



Leon Spinks

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

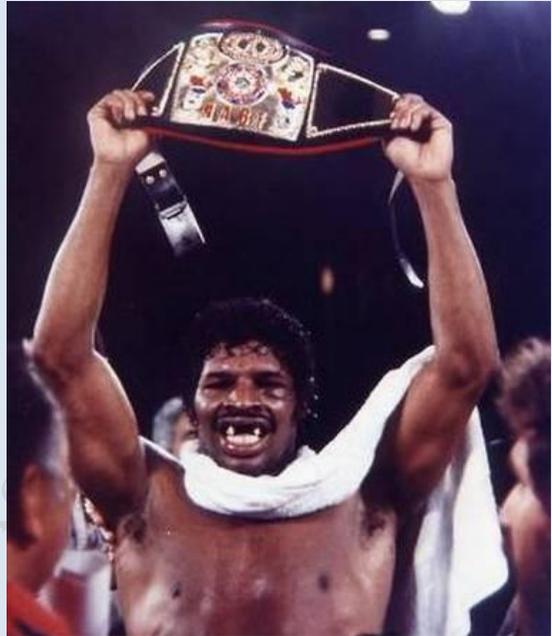
Spinks was born in St. Louis, Missouri. This ex-marine stood 6 feet 1 inch and approximately 205 pounds - the lightest Heavyweight Champion in history. Leon and his brother Michael both won gold medals at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. He is known for the eighth bout in his career, which was against 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 and were 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 was at 26-17-3 with 14 wins by knockout. Some of the names that Leon fought during his career, in addition to Ali are Scott LeDoux, Gerrie Coetzee, Alfredo Evangelista, Larry Holmes, Dwight Muhammad Qawi and Tony Morrison.

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 retire from the sport. His fame still comes from being 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.

In August of 2017, Leon was inducted into the Nevada Boxing Hall of Fame along with his brother Michael.



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