

## SPORTS

# Sherman "Tank" Williams still durable after 20 years in ring

## Bahamian heavyweight champion set for action May 26

**T**he Forty five-year-old Sherman "Tank" Williams last fought almost two years ago, on December 3, 2016. The 45-year-old veteran pugilist defeated Mateus Osorio. The victory took his record to 39-15-2.

That's quite a solid showing for 20 years in the ring. Williams made his debut as a professional in June of 1997 and here he is, still slugging it out and very durable. Williams is set to headline the show to be staged by Bahamians Sons Promotion at A Social Affair and Convention Center (the former bowling alley building) in Freeport on May 26.

In his lengthy career, the crafty Williams has been knocked out just once and can be counted on to provide excitement every time out. He brings it all, the "conch punch" and skills that have enabled him to fare very well these many years. Williams has looked more rotund in recent years, but his capability inside the ring has not diminished.

He has been in there with the best. The truth be told, Williams is still an excellent fighter. Joseph Parker, the New Zealand native, who just put up an incredibly balanced fight against multiple world champion Anthony Joshua of Great Britain, before losing via a decision, is a perfect barometer for Williams.

## SPORTS SCOPE



By Fred Sturup

Parker gave Joshua all he could handle. Joshua is the International Boxing Organization (IBO), World Boxing Association (WBA), International Boxing Federation (IBF), and World Boing Organization (WBO) champion. The Joshua-Parker fight happened in Cardiff, Wales, virtually Joshua's backyard.

If Williams had fought Parker at home (when they met a few years ago), he probably would have gotten the decision. Their contest was that close. The point is, that in Williams, the country has a veteran who continues to enhance the Bahamas Sports Brand.

This will be the first time he will be fighting in the land of his birth since 2014, when he stopped Manuel Banquez at the Kendal Isaacs Gymnasium in New Providence.

Does he have a lot to prove?

Of course, at 45, and inching closer (September 1) to the next birthday, Williams accepts that there will be skepticism.

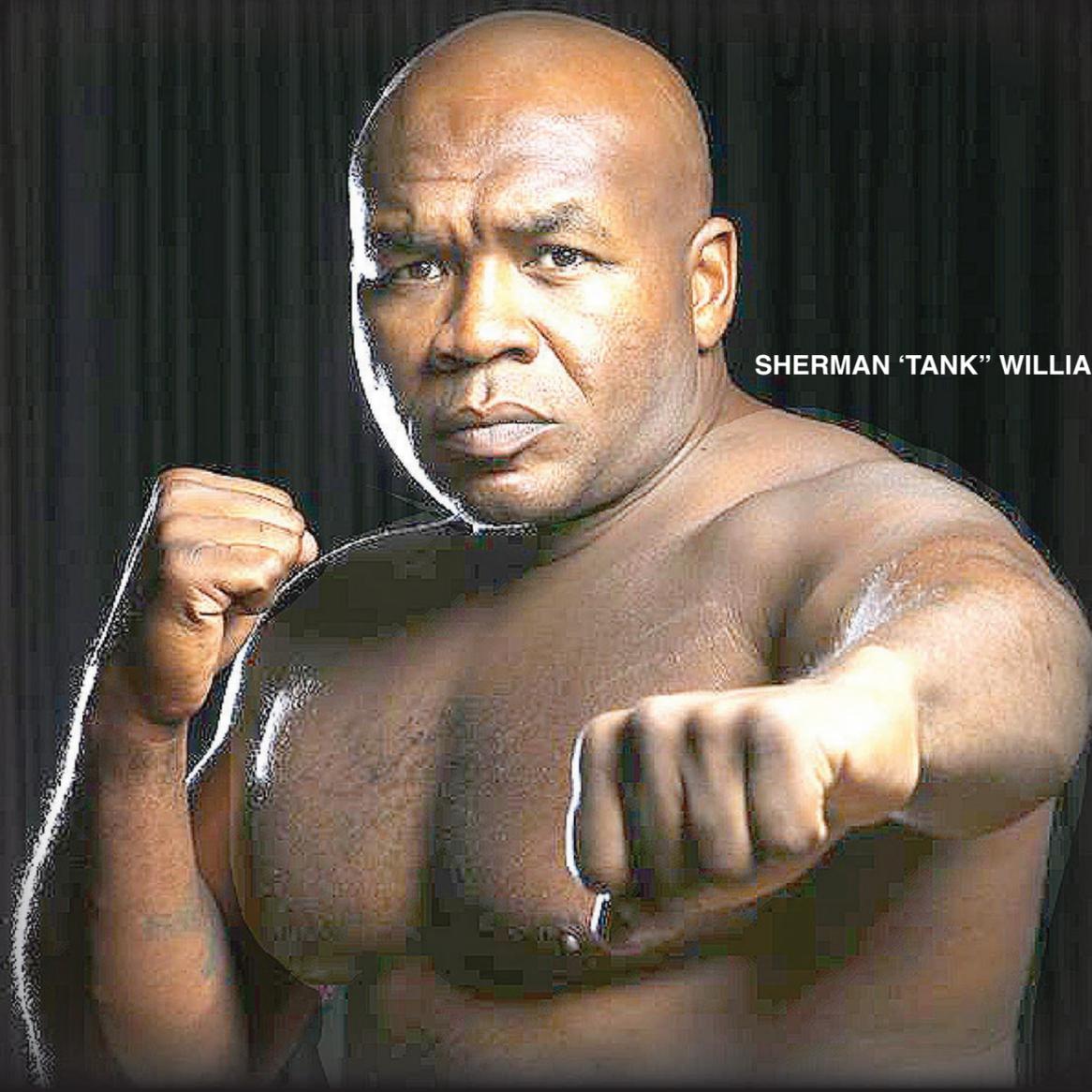
"This is the era of older athletes. Throughout the different sports disciplines worldwide, athletes are staying active at an older age and many of them are still very good. In boxing, it is the same. I feel comfortable. I know my age, but I stay in shape and I have adjusted. I've compensated, as most veteran athletes do, with experience and stronger thinking," said Williams recently.

A key factor for him, as well, has been his terrific savvy in the ring. Williams has that old Henry Armstrong crouching style that has been very protective through the years. He launches his offense and then goes into his crouch when on defense, all the while remaining dangerous because of his quickness. The style has been effective for him.

He always gives spectators their money's worth.

So, the Heavyweight Champion of The Bahamas goes at it again on May 26. He will face Epifanio Mendoza (43-26-1). The Williams/Mendoza match will be supplemented by a co-feature bout and an undercard to be announced later.

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~ Sherman the "Tank" Williams



EPIFANIO MENDOZA