

Pinklton Thomas In New Venture With Shavers, Weaver, Bonecrusher, 'Spoon

Written by Michael Woods

Thursday, 01 August 2013 11:47



Fair to say that there will never again be a man who holds a heavyweight title belt, and answers to the name "Pink."

Yes, indeed Pinklton Thomas, who held the WBC heavyweight title in the mid 80s, does have a few claims to fame tucked away, and, I confess, I got a kick out of conversing with him on the phone a couple days ago, and referring to him as "Pink" while I heard about his new business venture.

Pinklton Thomas In New Venture With Shavers, Weaver, Bonecrusher, 'Spoon

Written by Michael Woods

Thursday, 01 August 2013 11:47

The Michigan-born former boxer [beat WBC champ Tim Witherspoon](#) on Aug. 31, 1984 and defended the crown [agai](#)
[nst Mike Weaver](#)

before dropping the strap

[to Trevor Berbick](#)

. And far from holding a competitive grudge against 'Spoon and Weaver, Thomas, age 55, is banding together with those two ex champs, as well as Earnie Shavers and "Bonecrusher" Smith, forming a crew called "Sports Titans."

{youtube}HhhV199ZSYM{/youtube}

{youtube}reamGOR-uaA{/youtube}

{youtube}kc9j8OZCjcE{/youtube}

The retired pugilists are setting up dates to meet and greet fans and discuss their glory days, sign autographs and press the flesh with fans of heavyweight boxing from a prior era.

First things first, I had to get to the backstory of how Thomas was named "Pinklton." He chuckled, and informed me that his father's mom, a Native American Indian, was nicknamed "Pinky." Pinklton's dad, who by the way is still alive and turned 99 on May 20, is named Franklin. So "Pinky" and "Franklin" were mashed together, and voila, "Pinklton" was born.

Thomas said that he and the other titans are all good with each other, that no bad blood lingers from their battles. "At the beginning, we have to be mean, intimidate each other, make eye contact with them and see whose eyes drop," he said, laughing.

Thomas never fought Shavers, but interacted with man known as one of the hardest hitters to ever grace the planet back in 1990, around the time Dundee enlisted Thomas for a how-to-box video. "Earnie was a great guy, very personable," he said. "I mean there was always bad blood when we were going to fight each other, Don King made sure of that! But you have to realize it's just a sport and it's done."

Pinklon Thomas In New Venture With Shavers, Weaver, Bonecrusher, 'Spoon

Written by Michael Woods

Thursday, 01 August 2013 11:47

Thomas is in a positive place, even telling me he has nothing but love for Don King. That wasn't always the case, by any means. He celebrated heartily Nov. 1990, when his contract with King reached an end. But today? "King did right by me," he said. "You never forget where you come, or where you've been, how you got there. He gave me an opportunity." Dundee's sweetness rubbed off on Thomas, it seems like. "Angelo used to say, 'It don't cost anything to be nice,'" Thomas recalls. "We'd be walking around in Vegas before a fight, and he'd see another fighter walking around with a frown on, chest tight, and he'd hit me, and say, 'Don't be like that! Smile. Be humble, be nice!'" That's Dundee's obituary."

Dundee would I think be pleased to see Thomas, who beat a dope addiction which began when he was pre-teen, and was using needles before he needed to shave, in a stable place.

Thomas (43-7-1, retired in 1993) recalled that he reached out to Dundee to train him early, around 1979, when he was about 5-0. Dundee said he was busy, but became un-busy when Thomas beat Dundee fighter "Quick" Tillis in 1982. Dundee thereafter had a crush on Thomas' jab, which he used to compare to Sonny Liston's. Nothing was able to retard Mike Tyson, though, when then 29-0 Tyson gave Thomas another title crack, on May 30, 1987. Tyson took out Thomas in round six, as a "Dundee Special," a torn-glove break before that round, wasn't able to break up Tyson's rhythm. Thomas, an inductee into the Florida Boxing Hall of Fame, then became something of a gatekeeper, losing to Evander Holyfield his next outing, and later dropping bouts to Riddick Bowe and Tommy Morrison.

I asked what Thomas thinks of the current state of the sport. Is he a Floyd Mayweather fan? "I never thought welterweights would rule like they do, the heavyweights have always been the top," he said. "That's another reason we came up with the Titans, that was a memorable era. Guys like Mayweather, they reign and they do good but I think we're going to bring back a lot of memories in baby boomers, and we can talk about that era, and sign pictures and tell good stories and help bring boxing back."

I was curious, does he ever lament that he was born at the wrong time, and does he fantasize about being in the mix today, and getting an opportunity to topple a Klitschko?

"I don't wish I was born in a different era," Thomas said. "But the Klitschkos, they don't talk, there's no shine, no glamour, no excitement there. You know what's gonna happen in their

Pinklon Thomas In New Venture With Shavers, Weaver, Bonecrusher, 'Spoon

Written by Michael Woods

Thursday, 01 August 2013 11:47

fights before it happens so people are not really excited about it."

Are there still competitive juices flowing when [the Titans](#) get together, I wondered. Thomas, who said the first Titans booking will be announced soon, admitted, with a chuckle, that each guy thinks he's number one. "But none of them could get past my jab!" He paused, and noted, "They ain't gonna like hearing that!"

Thomas said Shavers, Spoon and Weaver have done similar type events in England, where there is a solid market for such events. I 'heard a rumor of a reality TV show, but Thomas didn't want to confirm or deny that aspect of the Titans promotional push.

George Foreman has an XL personality, perfect for the Titans; did Thomas ask Big George to be part of the troupe? "I didn't ask George, he has more money than God," he said, cheerily. "But I think it will happen, George, and Mike Tyson, when they see how we're moving along, getting good publicity, rocking the house, they're going to want to come aboard. But I might tell some of them we got no more room on the dais!"

I'm hopeful the endeavor does well. I admit a soft spot for a man who held the heavyweight title who had the courage to enter the ring wearing pink shorts. Best of luck, Pink.

[Follow Woods on Twitter.](#)

[Comment on this article](#)

Bernie Campbell says:

Whats a matter Pinklon? Looking for work? The luncheonette isn't doing well?

JaketheSnake says:

Man, have a little respect for the guy. What's the matter if he needs a little money? He had the balls to compete at the highest level at a time where there were lots of killers and fast heavyweights like Witherspoon. He was not so bad himself and would certainly ko some of the slow-*** guys today. And the guy wore pink trunks!

Pinklon Thomas In New Venture With Shavers, Weaver, Bonecrusher, 'Spoon

Written by Michael Woods

Thursday, 01 August 2013 11:47

Bernie Campbell says:

I knew this guy, real effeminate dude, survived Viet Nam, then went to become a corrections officer and survived! I don't see him giving out his portrait with a John Hancock on it!

Radam G says:

B-Camp, Pinklin was addicted to coke at 12-years old. And Viet'nam was after his time. Holla!

Bernie Campbell says:

That's the story about most over 50 in some way or another! (Fcn community developers)! I don't judge a man what he did then, I question what he does now with his investment!

Radam G says:

My bad! I meant that Vietnam was before his time. Drafting to go to that war ended in 1975. Holla!

brownsugar says:

Pink had a sweet jab almost as sweet as Holmes(who was my favorite heavy)....enjoyed the brief Phenomenon while it lasted. Hope they can find enough decent heavies to make it worth the while.

kidcanvas says:

no class campbell lol

gibola says:

Delighted to hear Pinky is making positive moves to help himself and his fellow heavies from the 80s. They were much-maligned at the time but watch Thomas v Spoon, Weaver and Berbick now and they are good, competitive fights, especially compared to the K Bros mismatches we put up with these days. Snipes-Berbick is a corking fight. I would love to attend a Q&A with these guys. Good luck Pinky!