

# Future in doubt if Tyson keeps fighting giants

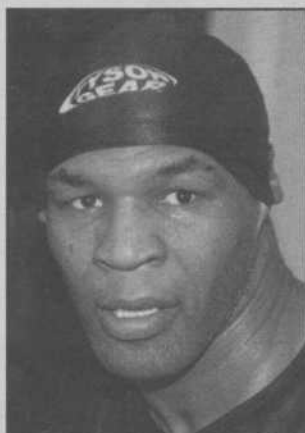
By Huel Washington  
Sentinel-Voice

Any boxing fans who have already given Mike Tyson the wreath and flowers because you think his career is dead, don't count Iron Mike out just yet.

Yes, he took a savage beating from Englishman Danny Williams in the fourth round and appeared that he could have risen before the count of 10. However, let's start with first things first.

Williams weighed in at 265 pounds the day before the fight. Tyson weighed, according to the commission, 233 pounds, which gave his opponent a 32-pound advantage. Both were heavier than most athletes other than college or professional football players are.

In boxing and wrestling, the different divisions are according to the weight. And the participants have a weight limit and when the "weigh-in" is held, each fighter must weigh exactly or under the scheduled weight. The heavy-



MIKE TYSON

weight class is the only one that has a variation in the weight of the two fighters.

In professional boxing there are at least 14 different weight classes, starting with bantamweight at 105 pounds and going up to heavyweight at 201 pounds-plus. The weights of the Olympic boxers who will be in Athens in a couple of weeks start at light flyweight (106 pounds) and go to 201-plus pounds super heavyweight.

Although Tyson weighed 233 pounds, he is not a genuine super heavyweight and

has added a lot of pounds to try and get as heavy as his opponents.

Evander Holyfield was a light heavyweight in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. He began his career as a light heavyweight and added weight to fight Dwight Braxton for the cruiserweight title. He put on more weight to fight Buster Douglas who had taken the title from Mike Tyson in Tokyo in one of boxing's biggest upsets. But it was not really an upset to people who know boxing. Douglas was a huge 240 pounds to Tyson's 210. He had a tremendous weight, height and reached advantage over Tyson.

Lennox Lewis also standing 6 feet, 5 inches and weighing 259 pounds at the weigh-in in Memphis presented another insurmountable obstacle for the smaller, shorter Tyson. The eventual result was already known to boxing experts.

During the years when Teofilio Stevenson ruled the

amateur and Olympic ranks, he won the super heavyweight Olympic title in 1972, 1976 and 1980.

Lewis won the same Olympic title in 1988, defeating Riddick Bowe of the United States. Bowe eventually won the World Boxing Council and the World Boxing Association heavyweight championships, defeating Holyfield. However, he refused to fight Lewis and threw the WBC belt into the wastebasket. Lewis later became the champion of the WBC in a championship bout. As big as Bowe was, he didn't want to have anything to do with another super heavyweight like Lewis.

Actually, Tyson's chances considering the long layoff and the weight of Williams were really slim and none.

Tyson came out like a house afire, nailing his opponent with several wicked shots to the head. But Williams proved he could take a solid punch and tried to keep Tyson from battering him

around the ring. He also threw a few big bombs himself.

Then as Tyson attempted to throw a left hook to his opponent's mid-section, he twisted his left knee. He immediately reached down in that area. He was not able to throw a punch with any leverage from that side. Most solid punches are thrown with leverage from either side and most fighters know that.

Unable to throw his best shots at an opponent who seemed to be getting better with each minute, Tyson was almost helpless in round four, landing on the ropes near the end of the round. Sitting on the floor, he listened to referee Dennis Alfred count to nine before even attempting to rise.

He later went to the hospital and the radiologist found that he had torn ligaments which has to be repaired before he can fight again. After surgery, comes rehabilitation of the joint which will take at least four months of intense therapy.

There has been a lot of talk about Tyson retiring but that is still premature. There are fighters like Joe Mesiti, Vasilli Jirov, James Toney, Roy Jones Jr., Antonio Tarver, David Tua and both Klitschko brothers who would not only be good opponents but good drawing cards.

And now that Williams has won the fight over the man that some thought once invincible, he is going around talking about a rematch. Sure, Tyson could give him a rematch but let him come down to 230 pounds and not weigh 270 on fight night.

Remember that saying, "Pick on somebody your own size?" Well, let's see Williams meet some of those other big guys. He wouldn't fair very well. In the immortal words of Yogi Berra, "It's not over until it's over." In Mike Tyson's case, it's not over. And it has nothing to do with his sizeable debt. It's the size of the giants who want to beat up on a little guy.

Today,  
summa cum laude.

Tomorrow,  
entrepreneur.

WELLS  
FARGO

The Next Stage®

Wells Fargo offers more than free checking with direct deposit to help you reach the Next Stage.

No one achieves success alone. At Wells Fargo, when you open a free checking account with direct deposit, you gain access to our team of knowledgeable bankers who can offer you more than just free checking. They offer support.

A personal banker will get to know you and your financial needs, then recommend products and services to help you build a financial foundation. So when you're ready for a car loan, a new home, or simply to save for the future, you'll be prepared for your next stage.

Visit a Wells Fargo location today or call 1-800-WFB-OPEN.



www.wellsfargo.com