

“History!” A September To Remember! Riviera, Las Vegas September 21, 1985

World Heavyweight Championship
LARRY HOLMES
vs.
MICHAEL SPINKS



On September 21, 1955, Rocky Marciano, the unbeaten heavyweight champion, stopped the great light heavyweight champion, Archie Moore, in eight rounds to extend his victory string to 49

fighters. Marciano retired early the following year and became the first World Heavyweight Champion to retire undefeated and the 49-0 record set the standard of excellence for heavyweights in boxing history.

Now, exactly 30 years later, Larry Holmes, the mighty heavyweight champion from Easton, Pa., will try to equal Marciano's record, facing the challenge of unbeaten and undisputed world light heavyweight champion, Michael Spinks, the Gold Medalist from St. Louis and Philadelphia, on September 21, 1985, at the Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. Holmes is, of course, 48-0.

The 15-round battle will be promoted by the newly-formed Dynamic Duo, Inc. -- Don King, Chairman of the Board, and Butch Lewis, President -- in association with the Riviera Las Vegas. The Home Box Office Cable Network (HBO) will televise the program from 9:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. (E.D.T.).

September 21, 1985, which has been tagged “History! A September To Remember!”, becomes a Date with Destiny for both Holmes and Spinks.

Holmes is not only seeking to become the second in history to retire as heavyweight champion undefeated, he also wants to surpass the mark of 49-0 set by the legendary Rocky Marciano. It's two to go in Larry's brush with history and the equalizer could be the toughest of them all.

For Spinks, he faces a task never achieved in the history of boxing. Though many have tried since the 175-pound division was created at the turn of the century, no light heavyweight champion has ever succeeded in winning the heavyweight crown. Ruby Bob Fitzsimmons was the heavyweight champion briefly but did not become the light heavyweight king until after he was dethroned as the heavyweight champion.

Philadelphia Jack O'Brien fought a 20-round draw with heavyweight ruler Tommy Burns but lost in a subsequent effort.

Great light heavyweight champs like Billy Conn, Tommy Loughran, Bob Foster and, of course, Archie Moore made valiant efforts but as yet nobody has been able to bridge the gap. Spinks' credentials, however, narrow the odds in

this age-old battle of the “good little man against the good big man.”

The Spinks fight will mark the 21st defense of a world heavyweight title by Holmes.

On June 9th Larry celebrated his seventh year as world champion, second only to Joe Louis. He has proved not only a worthy champion but he has earned the respect of the boxing community with his flexible skills.

Larry will be 36 years old in November and many will use the age factor as a Holmes' deterrent. The bottom line, however, is that Holmes keeps winning and his pride and natural courage will overcome many things. In his last three defenses -- against James Smith, David Bey and Carl Williams -- it took him longer than usual to get the job done. Larry promises to rectify that. He took the Williams fight on short notice. The Holmes' record includes 34 knockouts in his 48 wins.

Perhaps, of all the 175-champions who have tried to win the heavy title, Spinks has the physical and psychological edge. He is undefeated. He was a Gold Medalist at Montreal in 1976. He is motivated by the fact that Holmes knocked out his older brother, Leon.

Michael, who was 29 on July 22nd, will have an edge of almost seven years on Holmes. He is almost as tall -- standing 6 feet, 2-1/2 inches in height compared to Holmes' 6 feet, 3 inches. At 180 to 185 pounds, he will lose none of his speed. He is a superb boxer and can punch with either hand. He also has the confidence that is the product of victory.

Michael won the WBA Light Heavyweight title on July 18, 1981, defeating Eddie Mustafa Muhammad in 15 rounds. He made five title defenses then fought Dwight Braxton for the undisputed title. On March 18, 1983, he defeated Braxton in 15 rounds. He has fought four times since, his last being a fine effort in which he stopped Jim MacDonald in 8 rounds on June 6th.

Michael has won all 27 of his fights, with 19 knockouts.

Aron Chilewich Dead At 84

NEW YORK (WNS) — Funeral services were held for Aron Chilewich, a New York philanthropist, at the Park East synagogue. He died in his Manhattan apartment of cancer at the age of 84.

He was a founder of the synagogue and of Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. He had served for years as vice chairman of the Board of Governors of Ben Gurion University of the Negev and as a trustee of the American Friends of both Hebrew University and the University of Haifa. Chilewich was also a trustee of the United Israel Appeal, the Park East Synagogue and of the Park East Day School. Born in Pskov, Russia, he went into the family export

business, which specialized in hides and leathers. He came to the United States in 1939.



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