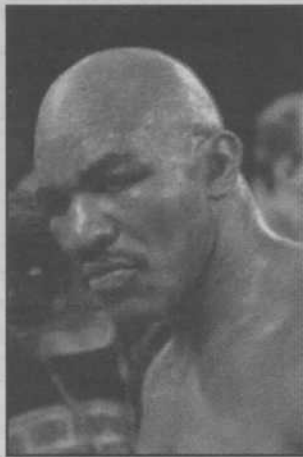


Holyfield voted down by NY athletic commission

CHICAGO - (AP) - Four-time heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield refuses to give up his ambition to reign again despite a dismal record over the last four years. But he might have to — he has been banned from fighting in New York by the state's athletic commission.



EVANDER HOLYFIELD

The commission's three members voted unanimously Tuesday to place Holyfield on indefinite administrative suspension, citing his "diminished skills and poor performance."

Holyfield, 42, lost to Larry Donald by a lopsided decision in his most recent bout, on Nov. 13 in New York's Madison Square Garden. The former champion has one victory, four losses and a draw in six bouts since 2001 and is 2-5-2 since 1999.

"We felt that his skills had significantly diminished, resulting in poor performance, and that was the basis for our administrative suspension," Ron Scott Stevens, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, said in a phone interview.

Stevens voted on the question along with commission members Jerome Becker and Marc Cornstein.

The action was a follow-up to their placing Holyfield on indefinite medical suspension after the Donald fight.

Stevens said Tuesday's vote was intended to "save the fighter from himself in the best interest of the sport." But the administrative suspension is less prohibitive than the preceding medical suspension.

That suspension was lifted Tuesday, after a battery of medical tests showed

Holyfield had no significant health problems.

Under the federal Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act of 2000, other states had to honor New York's medical suspension, Scott said, but they are not bound to comply with the administrative suspension. It only prohibits Holyfield from fighting in New York State. He can appeal the decision, and apply for a license in other states.

Holyfield's manager, Alex Krys, told the New

York Daily News that he is seeking a bout in Europe for the ex-champion.

Holyfield is 21-year veteran pro campaigner, virtually assured of induction into boxing's Hall of Fame by virtue of title-winning victories over Buster Douglas in 1990, Riddick Bowe in 1993, Mike Tyson in 1996 and John Ruiz in 2000.

But recent bouts have tarnished his lustrous career. He looked particularly slow and laborious against Donald, a journeyman at best, and

against James Toney, a blown-up light-heavyweight who knocked him out on Oct. 4, 2003.

Holyfield, a 1984 Olympic silver medalist, won his first world title as a 190-pound cruiserweight in 1986. When he fought Donald last year, it was the first time since then his bout was not a main event.

Holyfield retired briefly in 1994 after being diagnosed with heart problems, but returned to the ring the following year, saying he'd been

cured by a faith-healing evangelist.

When the commission put him on medical suspension last November, Holyfield reiterated his intention not to retire from boxing and complained, "Why do they want to retire me out?"

"What have I done to this game that they don't want me in it anymore?"

During his forced boxing inactivity over the past nine months, Holyfield found another physical outlet: ballroom dancing.

Second UConn player charged in laptop theft

STORRS, Conn. (AP) - Connecticut point guard Marcus Williams was arrested Tuesday, the second member of the team charged in the theft of four laptop computers from student dorm rooms.

Redshirt freshman guard A.J. Price was charged Friday. Police said they expect to make one more arrest in the case.

Williams, 19, of Los Angeles, faces four counts of third-degree larceny, which carry a penalty of up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines.

Williams surrendered at 8 p.m. to campus police, just hours after returning from Argentina where he competed on the U.S. team in the men's Under 21 championships.

Police said Williams and two others tried to sell the computers at several locations in Manchester. Employees at a pawn shop in Manchester recognized Williams as soon as he entered the store and told him they did not take laptop computers, police said.

The four laptops, which have a total value of \$11,000, have been recovered.

Williams, a starter last

season as a sophomore, and Price had been expected to shore up UConn's backcourt, a position beset by off-court problems. Price missed last season after suffering a brain hemorrhage in October and had not yet been medically cleared for this coming year. Williams missed most of the 2003-04 national championship season because of academic problems.

Guard Antonio Kellogg was expelled in April at the end of his freshman season after being charged with marijuana possession and assaulting a police officer.

It was not immediately clear what the arrest meant for either player's status with the Huskies. Team officials released a statement Tuesday night after the arrest saying the allegations involving Williams and Price are an "ongoing legal matter" and are being reviewed as a "university Student Code of Conduct situation."

"Therefore, the Division of Athletics is unable to make any comment regarding these proceedings," the statement read.

Both players are free on \$10,000 bond and are due in Rockville Superior Court on Aug. 23.

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