

SPORTS

"COME AND GET IT !!!" "BARKLEY'S NOT ALL THAT !!!"

By W.G. Ramirez
 "He doesn't show me any respect. I'm the one who beat Tommy Hearns twice. I've won three world titles. Now...this guy Toney is going to pay big," expressed IBF Super Middleweight Champion Iran "Blade" Barkley. Barkley was speaking about his upcoming opponent on Saturday night, James "Lights Out" Toney. The two will meet for Barkley's title at Caesars' Indoor Pavilion in a scheduled 12-round bout.

"I'm not just going to beat Toney. I plan to ruin his career!!!" scoffed Barkley.

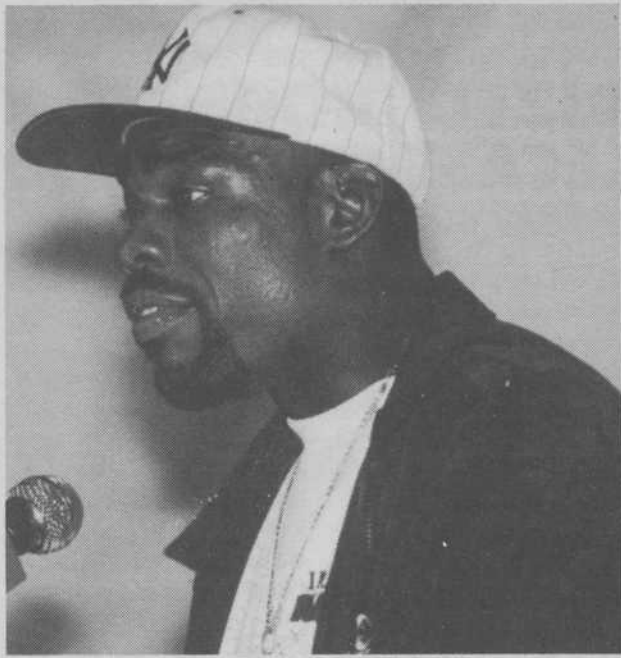
"You want this title, come and get it," taunted Barkley Wednesday afternoon. "Whatever you think you got, you better just come with it. And I'm ready for anything you got!"

A project of South Bronx, N.Y., Barkley is looking forward to what could possibly be the toughest fight of his career. At 33 years old though, Barkley doesn't seem worried at all. Wednesday, Iran clearly stated that Toney is no match for him and it will be justifiably time to give "The Blade" all do respect.

"After I do what I'm gonna do (to Toney), I better get my "just do." If I don't (get respect), I don't know what I'm gonna do.

"Toney intimidates a lot of fighters - not this one. I'm beating all odds again." Barkley opened up a 3-2 underdog to Toney and remains a 2-1/2-1 'dog at Caesars Palace, according to Race and Sports Book director Lou D'Amico.

At Sport of Kings, the money line can be found a +270 for Barkley.



IRAN "THE BLADE" BARKLEY

USA Today boxing analyst Jon Saraceno explained that Barkley is a strong brawler but tends to "shoot wide punches which leaves himself open." Saraceno also remarked that Toney's game plan, which is to switch his fighting patterns every round, could confuse Barkley and eventually wear him down.

Trainer Eddie Mustafa Muhammad plays a key role in firing Barkley up and driving him to such a manner that "The Blade" resembles a pit bull in pursuit. Muhammad's reference to a pit bull sparked Toney's manager Jackie Kallen to say that she "would put a rottweiler up against a pit bull any day," and that she did indeed have a rottweiler in "Lights Out" Toney.

Barkley's last mentionable fight came close to one year ago, on March 20, 1992, in the same arena he'll be fighting in Saturday night. He dethroned Thomas "Hit Man Hearns in a

12-round decision, capturing the WBA Light Heavyweight Title.

He promises that this fight will result the same way, only quicker, and also that it may be the end for Toney.

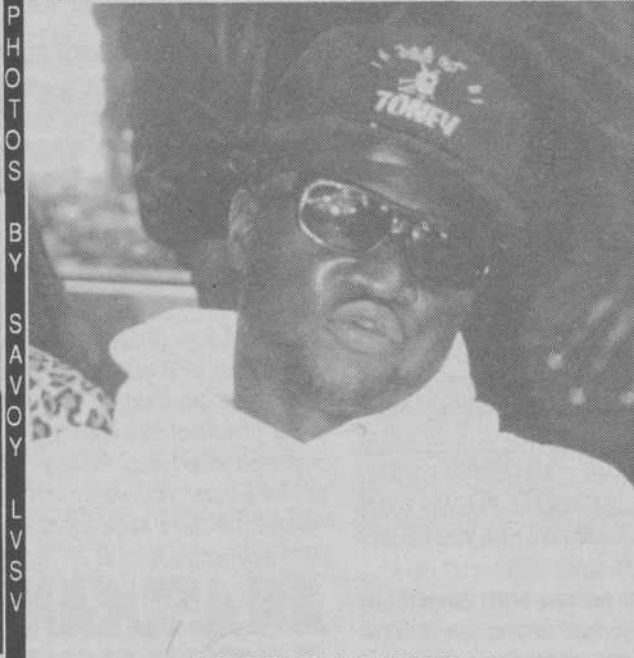
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Barkley has become extremely motivated for this fight and it is in this mode that "The Blade" performs his best.

"The Blade" hasn't lost a fight since 1989; Toney has never lost. Barkley complains he wants respect; Toney won't give it to him. Following Saturday's fight it could be high time for some overdue respect for "The Blade."

AND HERE'S HOW THEY SEE IT...

Willie Ramirez	LV Sentinel-Voice	Barkley-Decision
Jon Saraceno	USA Today	Toney-Decision
Wallace Matthews	N.Y. Newsday	Barkley-KO 8-12
Mike Katz	N.Y. Daily News	Barkley-Decis.
Tim Neverett	American Sprt. Ntwk.	Barkley-KO-8
Scott Higgins	KLAS-TV 8 Sports	Barkley-KO-7
Colin Cowherd	KVBC-TV 3 Sports	Toney-KO-3
Mark Miller	KVBC-TV 3 Sports	Toney-KO-7
Ron Futrell	KTNV-TV 13 Sports	Toney-Decision
Mario Diaz	KTNV-TV 13 Sports	Barkley-KO-3
Royce Feour	LV Review Journal	Toney-Decision
Mike O'Hara	Detroit News	Toney-Decision



JAMES "LIGHTS OUT" TONEY

By W.G. Ramirez
 IBF Middleweight Champion James Toney (33-0-2, 22 K.O.'s) stressed the fact that IBF Super Middleweight Champion Iran Barkley (30-7-0, 18 K.O.'s) "ain't all that," Wednesday afternoon at the final pre-fight press conference at Caesars Palace.

The undefeated Toney will challenge Barkley for his belt, Saturday night in Caesars' Indoor Pavilion.

Toney, from Ann Arbor, Michigan, could possibly be Barkley's toughest opponent he has faced. Barkley has been through the likes of Roberto Duran, Michael Nunn (both losses), and Thomas Hearns,

winning twice. Nunn, granted was a young fighter in 1989, but Duran and Hearns had both been past their prime.

James "Lights Out" Toney is a young, strong, undefeated champion that is ready to destroy anything and anyone that gets in his way. Barkley is definitely in Toney's way.

"I'm ready to fight right now," said Toney. "Each round you're gonna see a different fighter. I'll remind you of different fighters each round. If (Barkley) can take a whooping for 12 rounds, Lord have mercy."

Bad vibes between the two fighters stem from a press conference following Toney's win over former world champion Mike McCallum in Reno, Nevada. Barkley sat in the front row of the post-fight press conference. Toney picked Iran out

of the crowded room, stared him down and said, "You're next."

"You're talking to me," Barkley said.

"You heard me," Toney answered.

Barkley rushed Toney and the two stood toe-to-toe. Apparently there were more heated words that came out of Barkley's mouth which can't be printed. Toney sat down and has explained that he didn't get "punked," he just laughed at "The Blade" and continued to eat his lunch. Barkley's interpretation: "He just sat down like a lamb."

James Toney first came on the scene three years ago when Jackie Kallen phoned Top Rank matchmakers Bruce Trampler and Ron Katz on a daily basis to rant and rave about a certain fighter that wanted any middleweight - anywhere and anytime.

Toney was booked to fight Merqui Sosa, then described by one New York fight writer as "the best middleweight to come out of N.Y.C. in the last 20 years." Toney went to Atlantic City and beat Sosa in a 12-round bout, capturing the U.S. Boxing Association 160-pound title.

From there it has been nothing but brutal beatings for Toney's opponents. His reputation for "heated discussions" continued through Wednesday afternoon when Barkley and Toney discussed what body parts would have to be removed from the ring following their bout.

Iran suggested James' jaw - Toney responded with Iran's whole head!!! *James, have mercy!!!*

CHEYENNE IS NOT INVINCIBLE AFTER ALL

By Bill Lee

Bishop Gorman solidified their standing for second place, at least for now, in the Sunset Division and put themselves in the hunt for the division title, by handing the Cheyenne Desert Shield their first division loss, 64-59 Tuesday afternoon at Cheyenne.

The 1-2 battle was close throughout as Cheyenne displayed a fierce defense right along with Bishop Gorman, who answered the call with their own tenacious "D." The score see-sawed from one-to-three point margins for both teams throughout the contest and at any given opportunity. Gorman seized the final opportunity at the half, leading 33-31.

It became evident how the Desert Shield were the top team in Southern Nevada, as their talented squad showed quickness and drive behind solid performances by the backcourt duo of Sean Long and Chancellor Davis and the frontcourt wizardry of Mario McKeever. Unfortunately for the Desert Shield, Davis didn't see much action in the final period due to foul trouble.

As the game continued to roll in the fourth, Gorman forced a few
(See Gorman, Page 15)

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