

NAMED 1992
BEST SPORTS EDITION
1st Place
By the
West Coast
Black Publishers
Association

SPORTS

"It's all business"

BAD-BOY IMAGE DOESN'T BOTHER MOORER AT ALL

W.G. Ramirez

As soft-spoken and polite as he is, you wouldn't think that Michael Moorer is the #1 heavy-weight contender in boxing, nor would you even imagine that it's the same guy that will spit on you in public in a heartbeat.

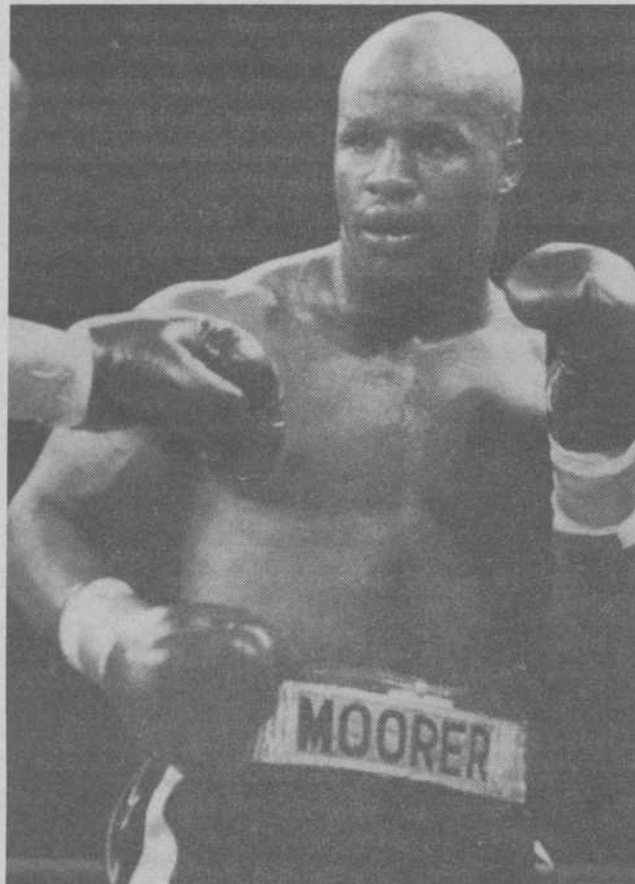
"It's all a part of acting - its boxing," says Moorer. "Outside of boxing I am not like that at all. It sells tickets and it makes people money."

"The image is Michael Moorer is a 'bad boy,' and that really doesn't bother me, because like I said, it sells tickets. There are a lot of people who don't see me as just a regular, ordinary guy outside of boxing. They read just the bad things about me, they don't ever read the good things."

"There are good things, but it is a part of my personal life and I don't like people in my personal business because it invades my privacy."

Moorer will challenge Heavy-weight Champion Evander Holyfield Friday night at Caesars Palace for two-thirds of the sport's top crown- The International Boxing Federation and the World Boxing Association.

If Moorer can overcome Holyfield, he will become



Michael Moorer

boxing's first left-handed heavy-weight champion ever, and may also be in line to become the undisputed champion. A natural righty-turned-lefty, Moorer will be the first southpaw Holyfield has faced since 1986, when he was still a cruiserweight.

Along with many experts, Moorer doesn't believe that coming in as a southpaw will have any effect on the fight at all. "It's getting blown way out of proportion. I am here to do one thing and that is fight Evander Holyfield."

"I look forward to this fight because I am ready to fight and I am ready to win," states Moorer. "That is what I think its all about - being ready to win."

As far as bad-mouthing or bashing Holyfield, Moorer says its not his style and he isn't going to get caught up in doing it.

"There is much hype coming from this fight, but why go out and try to paint a bad image. I'm not gonna disrespect him. Its a genuine respect that I have for everybody. He's done nothing to me. It is a part of business where you have to do what you have to do, but also in the same hand, you can have respect."

Respect is a fluent word in Moorer's vocabulary, as is the words "please," "thank you," and "excuse me." His delivery when speaking is extremely pleasant and he maintains there is a good side.

"It's hard to explain," as he makes an attempt, "I guess you have to be around me outside of boxing. I'm very down-to-earth. I am a wonderful father to my son. I'm just a big kid."

"As long as you don't disrespect me in a disorderly fashion, there are no problems. Otherwise I can be a very ignorant person."

Less than 12 months after turning pro in December 1988, Moorer gained the World Boxing Association's light heavyweight championship against Ramzi Hassan on national television, while running his record to a perfect 12-for-12 - (12 fights, 12 knockouts). He successfully defended his title nine times (a WBO championship record) within two years before jumping to the heavyweight division with only one desire in sight: to become the first southpaw to capture the world heavyweight championship.

His debut in the sport's top division came on April 19, 1991 against Terry Davis in Atlantic

City and resulted in Moorer's 23rd consecutive knockout victory with a 2nd round TKO.

Victories ensued through heavyweights such as: Alex Stewart, Bobby Crabtree, Bert Cooper and James "Bone-crusher" Smith.

Moorer's 5th-round TKO over Cooper was for the WBO's version of the crown.

With the majority of Moorer's victories coming by way of knockout, the question remains whether or not he'll be able to endure a 12-round battle with Holyfield. "I've done that in the training period that I've been in. If I have to go 12 rounds, I'll be ready."

JONES ESCAPES CLUTCHES OF BROOKLYN FOR SUCCESS

W.G. Ramirez

Junior Jones the unbeaten World Boxing Association bantamweight champion will put his title on the line against John Michael Johnson on Friday night's undercard at Caesars Palace, and according to the tiny-framed boxer, no one, including Johnson, can beat him.

"I'm the best fighter fighter in the world, and no one is gonna

beat me. Whether its by KO or decision, I know I'm gonna win." In the start of both their young careers, in 1989, the two met in a four-round preliminary fight with the decision going to Jones.

Jones hails from what most Brooklyn-ites would consider the worst area of that borough, Bushwick, and has clawed his way to the top of the sport in his respective division through determination and hard work.

He hasn't exactly abandoned his hometown, as he says he keeps in touch with his 'boys' back in the hood, but he remains focused towards what is in front of him.

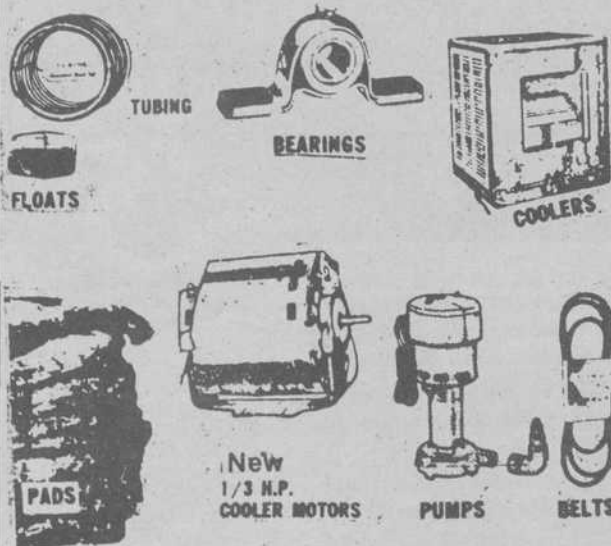
"I still see certain guys in the neighborhood, and I'm still the same ol' person. I thank God for boxing though. If it weren't for boxing I don't know what I'd be doing."

Although he's always had a passion for the sport, Jones was a well-rounded athlete as a teenager. At Bushwick High School he starred on the school's football and baseball teams and he'll still admit that being agile helps a great deal in training for fights.

As an amateur, Jones captured 94% of his fights (150-9) including two National Golden Gloves titles, the National PAL and Junior Olympic championships in 1987 and 1988, and the New York City PAL Championship a record-setting eight con-

(See Jones, Page 19)

BEAT THE HEAT...BEAT HIGH PRICES!



PHIL'S SALVAGE
BUILDERS EMPORIUM
1131 So. Main... 382-7528

SEE LEE!

- Bad or No Credit . . .
\$EE LEE
- Slow Pay or Repo . . .
\$EE LEE

As low as
\$500⁰⁰

**Total
Down
Approval in
30 minutes**

If you want a nice used car or truck
— Come on Down —

LEE WALKER

can be seen at

FALCONI'S ACURA

5550 W. Sahara

Please call 367-6400 for appointment