



## Mike Weaver

Mike Weaver was born July 7, 1952 in Gatesville, TX. He was a member of the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1971 serving in Vietnam, during this time he got into amateur boxing. He notably fought Duane Bobick, a future amateur star out of the Navy. In a fight when both men were down, Weaver was outpointed.

By 1972 Weaver was living and training in California, and took up professional boxing. Early in his career, Weaver was considered a journeyman opponent. He was frequently brought in on short notice and used as a sparring partner for Muhammad Ali and Ken Norton, who famously nicknamed him "Hercules."

After a few losses early on to tough fringe contenders like Howard Smith and Larry Frazier, Weaver showed signs of improvement. He fought both Bobick brothers, losing a debatable 10 round decision to Rodney, and being stopped on a cut in the 7th to old amateur rival Duane. In 1976 Weaver beat well regarded veteran Jody Ballard and in 1978 lost two close decisions to Stan Ward. These wins got him a high profile World title fight with reigning and undefeated WBC champion Larry Holmes in New York's Madison Square Garden in June 1979. New cable channel HBO bought the rights to the fight as Weaver was so lowly-regarded as the fight was seen as a mismatch and the networks didn't want anything to do with it (Weaver was 20-8 to Holmes' 30-0).



In January 1979 knocked out Stan Ward in 9 rounds to win the USBA Heavyweight title and that same year he won a 12 round decision over Scott LeDoux to retain his USBA belt. In March 1980, Mike fought John Tate for the WBA title; with 40 seconds left in the 15th round Weaver caught Tate with a left hook and dropped him to the canvas for the full count. Then in October 1980 he knocked out Gerrie Coetzee in the 13th round. In his career, Mike defeated such men as John Tate, Gerrie Coetzee, Carl "Truth" Williams, Phillip Brown, James "Quick" Tillis, Bernardo Mercado, Stan Ward, Scott LeDoux, Bert Cooper and Johnny du Plooy.

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