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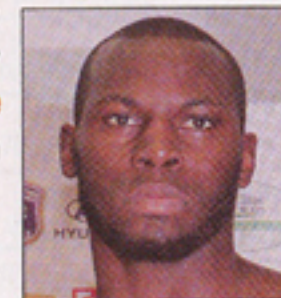
BERNARD HOPKINS

A Once In
A Lifetime
Phenomenon!



Outside the Ropes

Cruiserweight **Steve Cunningham** was presented with the Briscoe Award as Philadelphia's 2007 Fighter of the Year at an October 22 press conference for his bout with **Tomasz Adamek** for the vacant RING magazine cruiserweight championship. The award, named after legendary Philadelphia middleweight **Bennie Briscoe**, is the brainchild of historian **John DiSanto** of PhillyBoxingHistory.com ... Former super middleweight titleholder **Chris Eubank** will appear in the British reality TV show *I'm A Celebrity ... Get Me Out Of Here!* ... A benefit card for former IBF junior flyweight titleholder **Victor Burgos** was held at the Municipal Auditorium in Tijuana, Mexico, on October 20. Burgos, who suffered a brain injury in his March 2007 bout with **Vic Darchinyan**, is still recuperating from the career-ending injury. All of the fighters on the card donated their services and the gate proceeds went to Burgos and his family ... WBC lightweight titleholder **Nate Campbell** declared Chapter 7 bankruptcy after his fight with **Joan Guzman** was cancelled, depriving him of a purse of approximately \$300,000 ... **Azumah Nelson**, 50, is pursuing legal action after being paid \$272,000 for his fight with **Jeff Fenech**, 44, on June 24 in Melbourne, Australia. Nelson claims he was promised \$800,000, but Fenech and his partner in the promotion, **Max Markson**, deny any money was owed to Nelson ... British junior welterweight **Gilbert Eastman**, 35, was fully conscious and in stable condition following surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain. Eastman suffered the injury in his October 17 bout with **Sam Well**. Eastman, the older brother of former middleweight contender **Howard Eastman**, was stopped in the eighth round and collapsed in the dressing room.



Cunningham: Wins Briscoe Award



Campbell: Declares bankruptcy

"They expect him to make a full recovery," said **Patrice Eastman**, Gilbert's wife ... Police briefly detained former South African featherweight titleholder **Edward "Spoiler" Mpofu** after plaster of paris was allegedly found inside of his gloves following his September 29 six-round decision loss to **Thanduxolo Dyani** in East London. Promoter **Mzi Mnguni** said he discovered the loaded gloves while shaking hands with Mpofu after the bout. Mpofu faces a lifetime ban from boxing ... **Kanyanta Mulenga**, 23, was found guilty of the shooting death of former British heavyweight champion **James Oyebola** in July 2007. Mulenga is facing life imprisonment. Two other men, **Rene McKoy** and **Dean Francis**, were cleared after agreeing to give evidence to the prosecution. A fourth man, **Cyle Carth**, will face a separate trial ... New Jersey-based trainer **Oscar Suarez**, 47, died of pancreatic cancer on September 15. Among the many top fighters he worked with were **Naseem Hamed**, **Acelino Freitas**, **Johnny Tapia**, and **Jhonny Gonzalez**. "He was very protective of his fighters," longtime friend **Jose Rosario** told *Star-Ledger* boxing writer **Franklin McNeil**. "If he felt a fighter was taking too much punishment, Oscar would not hesitate to step in the ring and stop the fight" ... Well-known Manchester, England, fight figure **Brian Robinson**, 73, died on September 28 of a suspected heart attack. Robinson fought both as an amateur and professional as a young man and later became a promoter and trainer ... **Tony LaRosa**, 32-23 (18), who turned pro as a light heavyweight in September 1988 and had his final fight as a heavyweight in August '04, died at age 41 on October 5 ... Mexican featherweight **Daniel Aguillon**, 24, died on October 18 of a head injury suffered in an October 15 bout with **Alejandro Sanabria**, 17-0 (13), which took place in the Polanco neighborhood of Mexico City. Aguillon, 15-3-2 (9), was knocked out in the 12th round of a bout for the Central American 126-pound title and never regained consciousness. Although he had also been down in the first round, Aguillon had floored Sanabria in the fourth round of a competitive fight ...



Suarez: Cancer victim

Quotable

"Screw Hopkins, I'm not fighting him again for any amount of money."

—Joe Calzaghe responding to calls for a rematch with Bernard Hopkins, following B-Hop's upset victory over formerly undefeated Kelly Pavlik

"I tell you something—he could get whooped by a nobody because he is doing the wrong thing with his body. This drinking is no good. It is going to catch up with you somewhere down the line."

—Trainer Floyd Mayweather Sr., speaking to Pat Sheenan of *The Sun* about Ricky Hatton's boozy lifestyle



Castellani: Dead at 80

Former middleweight contender **Rocky Castellani**, 80, died on August 31 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He turned pro in February 1944 and had his final bout in October '57, compiling an overall pro record of 65-14-4 (16). Castellani beat many outstanding fighters, including **Joey Giardello**, **Tony Janiro**, **Gil Turner**, **Harold Green**, and **Johnny Bratton**.

In his only world title fight, Castellani lost a unanimous 15-round decision to **Bobo Olson** in August 1954. Castellani lost a split decision to **Sugar Ray Robinson** the following year, even though he had Robinson on the floor in the sixth round. After retiring from the ring, Castellani owned a bar and worked as a fight judge.