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Leon Spinks

“Neon” Leon Spinks is a former Heavyweight champion boxer famous for his gap-toothed grin and his surprising upset over Muhammad Ali in 1978.

Leon Spinks was born in St. Louis, Missouri. This ex-marine stood 6 feet 1 inch and approximately 205 pounds—the lightest Heavyweight Champion. Leon and his brother Michael both won gold medals at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

Spinks is known for the eighth bout in his career, which was against one of the all time greats, Muhammad Ali. Spinks was the first Heavyweight boxer to beat Ali on February 15, 1978. He then suffered a crushing loss just seven months later on September 15, 1978. Both bouts lasted 15 rounds for the Heavyweight title.

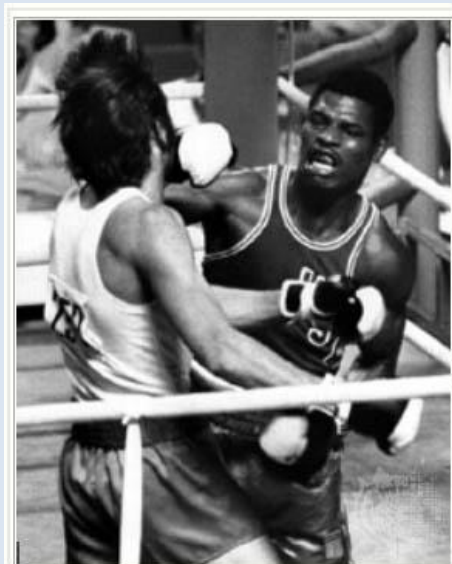


Another of Spinks’ greatest fights took place in Detroit on June 12, 1981 for the WBC Heavyweight Title against Larry Holmes where he again lost in a knock out in the third round.

In total Leon Spinks fought through 46 battles in the boxing ring where his record fell at 26-17-3 with 14 wins by knockout. Leon finished his boxing career with a 16-17-3 record.

In the 90’s Spinks was known for his brushes with the law, his life had become a downward spiral of drinking as well. In 1988 Spinks decided to pack it in and he retired. He is known as the man who beat Ali. Two of his sons, Darrell and Cory are also boxers. Cory became the undisputed welterweight champ and

IBF Jr. Middleweight champion. He had a third son, Leon Calvin who was murdered at the age of 19.



Leon Spinks (right) fighting at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, where he won the light heavyweight gold medal.

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