

With Golota win, Lamon Brewster flying high

Entering the defense of his World Boxing Organization's Heavyweight boxing title Saturday at Chicago's United Center, champion Lamon Brewster's chances of winning against challenger Andrew Golota were considered slim or just plain none.

The odds posted by the Las Vegas casinos were Brewster plus 200 and Golota minus 250, which meant betting \$100 on Brewster would win \$200 dollars plus the bet amount back, and a bet on Golota would only net \$250 total. The odds makers had the fight 12-5 for the challenger the day of the fight.

Although Brewster had 32 wins, two defeats and 28 knockouts, his previous



SPORTS PACE

By Huel Washington

bouts, which included the stoppage of former WBO champion Wladimir Klitschko in five rounds and a controversial split decision against former sparring partner, Kari Meehan, Brewster's skeptics thought he was out of his class taking on the rugged Polish challenger.

Golota, a 37-year-old battler, who had given former undisputed Riddick Bowe a beating before being disqualified in both bouts, held a record of 38 wins, six defeats and one draw, was mak-

ing his fourth attempt to win a title after experts thought he had beaten World Boxing Association champion John Ruiz in their bout a few months earlier.

While training here at Barry's Boxing Gym before the bout, Brewster, when interviewed said he had a plan to win the fight but would not reveal it to the reporter.

The Indianapolis, Indiana, native Brewster who currently resides in Los Angeles, said, "Fighting in the swimming pool that I love,

Chicago, there aren't going to be anything but fireworks, from the beginning to the end, if there is an end...if it goes 12 rounds."

He said the bout against a formidable opponent like Golota gave the transplanted Indianan a chance to make history because there hadn't been a heavyweight title bout in the Windy City in 24 years. He said he was hoping to follow the pattern of Muhammad Ali, who said that in order to be great, you have to fight good opposition.

"I could fight bums, but what does that say about me?" Brewster said, quoting his hero Ali. "Golota isn't a postal worker or a dude off the street. He's made a name for himself, so if I beat him,

I will have established myself as a pretty fair fighter," Brewster explained.

Brewster said he even prayed each day and read the Holy Bible to give him strength to come out victorious in his bout with Golota.

Prior to the bout, being from Indianapolis, Brewster has been chosen as the man with the green flag to start this year's Indianapolis 500 IRL race this Sunday.

He must take his scheduled announcement of, "Gentlemen and lady start your engines," seriously, because after stripping down to his camouflage boxing trunks and hearing the opening bell, he jumped on Golota like a college boxer on a scholarship at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. He started his engine early. Nicknamed "Relentless," Brewster was just that.

Before Golota could land one punch, he was down on his back. When he arose, Brewster, taking a page from Jack Dempsey and Luis Firpo, knocked the Pole through the ropes. With some assistance, Golota arose again, only to face another onslaught by Brewster and went down again. The referee stopped the bout with the challenger looking very perplexed.

"What happened?" Golota asked, as he looked around bewildered.

The bout was over in 53 seconds of the first round and Brewster, who idolizes Iron Mike Tyson, had given his imitation of his idol's quick

termination of bouts when he was in his prime.

Brewster, who leased a house in Las Vegas to train, has given some thought to moving here permanently to be near his relative, Chris Byrd, the International Boxing Federation champion, and other local resident fighters — John Ruiz, the WBA champion, and Hasim Rahman, who has a chance to be the interim WBC titleholder, if he defeats Monte Barrett on July 23 in Madison Square Garden.

With the possibility of a heavyweight champions tournament, Brewster's latest performance would rate him high on the list of becoming the next undisputed heavyweight champion of the world.

Vitali Klitschko, considered the *Ring* magazine heavyweight champion, is recovering from back surgery and will not be fighting until at least September 2005.

Meanwhile, Brewster said, "God said I will never forsake you. If you stand, I will fight. Coming from the bottom, I did not give up. I didn't really have a plan. I had an objective... to be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world."

But standing in his way is cousin, Chris Byrd. "My mother's maiden name is Byrd. I have to think about that fight, But it is all about money. So, we will see what will happen in the future. Don King is the promoter and tells everyone what to do."

McNabb-Owens tiff roiling NFL's Eagles

By Lloyd Williams

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Stephen A. Smith, that big yapped yenta over at ESPN is doing his best to stir up a controversy where none ought to exist. Here are the basic facts:

Philadelphia Eagles receiver Terrell Owens wants to tear up his contract after a year, even though he was injured the second half of the season and the team made it all the way to the Super Bowl without him. He returned for the big game, and guess what? They lost! Still, he somehow thinks that he deserves a raise, as if he were the reason they finally got over the Conference championship hump. So, he fired his agent and hired another who promptly demanded that Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie renegotiate his seven-year agreement. When that ploy didn't work, the shameless media whore stooped to an all-time low, trashing team leader, quarterback Donovan

McNabb.

Working his puppet Smith like that trash-talking marionette you see in those annoying NBA ads, T.O. has somehow raised a rather unique criticism of his teammate. He alleges that other Eagles see Donovan as a company man willing to front for the organization. Duh! To me, this makes perfect sense for a couple of very good reasons.

First, McNabb has a \$100+ million contract. For that amount money, if my boss asked me to shine his shoes, I'd do so gladly, and offer to iron his shirt and dust his office, too. I'd even do windows.

Secondly, the Eagles organization has enjoyed phenomenal success over the last four years, achievements only overshadowed by the New England Patriots. I can tick off 25 cities which would eagerly trade their lot for that of Philly's.

Yes, Donovan and coach

Andy Reid are very close. Yes, they are conservative, almost corporate. Yes, they are tight-lipped, and never give good sound-bite. But their real job doesn't revolve around helping the media sell newspapers. As Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis would confirm, their sole responsibility is to "Just win, baby!"

Therefore, believe it or not, the sort of sensation swirling around the team is a distraction which could rip the team apart. The silly accusations being circulated by Smith suggest that Donovan is a modern-day house Negro who has no problem enriching himself at the expense of the rest of the brothers, the

so-called football-field Negroes who do the dirty work. Uncle Tom and slavery analogies are no longer applicable, when everybody we're talking about is enjoying an income which places them in the top 1 percentile of all wage-earners.

I say Terrell is a cancer which needs to be excised ASAP, before he sows enough seeds of discontent to wreck the foundation laid by Reid, one of the league's best cap-ologists. Obviously, there is no longer enough room on this team for both Terrell and Donovan. I say the one that's got to go is the Johnny-come-lately without a proven track record.

(See McNabb, Page 16)

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