

Boxing News: Rijker Blasts Ali For Avoiding Million Dollar Showdown

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HOLLYWOOD, CA (June 9, 2005) -- Undefeated female boxing superstar LUCIA RIJKER blasted Laila Ali today for avoiding a million dollar battle between them. Rijker, 17-0 (14 KOs) is training for her July 30 pay-per-view megabout at Mandalay Bay against the legendary CHRISTY MARTIN, 46-3-2 (32 KOs). The bout called "Million Dollar Lady" is the richest event in women's boxing history, with the winner receiving a cool \$1 million.

Ali, who refused to fight Rijker, despite the \$250,000 guarantee to the loser, chose to fight Erin Toughill (6-1-1) on the undercard of this weekend's Mike Tyson-Kevin McBride event.

"Good luck to her ... she can run but she can't hide," said Rijker. "She should honor her father's name. 'Million Dollar Lady' is the richest event in women's boxing history, a battle of the undefeated and a chance to headline a major pay-per-view event. How do you turn all that down to fight on an undercard?"

Rijker, who is noted for taking on and defeating top competition throughout her professional career, had a feature role in Clint Eastwood's Academy Award winning motion picture "Million Dollar Baby."

Promoted by Top Rank, remaining tickets to "Million Dollar Lady" are priced at \$250, \$150, \$100 and \$50. They can be purchased at the Mandalay Bay box office.