing non-heavyweight fight in history and fastest sellout in the history of the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nev., on Sept. 12, 1992.

- Promoter of the Grand Slam of Boxing featuring four world championship bouts headlined by Julio Cesar Chavez facing Greg Haugen, which holds the record for largest in-person paid attendance in boxing history with 132,274 people packed into Estadio Azteca in Mexico City, Mexico, on Feb 20, 1993. (This broke the previous record held by Jack Dempsey vs. Gene Tunney for their fight in Philadelphia, Pa., on Sept. 23, 1926.)

- Promoter of The Fight between Pernell Whitaker and Julio Cesar Chavez attended by 59,995 (the second-highest attendance ever for an indoor bout) at The Alamodome in San Antonio, Tex., on Sept. 10, 1993, which becomes the then-highest-grossing non-heavyweight match in history—breaking his own record for the third time in less than a year. Pay-per-view audience tops 1 million buys.

- Co-promoted Judgment Day between Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank for Benn's WBC super middleweight title, which set the record for highest attendance for a British boxing match, 47,000, on the grounds of the Manchester United Club at Old Trafford Stadium on Oct. 9, 1993.

- Promoter of Explosive Fury: Battle in Puebla featuring Julio Cesar Chavez vs. Andy Holligan, which draws 45,000 people in Puebla, Mexico, on Dec. 18, 1993.

- Promoted, for the second time in his career, more than 20 world-title fights in one calendar year: 22 in 1993. Named Promoter of the Century by the World Boxing Association for 1993.





- First and only promoter to put five world championships on one card—and he did it not once but four times in just over one year: Global Warfare II in the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nev., on March 18, 1994; Revenge... The Rematches in the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nev., on May 7, 1994 (Frankie Randall v Julio Cesar Chavez II; Gerald McClellan v Julian Jackson II; Simon Brown v Terry Norris II & Azumah Nelson v Jessie James Leija II); The Real Thing in the Bull Ring at the Plaza de Toros in Mexico City on Nov. 12, 1994; and Burden of Proof at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev., on April 8, 1995.

- First and only promoter to ever hold six world-title fights on the same card—and he did it twice in one year: Judgment Day in Monterrey on Dec. 10, 1994, in Mexico and Unfinished Business on Sept. 17, 1994, in Las Vegas, Nev.

- Promoted an incredible 47 world championship fights in 1994—shattering his previous record of 25 title bouts in 1986. Named Greatest Promoter of All Time by the World Boxing Council in 1994. Named Promoter of the Year by the World Boxing Association for 1994.

- Only boxing promoter named to Sports Illustrated's 40 Most Influential Sports Figures of the Last 40 Years in 1994.

- Promoter of He's Back featuring Mike Tyson vs. Peter McNeeley, which became the then-highest-grossing event in history, \$13,965,500, at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nev., on Aug. 19, 1995. Also marked the first time a boxer (Mike Tyson) received \$25 million for a 10-round fight.

- Named Promoter of the Year by the World Boxing Association for 1995.

- First promoter to pay \$30 million to a boxer when Mike Tyson received that amount to face World Boxing Council champion Frank Bruno in The Championship Part 1 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nev., on March 16, 1996.

- Promoter of Finally featuring Mike Tyson vs. Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield, which became the then-highest-grossing event, \$14,150,700, in the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nev., on Nov. 9, 1996. It also became the then-most-watched pay-per-view event in history with 1.6 million buys. The match was seen around the world in more than 100 countries—shattering all previous boxing-event viewership records.

- Named Promoter of the Year by the World Boxing Association for 1996.

- Named Promoter of the Decade by the International Boxing Federation in 1996.

- Paid Mike Tyson more than any other athlete in history—\$120 million—during the 15 months between Aug. 19, 1995, and Nov. 9, 1996, to face the following opponents: Peter McNeeley, \$25 million, Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 19, 1995; Buster Mathis Jr., \$10 million, Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 16, 1995; Frank Bruno, \$30 million, Las Vegas, Nev., March 16, 1996; Bruce Seldon, \$25 million, Las Vegas, Nev., Sept. 7, 1996; and Evander Holyfield, \$30 million, Las Vegas, Nev., Nov. 9, 1996.

- Promoter of The Sound and the Fury featuring the second pairing of Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield and Mike Tyson, which grossed more than its predecessor to become the then-highest-grossing event in history, \$14,277,200, at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nev., on June 28, 1997. This event also eclipsed its predecessor to become the most-watched pay-per-view event in history with 1.95 million buys.

- First promoter inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, N.Y., in 1997. Named Promoter of the Year by the World Boxing Association for 1997.

- Named Promoter of the Year by the World Boxing Association for 1998.

- Three streets in Newark, N.J., Irvington, N.J., and Orange, N.J. re-named Don King Plaza in September 1998 in recognition of King's decades-long business and philanthropic efforts in the state





of New Jersey.

- Promoter of Kings' Crowning Glory... The Undisputed World Heavyweight Championship between Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield and Lennox Lewis, which holds the record highest-grossing event ever in Madison Square Garden history and New York state history at \$11,425,494 on March 13, 1999. It also holds the record for the fastest sellout for a boxing event in MSG history.
- Co-promoted the Fight of the Millennium between Oscar De La Hoya and Felix "Tito" Trinidad Jr., which holds the record for highest-grossing non-heavyweight fight, \$12,949,500, at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev., on Sept. 18, 1999. This match also holds the record for most-watched non-heavyweight pay-per-view event in history at 1.4 million buys.
- Promoted Unfinished Business... Search for the Truth re-match between Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield and Lennox Lewis, which holds the record for largest gross in history at, \$16,860,300—the event sold out in 90 minutes—at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nev., on Nov. 13, 1999.
- Named Promoter of the Millennium by the World Boxing Association in 1999.
- Named Promoter of the Year for the year 1999 by www.SecondsOut.com
- First promoter to host a boxing card at the AmericanAirlines Arena with Glory & Adventure: A Tale of Two Cities featuring Felix "Tito"



Trinidad vs. Mammadou Thiam on July 22, 2000. The 12,506 paid spectators contributed to a gross of over \$1.2 million.

- Promoted Forces of Destruction featuring Felix "Tito" Trinidad vs. "Ferocious" Fernando Vargas at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas on Dec. 2, 2000. An epic battle that included six knockdowns, Trinidad emerged victorious with a knockout in the final round, which garnered him Fighter of the Year and Fight of the Year honors. Holds record for eighth-largest live-gate gross in the history of the state of Nevada.
- Promoted The Middleweight World Championship Series to determine the first undisputed 160-pound champion since Marvelous Marvin Hagler held that distinction from 1980 through 1987. Longtime International Boxing Federation middleweight champion Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins outpointed World Boxing Council middleweight champion Keith Holmes in The Theater at Madison Square Garden on April 14, 2001, to advance to the championship round. WBA and IBF 154-pound champion Felix "Tito" Trinidad left his 154-pound titles behind to enter the 160-pound fray and defeated two-time World Boxing Association middleweight champion William Joppy by technical knockout in front of 18,235 fans that comprised the fourth-largest live-gate gross in Madison Square Garden boxing history on May 12, 2001. In the MWCS finale, Hopkins dominated the previously undefeated Trinidad and won the tournament with a dramatic final-round TKO in front of 19,075 fans that comprised the second-largest live-gate gross in Madison Square Garden boxing history on Sept. 29, 2001.
- Promoted Cory Spinks vs. Zab Judah II: Arch Rivals... Meet Me in St. Louis, which boasted the second-largest attendance for a boxing match at an indoor arena in history when 22,370 patrons sold out the Savvis Center in advance to witness Zab Judah knock out Cory Spinks in the ninth round to become the undisputed world welterweight champion on Feb. 5, 2005.
- Block of Mississippi Ave. in Atlantic City, N.J., where it meets the famed Boardwalk (adjacent to the former Atlantic City Convention Center now known as Boardwalk Hall), is re-named Don King Plaza on March 13, 2006. King was recognized "for his tireless commitment to establish Atlantic City as one of the great resort destinations of the world." Unveiling ceremony attended by Don King, Atlantic City Mayor Robert Levy and New Jersey Athletic Commissioner Larry Hazzard. Bally's President Ken Condon served as Master of Ceremonies.



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excerpt from "Our Tsunami" article
Tuesday, August 30, 2008 Sun Herald
by Anita Lee, Don Hammack,
Joshua Norman, and Margaret Baker

Hurricane Katrina devastated South Mississippi on Monday with a force not seen since Camille 36 years ago, sweeping aside multimillion-dollar casinos, burying the beach highway and killing at least 50 people in Harrison County.

"This," said Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway, "is our tsunami." At least 50 people are confirmed dead in Gulfport and Biloxi. Katrina raged ashore in Mississippi at dawn and terrorized the Coast until winds subsided after 3 p.m., leaving massive damage in her wake. Monday night, communications were down and transportation systems demolished.

Katrina also crippled medical services. Beleaguered emergency personnel awaited reinforcements from the federal government and other states to shore up assistance. "We are still in the search-and-rescue mode," Holloway said. It will be days before the costs of Katrina, in lives and property, are known. Katrina's tidal surge swept away bridges that had linked the three Coast counties.