

**DAILY
NEWS
SPORTS**

**FIGHTER WHO
HAS KILLED
SAYS TYSON
SHOULD BE
CAREFUL
WHAT HE
WISHES FOR**

DUKES of DEATH

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**COUNTRIES
WHERE AT
LEAST 10
DEATHS
HAVE
OCCURRED**

USA: 512
England: 125
Australia: 65
Mexico: 44
Japan: 39
South Africa: 28
Argentina: 26
France: 22
New Zealand: 17
Philippines: 17
Indonesia: 16
Cuba: 15
Italy: 15
Canada: 14
Germany: 12
Spain: 12
Venezuela: 12
Chile: 10

**STATES
WHERE
MOST RING
FATALITIES
HAVE TAKEN
PLACE**

New York: 71
California: 69
Pennsylvania: 45
Ohio: 36
Illinois: 23
Massachusetts: 23
New Jersey: 22
Michigan: 15
Texas: 12
Colorado: 11

**VENUES
WITH MOST
FATALITIES**

New York: 33
Tokyo: 31
London: 23
Sydney: 21
Philadelphia: 20

By **MARK KRAM**
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HACKENSACK, N.J. — Cold fear gripped George Khalid Jones as he boarded the Acela Express in Newark that summery day last July. Over and over he pondered: What would people say when he showed up in Washington at the funeral? Would they spot him in the crowded church and whisper among themselves, “There he is. The guy who did it!” He could feel their eyes upon him, the anger, the accusation, welling up from behind shiny pools of tears. And what would the widow say when she saw him? Would she become hysterical and scream, “You killed him. You killed my husband!” She would be there with her three children, suddenly fatherless because of him. How could he ever face them? How could he ever face any of them?

“George, come along with me to the funeral,” Lou Duva, his promoter, had told him. “View the body, see the family, and go to the reception. Go down there and let people see you.”

Two weeks had passed since Jones had stopped Beethavean “Honey Bee” Scotland in the 10th and final round of their light-heavyweight bout aboard the retired aircraft carrier USS Intrepid on the Hudson River in New York. Carried unconscious from the ring on a stretcher, Scotland underwent two surgeries at Bellevue Hospital Center: the first to gauge the pressure building up in his brain, the second to drain blood in an effort to relieve that pressure. He lingered in a coma for 6 days, during which Jones found himself overwhelmed with an ever-deepening anxiety. Nightmares filled what few hours of sleep he could get, spooky harbingers of the phone call that would finally come on July 2: Scotland was dead at age 26 of a subdural hematoma, a rupture of the veins between the brain and the skull. Uncertain if he could bring himself to attend the funeral 7 days later, if only because of the profound shame that had enveloped him, he agreed when Duva told him simply, “George, this is the right thing do.”

So they settled into their seats for their 3-hour journey, during which Jones somberly peered out his window at the passing factories and rivers. The then 79-year-old Duva looked over at Jones and said of Scotland, “It was his time, you know? Whether it happened in a boat or car or in the ring, God has a set time for everyone.” He told Jones there had been an insurance policy on Scotland, that his widow and children would get “a nice piece of money.”



TEDDY BLACKBURN/Reuters

Referee Arthur Mercante Jr. assists a fallen Beethavean Scotland, floored by a combination in the 10th round of his fight last June 26.

The *New York Daily News* reported after the death that the promoter took out two insurance policies — a \$20,000 medical policy and a \$50,000 life policy. And Duva added this, “Remember: It could have happened to you.” He told him boxing was a rough game, that he should get what he can out of it in the way of financial security and get out while he still had his faculties. Buy a house, get a college fund started. As they drew into Union Station, Duva said, “You have to leave this behind you today. You have to get closure.”

A car picked them up at the curb and drove them to Metropolitan Baptist Church in Northwest Washington. Jones cautiously blended into the big crowd that had formed there,

which included some boxers with whom he was friendly. They told him, “It happens. Keep your head up.” Some relatives of Scotland were surprised to see him, but an uncle came up to Jones, held out a hand and said, “We’re so happy to see you.” The uncle told him that he should go on with his boxing career because “Bee would have wanted you to do that.” The widow was equally gracious, her face sad yet forgiving. As he filed by the open coffin, which was surrounded by stands of flowers, he wondered how she and her children would be able to cope in the years to come. And suddenly it occurred to him: How could there ever be closure? *A piece of me is going along with him to the grave.*

Broken childhood

Whenever a fighter kills another in the ring, he is always the forgotten victim, walled in by heavy shadows of guilt, fear and remorse. You cannot know how it feels until it has happened to you, which is why George Khalid Jones found himself so distressed when he picked up the sports section a few weeks ago and saw a quote from Mike Tyson. Outrageously, Tyson had said of Lennox Lewis, his opponent Saturday in Memphis, Tenn.: “My main objective is . . . to kill him. He should want to kill me, too, because I want to kill him.” It sent a wave of terror through Jones, who

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‘I want to kill him’

Mike Tyson’s throwaway line is a punch to the gut of George Khalid Jones, involved in boxing’s last fatality

**DEATHS BY
DECADES**

1920s: 116
1930s: 102
1940s: 109
1950s: 142
1960s: 16
1970s: 97
1980s: 57
1990s: 42

**DEATHS THE
PAST 5
YEARS**

1997: 8
1998: 2
1999: 4
2000: 6
2001: 6

**YEARS IN
WHICH
THERE HAVE
BEEN AT
LEAST
A DOZEN
FATALITIES**

1953: 25
1930: 23
1932: 21
1949: 20
1952: 19
1922: 19
1948: 18
1946: 17
1964: 17
1962: 16
1963: 16
1924: 16
1951: 15
1923: 15
1956: 15
1959: 14
1950: 14
1957: 13
1965: 13
1928: 12
1960: 12
1966: 12
1971: 12
1972: 12
1975: 12

Source: Manuel Velasquez Boxing Fatality Collection



JEFF ZELEVANSKY/For the Daily News

George Khalid Jones is back working out at a North Jersey Police Athletic League gym.



New York Post

After four rounds, Jones had landed 64 more punches.



New York Post

'Honey Bee' Scotland died 6 days after the fight.

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said that while Tyson was probably only trying to psych himself up, he wondered if he truly knew what he was saying. Jones remembered what he had said a few days before the Scotland bout: that he had worked so hard in the gym that "I pray I don't kill anybody." They were only words then — typical prefight hype — but they have since come back to him as an unintended prophecy.

"Be careful what you say: It could come true," said Jones, seated at a corner table at an empty North Jersey diner. "And when it does come true, then you suddenly find yourself caught in a horrible nightmare. Sometimes you just say things, but you never think it'll happen."

The year that has passed since Beethavean Scotland expired has been a search for life after death for Jones, 34. When he came back from the funeral in Washington, he became overwhelmed by the tragedy that had befallen his opponent, who everyone said was "a good guy who loved his wife and children." Thoughts of his own mate and five children, of how precious they were to him, would leave him in a state of anguish, his tears streaming down the side of his handsome face. A voice inside his head told him: Quit boxing. Yet even as he packed up his gear and stowed it away in the attic, a part of him knew that the sport had provided him with the only piece of thread he ever had to weave a worthwhile existence. No one is exactly sure if he will ever be the same fighter — and that includes himself. But he is certain that "some good has come out of the death of Beethavean Scotland," if only that he now understands something that had eluded him for years: the value of life.

That has been a revelation to Jones, who grew up in circumstances where life had no value. With soulful eyes that exude a mannered gentility, Jones said his late father had 26 children with a variety of women and abandoned him while his mother was 6 months' pregnant with him. He fell into drugs at an early age. Jailed at age 17 for shooting "a guy who tried to rob me and a friend on a corner" in 1985, Jones spent 4 years behind bars. Said his mother, Ruth Ann Jones-Mass, who remembered how a drug-crazed Jones once had to be led away in a straitjacket to the hospital to keep him from jumping off the roof: "Sometimes our children just go astray."

He sold drugs to support a gam-

bling addiction and was arrested again in 1997. He came before a judge who told him, "Mr. Jones, you are a menace to society." So he went to prison again for a 4-year term, only this time he was leaving behind a woman, Naomi Del Valle, and their small children. Jones and Del Valle had been together since December 1991 and not a week passed that she did not go to the prison with her children. "Seeing him there was the hardest thing I ever had to do," said Del Valle, employed in customer services by The Bank of New York. "I cried every visit, but I did every second of his time with him. I just knew there was a better person somewhere deep inside of him."

Some boxing talent was in there, too, if only he could clean himself up. He had begun boxing in jail in 1985 because he discovered that boxers received certain privileges, such as Sunday ice cream and unlimited cheeseburgers. He began to spar in some local gyms in early 1994, then turned pro that September against Marty Lindquist in Minnesota. He was supposed to go there as an "opponent" — which is to say he was supposed to lose — but he won a four-round decision. He then strung together 10 straight victories — including eight by knockout — when his career was interrupted by that 4-year jail stint, of which he served 34 months. When he came out again in May 2000, he clicked off four straight victories, three by knockout. His opponent for that ESPN2 "Tuesday Night Fights" date June 26 on the USS Intrepid was supposed to be David Telesco, but Telesco begged off with a broken nose sustained in training, and Scotland stepped in as his replacement.

"What would have happened if I had fought Telesco instead of Bee?" said Jones. "I ask myself 'What if . . . every day.'"

Mismatched foes

The bell tolled: Ten strikes in honor of a popular boxing figure who had recently died. In the ring before his comeback fight against highly rated Eric Harding at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut, Jones suddenly found himself overwhelmed by the tragedy he had just endured. Walking into the ring that evening he had been fine — or thought he had been fine — but he had not expected there to be a call by the ring announcer for a moment of silence. As he stood there listening in his corner, he wondered to himself, "Man, is somebody

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playing a trick on me or what?" His eyes began to well up with tears.

"Every time I heard that bell 'ding,' the only thing I could think of was what had happened," Jones said. "And I began reliving the whole thing again."

Until he stepped into the ring on the USS Intrepid, Jones had been unacquainted with Scotland, a southpaw who fought out of a gym in suburban Washington called Round One Boxing. Scotland (20-6-2) worked as an exterminator to supplement his earnings from boxing, which were minimal in light of his inability to connect with a big promoter. He had married his childhood friend, Denise Lewis, and they had an 8-year-old daughter and two sons, ages 2 and 6. Ironically, the opponent he had been lined up to face for the Maryland State 168-pound belt last June 20, Dana Rucker, withdrew because of a hamstring injury, so Scotland was available when Duva began looking for a replacement for Telesco. Scotland had to jump up a weight class; he weighed in at 170, 4 pounds lighter than Jones. But Scotland jumped at the opportunity because it would pay him more than he had ever earned for a bout: \$7,000 plus \$1,000 in expenses. Said Jones, also a southpaw, "We both wanted the same thing: A shot at something better."

But it soon became clear that Scotland was in well over his head. By the end of the fourth round, CompuBox statistics showed Jones had landed 64 more punches than Scotland. During a 42-second span in the fifth round, Jones pummeled Scotland with 43 shots; Scotland landed only three. Cries of "Stop it! Stop it!" rang out from the crowd, and even ESPN2 commentator Max Kellerman observed, "This is how guys get seriously hurt." Ring physician Dr. Barry Jordan told referee Arthur Mercante Jr. before the eighth round not to allow Scotland to "take many more blows," but Scotland, who Mercante later said still was defending himself, rallied to narrowly win the eighth and ninth rounds. When the fighters came out at the beginning of the final round, Jones said Mercante told them as they touched



Associated Press

gloves: "Show me who wants it more."

"And the only thing I could think was: 'I gotta get this guy out of here,'" Jones said. Scotland was felled by a combination with 45 seconds remaining and was immediately attended to by Jordan and two other doctors. Jones climbed up on the ring ropes to salute the crowd in victory.

But that joy turned to horror as it became obvious Scotland was seriously injured. While the doctors found him initially to be conscious, they said his condition quickly deteriorated. Concerned, Jones looked on as paramedics strapped Scotland to a stretcher, which they would have trouble squeezing into the elevator of the World War II-era Intrepid. As Jones walked back to his dressing room, he reminded himself, "This is just part of the game." Johnny Bos, his booking agent, assured him Scotland would be fine, but when Bos telephoned him later at home, the report he had was not an encouraging one. Nor were any of the subsequent reports from Bos, who called Jones six to eight times a day with updates. Said Jones, "All I could do was pray: *Please let him live*. It was the longest 6 days you could possibly imagine, then Johnny called to say, 'He died.'"

A depression fell over Jones that summer. He attended the funeral in Washington, but only when a close friend who had



JEFF ZELEVANSKY/For the Daily News

George Khalid Jones sees his family and thinks of his fallen foe, who was buried last July.

helped him conquer his gambling addiction told him, "What are you going to do? Are you going to

punk out again, the way you always used to do? Or are you going to stand up and be a man?"

Going there had a soothing effect on him, yet if he discovered that others had forgiven him, he still was not at a point where he could forgive himself. When he attempted to go back to the gym a few weeks later, he broke down in tears and told Del Valle he was through. He began getting up late every day, at which point he would brush his teeth, then go back to sleep again. Del Valle told him, "This is not who you are. You have to get over this." And yet whenever Jones looked at her and his children, it reminded him of how Denise would never again be able to hold her husband, and how the children would never be able to say, "Daddy, we love you." Said Jones, "You know, it takes two parents to raise a child. No one knows that better than me." Weeks of inactivity had passed when Bos spoke up.

"George, you drive a cab for a living, and you hit someone, and they die, you have to get back in that cab and drive it again," Bos said. "This is the same thing. You have to get back in that cab."

You can never predict how certain fighters will come back after they have killed an opponent; fine talents such as Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini and Gabriel Ruelas were never the same again. (See chart on Page 88.) In the case of Jones — who began training again in the fall — Bos said he never would have booked him against Harding last December if he had been aware of just how emotionally fragile he was. But Bos said he figured it could set him up for a big-money title shot against light-heavyweight champion Roy Jones Jr. A victory would give George an undefeated record with "the rep of killing an opponent," which Bos said could only enhance his desirability. But in the week before the Harding bout — for which George wore trunks emblazoned with the words "Bee" and "R.I.P." — he did a television interview in which he began crying. Asked in the interview how he has fared since the tragedy, he said: "This is the first time I have ever felt compassion." Bos was aghast.

Compassion is not an attractive feature in a fighter.

"Naaahhh," said Bos. "You do not want a compassionate fighter."

The Harding bout did not go well in any way. Duva, who ordi-

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narily works the corner, was rushed to a hospital when his heart defibrillator malfunctioned. And then Jones fell to pieces during that unexpected moment of silence. While Jones would say later “the better man won that night,” Bos said Jones was holding back with his punches, that he had Harding in early trouble but would not step in aggressively enough. Harding wobbled Jones toward the end of the sixth round, then finished the job in the seventh with a seven-punch combination. As Jones slid helplessly to the canvas, Del Valle looked on from her ringside seat and saw his eyes roll back into his head. “Oh God!” she

“You know, it takes two parents to raise a child. No one knows that better than me.”

GEORGE KHALID JONES

yelled in terror. “Now this is happening to me!” Eleven-year-old daughter Aisha began crying hysterically. When Jones recovered back in his dressing room, Bos approached him and said, “This cannot be. Either you fight the way you’re capable of or you’re packing it in. I’m not letting you go out there and get hurt.”

Bos said, “He called me and begged me for another chance.”

He got it against Karl Willis in April. Jones (17-1, 13 KOs) fought well enough to win by a third-round technical knockout, but as Bos said, “Willis is no Eric Harding.” Bos just said he told Jones to get some work in and that was what he did. Jones had command of the bout from the opening bell, got his punches off cleanly and said that he only once drifted back in time to the Scotland fight. It was when a fan stood up at his seat and shouted at him for everyone to hear: “Come on, George. Kill this guy.”

Feeling forgiven

Change has come over George Khalid Jones. Small things he does every day convince him of that. Once, he would have become enraged if another driver had cut him off. Today, he said he just shakes his head and sighs. In fact, he said you can slap him in the face and “the only thing I will do now is smile.” It was not long ago,

on a Saturday night, he happened to be watching the fights on television when it appeared to him that the referee should stop it. Suddenly, he began shouting frantically at the television screen: “Stop it! Stop it!” Only later did it occur to him he never would have done something like that before Scotland.

Preparing for a bout that could come as early as next month, he goes to the Police Athletic League gym in Hackensack every weekday at 4:30 p.m. He goes there after he gets off work at a printing plant, where he is the inventory manager. There, he works out until 6:30 or so and is surrounded by friends, every one of whom says what a fine fellow he is. “I told him to get rid of those damn trunks he wore

during the Harding fight,” said an elderly trainer at the PAG. “All that does is bring up bad memories.” Whenever Jones hears someone say that, he smiles politely and explains that Scotland is a part of him now, that he has dedicated his career to him. He hopes to help his widow in whatever way he can in the years ahead and even hopes to begin a college fund to help the children. Said Jones, “What I realized is that life is short, and you have to ask yourself: How do you want to be remembered?”

What Bos and others say is that Scotland died needlessly, that the bout should have been stopped in the early rounds. They say Scotland was a victim. His widow sued New York City, which owns the Intrepid, in March, for allowing her husband to be “unreasonably and violently pummeled.” What has gone unsaid is that the burden of grief is a shared one, and that it extends far beyond the gravesite, where Jones stood that July day a year ago and peered into eternity. He did not “punch out,” the way he once would have done, but faced up to a difficult thing and has become stronger — if not as a fighter, then as a man. Somehow he knows that Scotland has forgiven him. A certain inner peace has come with that realization. He can finally forgive himself. ★



New York Post

Beethavean Scotland was worked on in the ring, then was removed on a stretcher.

FATALITIES THROUGH THE AGES

Some of fatality milestones in boxing history. Includes the date and location of the bout, the name of the survivor, the result and round, the name of the deceased, and the significance of the death.

April 24, 1741, London

Jack Broughton KO'd George Stevenson, in the third round, the first recorded boxing death

Oct. 22, 1816, Moulsey Hurst, England

Ned Turner KO'd Jack Curtis in the 66th round, the first confirmed welterweight death

1818, Ireland

Dan Donnelly KO'd George Cooper, the first death outside England

May 21, 1827, Eccles, England

Jack Yates KO'd Bob Clough in the 90th round, one of the longest recorded bouts resulting in a death

May 30, 1833, London

James Burke KO'd Simon Byrne in the 99th round, another excessively long bout

1834, New Orleans

Rene Marsaud KO'd Reuben Marsden, the first recorded U.S. death

March 12, 1938, Royston, England

Owen Swift KO'd William Phelps in the 85th round, the third boxer to die at the hands of Swift

Aug. 13, 1841, Brunt Lays, England

Tass Parker KO'd John Leechman in the 129th round, first of the triple-digit-round deaths

April 15, 1843, Montgomery County, Pa.

Matt Rusk KO'd Gilbert Freeland in the 169th round, the first reported local boxing death

Sept. 18, 1856, Palisades, N.J.

Charles Lynch KO'd Andy Kelly in the 86th round, the first recorded bantamweight death

1888, Little Rock, Ark.

Mars Bailey KO'd Mose Harvey, a supervised bout that took place in jail

March 19, 1897, Philadelphia

Jack Perry KO'd F.W. “Ed” Gibbons, the first reported death in a Philadelphia bout

Sept. 30, 1903, Philadelphia

Bob Fitzsimmons KO'd Con Coughlin in the first round, the first recorded death in the first round

June 2, 1917, Philadelphia

Mike Malone KO'd Andy Crowley in the fourth

round, the third death in the city in the decade

Feb. 14, 1926, Tacoma, Wash.

Irving Selder killed Walter Jones while sparring

Oct. 14, 1929, Philadelphia

Tony Galento lost by decision to Bobby Brown, one of the few survivors who lost the bout

Aug. 25, 1930, San Francisco

Max Baer won by TKO in the fifth round over Frank Camilli, which took place five days after another death in the same city

March 19, 1948, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Gilbert Acevedo KO'd Christopher Iacona in the second round, a 70-pound bout in which the deceased was 12 years old

March 24, 1953, Lancaster, Pa.

Charles Cator KO'd Clifton Johnson, an amateur bout that produced the only reported boxing death in Lancaster

Nov. 2, 1965, Fort Madison, Wis.

Joseph Batello KO'd Ronald Alexander in the first round, significant in that Alexander was a convict

May 11, 1973, Boston

Alberto Sandoval KO'd Mike Britton in the first round, an amateur bout for the U.S. championships

Feb. 28, 1981, Atlantic City

Isidro “Gino” Perez KO'd Fred Bowman in the sixth round, one of the few deaths to occur in Atlantic City

Aug. 20, 1988, San Jose, Calif.

David Gonzalez KO'd Ricardo Rico Velazquez, a lightweight bout for the California title

July 26, 1995, Las Vegas

David Gonzalez KO'd Robert Wangila Nyapunyi in the ninth round, the second death in Las Vegas in 80 days

May 9, 2000, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Robert Alaniz killed Sergio Ariel Soto, the most recent death while sparring

June 26, 2001, New York

George Khalid Jones KO'd “Honey Bee” Scotland in the 10th round, the most recent boxing death

— Paul Vigna

A DOZEN BOXERS REFLECT ON MEN THEY'VE KILLED

More than 500 boxers have died of ring injuries in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Below are 12 notable fighters whose opponents have expired at their hands, the specifics of that bout, and some of the survivor's comments:

EMILE GRIFFITH Welterweight 85-24-2, 23 KOs

Date, location: March 24, 1962; New York
Result: Twelfth-round knockout over Benny Paret
First fight back: Won by decision, 15 rounds
Record before: 28-3-0, 10 KOs
Record after: 56-21-2, 12 KOs
Quote: "People spit at me in the street. We stayed in a hotel. Every time there was knock on the door, I would run into the next room. I was so scared. I was never the same fighter after that. After that fight, I did enough to win. I would use my jab all the time. I never wanted to hurt the other guy . . . I would have quit but I didn't know how to do anything else but fight." — June 19, 1993, Associated Press

WILFORD SCYPION Cruiserweight 32-9-0, 24 KOs

Date, location: Nov. 23, 1979; New York
Result: Tenth-round knockout over Willie Classen
First fight back: Won by knockout, third round
Record before: 12-0-0, 12 KOs
Record after: 19-9-0, 11 KOs
Quote: "After [Classen] died, it was the hardest thing I ever went through. It was a hurting thing. I thought about it a lot. I felt like quitting. I went home and sat down for three or four hours with my mother. It was like a cloud of smoke that hung over my head." — May 26, 1983, United Press International

MARLON STARLING Welterweight 45-7-1, 27 KOs

Date, location: Jan. 9, 1980; Hartford, Conn.
Result: Seventh-round knockout over Charles Newell
First fight back: Won by technical knockout, fourth round
Record before: 5-0-0, 2 KOs
Record after: 39-7-1, 24 KOs
Quote: "God killed that man. I hit him, but I know I didn't kill him. It just happened the way it happened." — Oct. 18, 1987, Associated Press

GAETAN HART Welterweight 56-30-5, 25 KOs

Date, location: June 20, 1980; Montreal
Result: Tenth-round knockout over Cleveland Denny
First fight back: Won by decision, 10th round
Record before: 41-19-4, 20 KOs
Record after: 14-11-1, 4 KOs
Quote: "When you kill a man in the ring, it has a lingering effect on you. He played on my mind for four or five years." — Feb. 26, 2000, The Ottawa Citizen

BARRY MCGUIGAN Featherweight 32-3-0, 28 KOs

Date, location: June 14, 1982; Mayfair, England
Result: Sixth-round knockout over Young Ali
First fight back: Won by technical knockout, fifth round
Record before: 10-1-0, 8 KOs
Record after: 21-2-0, 19 KOs
Quote: "What happened to me took a long time to get over. I pray for and remember that boy all the time . . . I spent many contemplative hours out in the fields with my dogs to help me. I had to counsel myself . . . No matter what people might think there is not a boxer in this world that is a malicious person." — Oct. 17, 1995, Scottish Daily Record

RAY "BOOM BOOM" MANCINI Junior welterweight 29-5-0, 23 KOs

Date, location: Nov. 13, 1982; Las Vegas
Result: Fourteenth-round knockout over Duk-Koo Kim
First fight back: Won by decision, 10th round
Record before: 24-1-0, 19 KOs
Record after: 4-4-0, 3 KOs
Quote: "I fought for righteous reasons: my father, my hometown. But after [Kim], there was nothing honorable about it, nothing fun. That fight took my heart away from the game. I kept saying to myself, 'Why him and not me?' And who was to say it wouldn't be me the next time? I was looking to get out." — Nov. 15, 1999, New York Daily News

DAVID GONZALES (2 victims) Middleweight 40-6-1, 23 KOs

Date, location: Aug. 19, 1988; San Jose, Calif.
Result: Eighth-round technical knockout over Rico Velasquez
First fight back: Won by knockout, sixth round



HOLLY STEIN/AISport

Jimmy Garcia (top) died in 1995; Stephan Johnson (above) was killed 4 years later.

Date, location: July 22, 1994; Las Vegas
Result: Ninth-round technical knockout over Robert Wangila
First fight back: Won by decision, 10th round
Record before: 17-1-1, 13 KOs
Record between: 20-2-0, 8 KOs
Record after: 1-3-0
Quote: "You feel for the victim and his family, but you have to realize that, unfortunately, it's part of the business we're in. It's like a factory worker or someone you work with who dies on the job. It's hard, but you have to move on . . . You never get used to something like that." — Dec. 10, 1995, Houston Chronicle

GABRIEL RUELAS Junior welterweight 47-6-0, 24 KOs

Date, location: May 6, 1995; Las Vegas
Result: Eleventh-round technical knockout over Jimmy Garcia
First fight back: Knocked out by Azumah Nelson, fifth round
Record before: 40-2-0, 22 KOs

Record after: 6-4-0, 1 KO
Quote: "It's like two fighters when you look at me before and after the Garcia fight. I don't think I've been the same. It doesn't look like the same old me. Maybe I've just been trying to fool myself." — Oct. 31, 1998, Los Angeles Times

MIKE TREJO Flyweight 27-2-2, 16 KOs

Date, location: Nov. 13, 1996; San Marcos, Texas
Result: Seventh-round knockout over Rey Hernandez
First fight back: Won by a technical knockout, sixth round
Record before: 9-0-1, 7 KOs
Record after: 17-2-1, 8 KOs
Quote: "I just wanted to be by myself. I didn't know if I wanted to fight anymore. Could it have happened to me? My son was a year old at the time and I wanted to be around to see him grow up . . . Everyone kept telling me, 'Hey, it was a good fight, man. It was an accident. It could happen to any-

body.' Everywhere I went, people kept reminding me and reminding me." — Aug. 29, 1997, San Antonio Express-News

JAMES CRAYTON Junior welterweight 33-15-2, 20 KOs

Date, location: Sept. 26, 1997; Las Vegas
Result: Sixth-round knockout over John Montantes
First fight back: Won by decision, eighth round
Record before: 22-8-0, 13 KOs
Record after: 9-7-2, 6 KOs
Quote: "I am sad over what happened . . . I was kind of scared. I wondered if I get another guy in trouble. Would the same thing happen?" — April 17, 1998, Las Vegas Review-Journal

KABARY SALEM Super middleweight 16-2-0, 10 KOs

Date, location: Sept. 12, 1999; North Kansas City, Mo.
Result: Tenth-round knockout over Randie Carver
First fight back: Won by technical knockout, second round
Record before: 11-1-0, 7 KOs
Record after: 4-1, 2 KOs
Quote: "After that [fight], I stayed in my house for three months and prayed for God to forgive me." — March 9, 2002, Contra Costa (Calif.) Times

PAUL VADEN Junior middleweight 29-3-0, 16 KOs

Date, location: Nov. 20, 1999; Atlantic City
Result: Tenth-round knockout over Stephan Johnson
First fight back: Lost by decision, 12th round
Record before: 28-2-0, 15 KOs
Record after: 0-1-0
Quote: "Through the years, people who knew me . . . always said I was too nice for boxing. That I lacked the killer instinct. Then, I felt like a killer . . . I was having problems living with myself, thinking that I was going to be paid back for what happened. I thought death was lurking around every corner, coming to get me and grab me. I became super-hypochondriac. I would go to the doctor for the smallest of problems, which weren't even really problems. I went to seek help, talking with counselors, which didn't cure anything." — Dec. 11, 2001, The Hartford Courant

— Mark Kram

Source: Fight Fax Inc. and cyberboxing-zone.com