

# THE GREATEST FIGHTS THAT NEVER WERE

## HOW GREED, CORRUPTION AND RACISM STOPPED BOXING'S BEST MATCHUPS



Sports fans fondly recall the greatest boxing matches of all time but an obsessive conversation among fight fans will also focus on those bouts that 'should have been', but for a variety of reasons never happened.

In **The Greatest Fights That Never Were**, the author talks about the unique culture of professional boxing where corruption, fear, racism, and even friendship, prevented many great fights from ever happening. The book looks at the lost match-ups over the years and the careers of some of the featured fighters: Muhammad Ali, Larry Holmes, Lennox Lewis and Tim Witherspoon, who was denied a showdown with 'Iron' Mike Tyson by promoter Don King, right up to the much anticipated Floyd Mayweather/Manny Pacquiao bout – the biggest fight in history not to happen.

The Greatest Fights That Never Were will appeal to anybody who enjoys pondering the 'what if...'. It's not just a book for boxing fans.

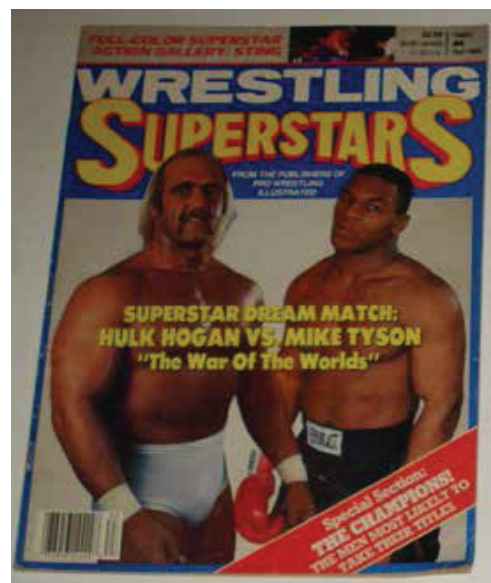
Born in 1977, **Matthew Bazell** is a London-based journalist and author (*Invasion and Deportation* [2000], *Theatre of Silence: The Lost Soul of Football* [2008]). A lifelong follower of Arsenal, his second team are the mighty Darlington! A keen boxing historian and general sports enthusiast, Matthew has also appeared on ESPN and various sports programmes as commentator.



Jack Johnson, one of the all-time greats. But he refused to give Langford a shot at his title.



Friends don't fight? Rocky Graziano pretends to hit his buddy Jake LaMotta.



The match that thankfully wasn't. Hogan v Tyson would have been farcical.



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