

# HOLYFIELD WILL NEED TO ENDURE EARLY RAMPAGE FROM CHALLENGER

W.G. Ramirez

When Evander Holyfield steps into the ring Friday night to defend his International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Association titles, he must come in with the mentality that the first five rounds will be the toughest of them all. His challenger, Michael Moorer, the IBF and WBA's #1-ranked contender, has a reputation for disposing of the majority of his opponents very early in fights. In 34 professional bouts, Moorer has knocked out 30 of his opponents and wins them, on the average, by the third round.

"I have a lot of respect for Michael Moorer," admits the champ, "I truly believe that because he came up from that Light Heavyweight division, he has pretty much the same thing that I have - he has a lot of heart. There is no quit in him."

Friday's bout will be Holyfield's first defense of his belts since recapturing them from the same man that took them from him the year prior - Riddick Bowe.

Holyfield says that in the first bout with Bowe, he knows he did not fight a "smart fight," and this is the main reason he lost. "I was so caught up in trying to knock him out, I abandoned my game plan," says Holyfield. "I had one bad day at the office and I couldn't let it end like that."

"With a bigger guy you kind of fight harder 'cause you realize that you're in danger if they hit you. Smaller guys - you don't feel that you have to prove much, but knowing the reputation of Michael Moorer and the type of fighter he is, I got respect. I'm not just gonna put my head out there to get hit, he has to work for it."

As far as holding an advantage for the fight, Holyfield is quick to say that he "is the man." "I feel I hold the advantage from the 1st round to the 12th round. If the fight goes short, you better believe I'll be victorious, if it goes the distance I'll be victorious. I am a 12-round fighter, but I can also get you out at any given round. It all depends on how smart and how durable this man is himself."

At Tuesday's press conference, Moorer not only said that he will have to maintain a smart game plan, but he also expects Holyfield to come in prepared just the same.

Holyfield has been training with a pair of left-handed sparring partners to get used to the fact that he will be facing a southpaw. His style of training has insured him that he will be prepared to face the style of a left-handed fighter. Moorer will be the first southpaw

Holyfield has faced in seven years.

"I feel it is safe to work with them to the point where I'll be familiar not only with Michael Moorer himself, but the style of a left-handed boxer. Everyone's got two hands though. I need to try and get him to worry about what I'm gonna do. I don't look at the advantages and disadvantages. By looking at him, I look at everything I have to do to be the very best. I can never be at a disadvantage because I feel I'm too smart to be at a disadvantage. You can only be at a disadvantage if you feel that way."

Although he says it'll be tough to knock Moorer on the canvas, Holyfield's comments on Tuesday make it sound like he'll be able to achieve the feat.

"Anybody can get knocked down, it takes a noble man to get off the deck. I have watched the tapes of Michael Moorer, and I see that if you catch him off-guard you can get him down."

"I don't feel I'll win by getting a lucky punch in. I'm confident that if I go out there and fight a good fight, I'm gonna beat him whether I knock him out or I beat him in a decision."

"Knocking people out is a bonus. You just work less and get paid the same."

Well its true that anyone can get knocked down when caught off-guard, but with the rugged style Moorer displays, Holyfield may have to watch himself early. If the fight makes it to the latter rounds, it'll be Holyfield that could hold the upper hand.

Although both heavyweights weighed in at an identical 214 pounds on Wednesday, Moorer's stamina could be a question after the seventh round.

Many experts believe that Holyfield will be able to endure what Moorer throws at him, and take the challenger out late.

"I think its gonna be a terrific fight," ESPN boxing analyst Al Bernstein said, at a benefit for Westcare at Bally in the Fashion Show Mall on Wednesday evening. "I think that Evander Holyfield will ultimately win the fight, probably by decision or TKO later in the fight. Ultimately, the Holyfield experience is gonna be the thing that wins."

"What is likely to happen is, in the middle rounds and the later rounds, I think Holyfield will wear him down. Primarily because he'll be hitting him with a lot of punches. Moorer's defense is not is good as it should be."

Moorer is in good shape, but Holyfield will wear him down."

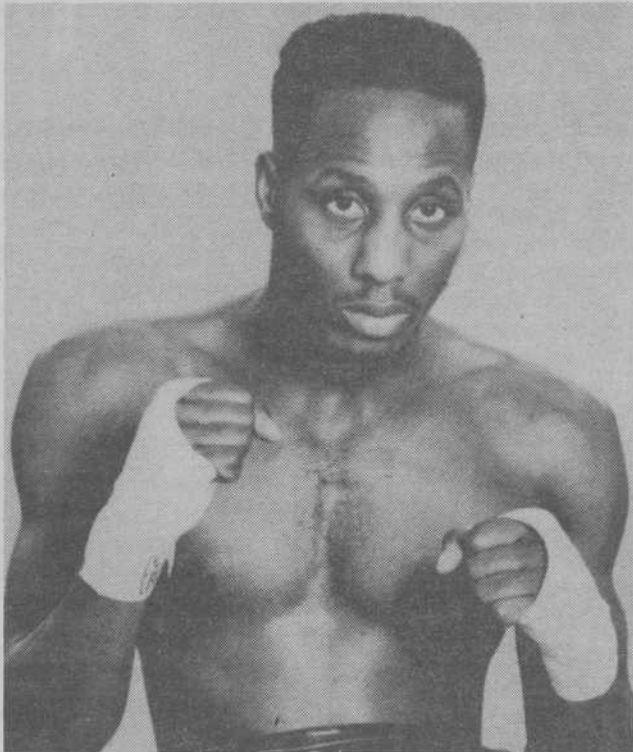
## JONES

(Continued From Page 18)  
secutive years (1982-1989).

It was 1987 when Jones realized he was still in an environment where nobody cared who you were. You're number could be called at any given moment. He was 17-years-old at the time when he was using a pay phone and two men bum-rushed him with a gun in hand. As one of the assailants held the gun to Jones' head, the other snatched from his neck the 14-karat Golden Gloves pendant that symbolized his championship.

Jones made a small jump, but not exactly better, to a different neighborhood - Canarsie. Even though the area was nicer than Bushwick, it didn't necessarily mean it wasn't rough. Jones remained dedicated, and went on to represent the United States as an amateur in international competition - going undefeated in 13 contests.

In 1988, Jones lost a tough 3-2 decision to eventual gold medal winner Kennedy McKinney in the U.S. Olympic Trials but proceeded to launch his



Junior Jones

professional career in 1989.

Since then "Poison" has accumulated a 32-0-0 record (22 KOs), and says he enjoys the spotlight and is ready to defend his belt Friday night.

"I am more relaxed now. I don't get as nervous or tense as

I used to, the first couple of times out." 22 of his first 25 fights were either in New York or New Jersey prompting the crowd to pull for the hometown fighter.

"I've got a great following. When I do fight, I've always got a good crowd behind me. You

know, everyone likes to fight at home."

He won his first pro title in 'Jersey against Dadoy Andujar in 1989, scoring a ninth round TKO to capture the USBA Bantamweight title.

He went on to defend that belt twice in 1992 with a seventh-round TKO over Eddie Rangel in New York City, then on the Holyfield-Bowe I undercard in Las Vegas, knocking out Jose Quirino in the third round.

On the undercard of the Buddy McGirt-Pemell Whitaker card in Madison Square Garden, Jones throttled Juan Pablo Salazar with a fourth round knockout to capture the then-vacant World Boxing Council Continental Americas bantamweight championship. Later that year, in Atlantic City, "Poison" won the WBA title with a 12-round decision over Jorge Julio, and has defended it one time since, against Elvis Alvarez.

Junior "Poison" Jones is definitely making good on his personal message towards today's youth, which is: "I grew (See Jones, Page 20)

### TALE OF THE TAPE

EVANDER HOLYFIELD		MICHAEL MOORER
31	AGE	26
214	WEIGHT	214
6'2"	HEIGHT	6'2"
77-1/2"	REACH	78"
43"	CHEST(normal)	42-1/2"
43"	CHEST(expanded)	42-1/2"
16"	BICEPS	17"
12-1/2"	FOREARMS	14"
32"	WAIST	34"
32"	THIGH	26-1/2"
13"	CALF	17"
19-1/2"	NECK	20"
7-1/2"	WRIST	8"
12-1/2"	FIST	12"

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