

Kyle

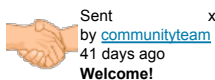
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# Stack on Sports

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## Holyfield still boxing -- too much risk?

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Written by [kylestack](#) on 08/13/2010 12:24:10 PM

Money doesn't buy happiness -- or security. Despite reports of Evander Holyfield's career earnings being north of \$200 million, his \$10 million Atlanta home went into foreclosure in 2008 and he's reportedly been late for years on loans and child support payments. He could have been set up for life financially and lived like a king. Instead, it seems he has to sacrifice his body and future health just to make ends meet.



The former Heavyweight champion is still boxing but years inside the ring have taken a toll on his body. A recent commercial for Taco Bell shows Holyfield with a swollen face and slurred speech. It's obviously not fair to expect a man of Holyfield's age to appear as healthy as someone else who hasn't devoted his adult life to boxing, but why must Holyfield continue to expose himself to a potential beating in the ring?

Jamie Moyer is 47 years old and sports fans still can't believe he makes his living throwing off a mound. So it goes for the Philadelphia Phillies pitcher, who has been revered for adjusting his style of pitching to maintain his career. And that's baseball.

Now think of a man his age partaking in a much more rough-and-tumble sport for a living...like boxing. That's a reality for Holyfield, who in his 26th year as a professional fighter will take his 43-10-2 record, with 28 knockouts, into the ring November 5 against Sherman "The Tank" Williams. While some might think of Holyfield as another athlete who provides an inspiration to fight at such an advanced age for someone in his sport, I think of it as concerning. What are his future health repercussions for fighting so deep into his life? Dementia and Parkinson's disease are two afflictions suffered by ex-boxers and the long-term effects of multiple shots to the skull are well-known.

I'm not saying 48-year-old men are old. They're not. The life expectancy of men in the United States is 78 years old, so a man of Holyfield's age has a long life to live. But the kind of man identified in that study isn't likely one who has suffered 26 years of repeated blows to his head from highly-skilled athletes with superior physical strength. I can only hope that the superior physical ability that made Holyfield a prized fighter will enable him to live a healthy life long after his boxing days are finished.

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