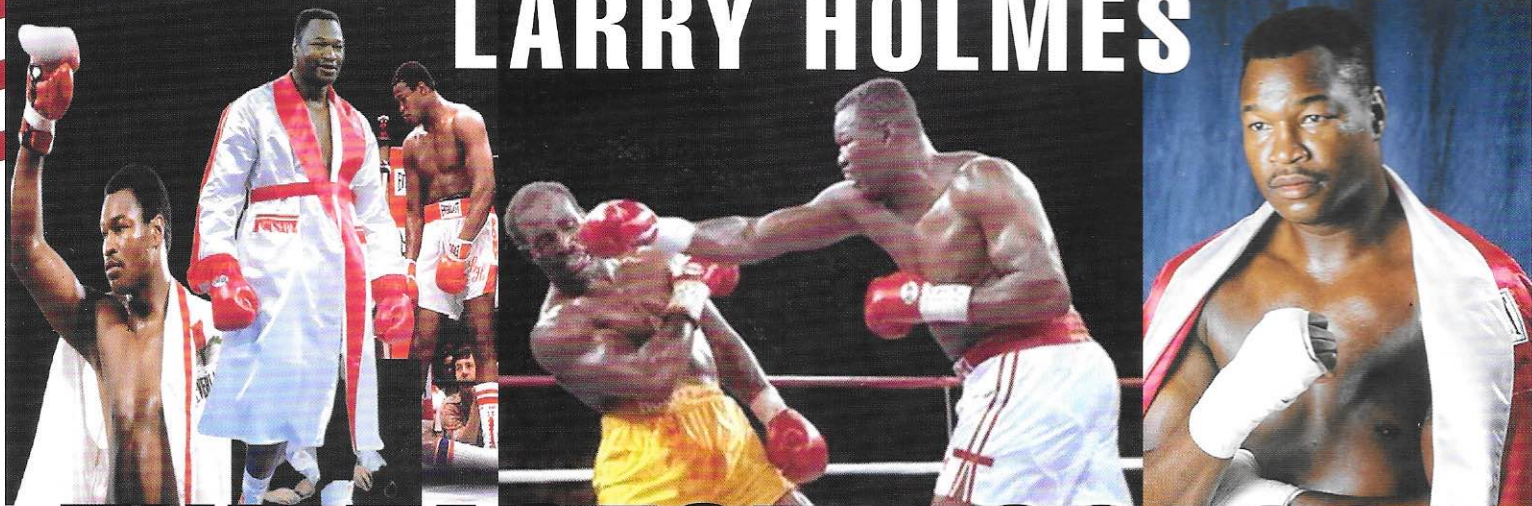


# LARRY HOLMES



## > THE EASTON ASSASSIN

BY DEB LEHMAN

“Champions are not the ones who always win. Champions are the ones who get out there and try. And try harder the next time. And even harder the next time. ‘Champion’ is a state of mind that is determined to thrive beyond a set of circumstances.”

—LARRY HOLMES ([www.heartofalegend.org](http://www.heartofalegend.org))

**L**arry Holmes, aka “The People’s Champ,” started boxing as a child at the PAL program, and although he also enjoyed playing football, boxing is what he loved most and pursued.

His left jab—known as the “Holmes Hammer”—is often rated among the best in heavyweight boxing history.

([Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org))

A history, that began on the night of June 9, 1978, turned out to be a game-changer for 28-year-old Larry. It was his first championship boxing match against reigning champion Ken Norton. They went fourteen rounds and the stakes were high.

“It was scary and exciting,” said Diane Holmes, his wife of 41 years.

She realized, as did everyone at Caesars Palace, that the fifteenth round would determine the winner. Somehow, during the final 30 seconds of that exhausting fifteenth round, Larry found the stamina to pummel Norton with a right cross and a stinging uppercut. Those final moments secured his victory as the world’s champion and earned him the nickname “The Easton Assassin.”

Over the next seven years, Larry successfully defended his title 19 times. He faced great boxers like Muhammad Ali,

Earnie Shavers, Mike Weaver, James “Bonecrusher Smith” and Carl “The Truth” Williams. ([americangolfer.blogspot.com/2021/05](http://americangolfer.blogspot.com/2021/05))

According to [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org), Holmes is the only boxer to have knocked out Muhammad Ali and the only boxer still alive to have defeated him.

For his title defense against Gerry Cooney, on June 11, 1982, Caesars Palace specially constructed a 32,000-seat stadium, and millions more watched on television as Larry again successfully defended his world’s title. He is frequently ranked as one of the greatest heavyweights of all time and has been inducted into both the International Boxing Hall of Fame and World Boxing Hall of Fame. (*from [Americangolfer.blogspot.com/2021/05](http://Americangolfer.blogspot.com/2021/05)*)

To mark the 44th anniversary of Larry’s triumph as WBC heavyweight champion, Larry and Diane’s foundation, Heart of A Legend, together with the WBC, are planning a dinner to celebrate the occasion. Heart of A Legend also sponsors the annual Celebrity Golf Tournament and Celebrity Meet & Greet.

To his family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors, Larry is still a champ at heart and a lover of people, laughter, and fun. ([HeartofALegend.org](http://HeartofALegend.org))