

Defeated Tyson retires

“My career has been over since 1990,” ex-champion says

By Don Steinberg
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Mike Tyson said the word *anymore* a million times Saturday night and deep into Sunday morning, after he had decided enough was enough and ended his chaotic boxing career.

“I’m just finished with this. I don’t have it in me anymore,” he kept repeating. “I’m not good anymore. If I can’t beat Kevin McBride, I can’t compete in this sport anymore. I don’t think I have the stomach for this anymore. What am I hungry for? There’s really nothing I want anymore.”

Anymore can be wistful and regretful, but it’s also about letting go, accepting how things are, and getting on with life. Maybe he really will.

Afterward, talking for hours with reporters and supporters, Tyson was funny and relaxed, like a man who had just quit a job; relief overwhelmed bitterness or fear of the consequences.

“I may be bizarre sometimes, but I’m very rational. I’m not going to lie to myself,” he said. “My career has been over since 1990.”

He’d lost two of his last three fights and said he had decided before Saturday’s bout against noncontender McBride that, if he lost again, it would be his last fight.

McBride, a 32-year old long shot from Ireland ridiculed by boxing experts, came with more than anyone expected. He took the best shots a 38-year-old former champion had to give, and kept coming and hitting. McBride’s decision not to be a Tyson punchline, and his being free to make that choice, exposed a Tyson with little gas left in his tank.

Tyson sat in his corner after Round 5, exhausted, looking down, barely responsive to cornerman Jeff Fenech, seemingly ready to figure out what he wanted to do next in his life. He came out for the sixth round making a final stand, swinging at the 6-foot-6, 271-pound McBride. He head-butted a gash under McBride’s eye.

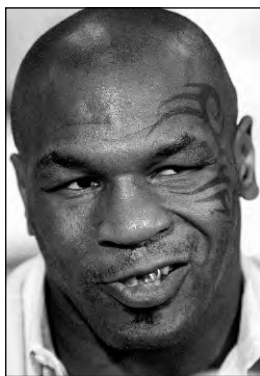
Then Tyson sagged to the canvas under McBride’s weight in a clinch that ended the round. He lingered, sitting against the ropes, taking a deep breath for what he knew he was going to do. He got to his stool in the corner and didn’t come out for the seventh.

Boxing careers usually end with a whimper rather than a bang. A bang gets a rematch on pay-per-view. Tyson fought in the four highest-grossing pay-per-view fights ever (vs. Lennox Lewis, Peter McNeeley, and twice against Evander Holyfield). His luster as a brand name for brutal knockouts outlasted his ability to back it up. He knew it.

“I look at my fans; they don’t love me. They don’t know me well enough to love me,” he said. “They come to be entertained. I’m a performer.”

He remains as much as \$20 million in debt. The McBride bout was part of a court-approved bankruptcy plan to let Tyson pay creditors, the Internal Revenue Service, and his second ex-wife. Now, he just wants to be a better father and explore missionary work in Bosnia or Rwanda, he says. How will that pay anyone?

“Look, when I get some money, I’ll pay those guys,” he said. Showtime sold Saturday’s fight with the tagline “Anything Can Happen.” It did. In Tyson’s tortured life, it will again. But as much as we joke and grouse, we’ll miss him. Even the \$50 we wasted 10 years ago, watching Tyson destroy McNeeley in 89 seconds, which seemed like such a rip-off then — well, we’ll still miss that 50 bucks, but maybe not so much anymore.



Mike Tyson says he may explore missionary work in Bosnia or Rwanda.

Mike Tyson’s Career Record

June 11, 2005	Kevin McBride, in Washington	L-TKO 6
July 30, 2004	Danny Williams, Louisville, Ky.	L-KO 4
Feb 22, 2003	Clifford Etienne, Memphis	KO 1
June 8, 2002	Lennox Lewis, Memphis	L-KO 8
Oct 13, 2001	Brian Nielsen, Copenhagen, Denmark	TKO 6
Oct. 20, 2000	Andrew Golota, Auburn Hills, Mich.	NC 3
June 24, 2000	Lou Savarese, Glasgow, Scotland	TKO 1
Jan. 29, 2000	Julius Francis, Manchester, England	TKO 2
Oct. 23, 1999	Orlin Norris, Las Vegas	NC 1
Jan. 16, 1999	Francois Botha, Las Vegas	KO 5
June 28, 1997	Evander Holyfield, Las Vegas	L-DQ 3
Nov. 9, 1996	Evander Holyfield, Las Vegas	L-TKO 11
Sept. 7, 1996	Bruce Seldon, Las Vegas	TKO 1
March 16, 1996	Frank Bruno, Las Vegas	TKO 3
Dec. 16, 1995	Buster Mathis Jr., Philadelphia	KO 3
Aug. 19, 1995	Peter McNeeley, Las Vegas	W-DQ 1
June 28, 1991	Razor Ruddock, Las Vegas	W 12
March 18, 1991	Razor Ruddock, Las Vegas	TKO 7
Dec. 8, 1990	Alex Stewart, Atlantic City	TKO 1
June 16, 1990	Henry Tillman, Las Vegas	KO 1
Feb. 11, 1990	Buster Douglas, Tokyo	L-KO 10
July 21, 1989	Carl Williams, Atlantic City	TKO 1
Feb. 25, 1989	Frank Bruno, Las Vegas	TKO 5
June 27, 1988	Michael Spinks, Atlantic City	KO 1
March 21, 1988	Tony Tubbs, Tokyo	KO 2
Jan. 22, 1988	Larry Holmes, Atlantic City	TKO 4
Oct. 16, 1987	Tyrell Biggs, Atlantic City	TKO 7
Aug. 1, 1987	Tony Tucker, Las Vegas	W 12
May 30, 1987	Pinklon Thomas, Las Vegas	TKO 6
March 7, 1987	James Smith, Las Vegas	W 12
Nov. 22, 1986	Trevor Berbick, Las Vegas	TKO 2
Sept. 6, 1986	Alfonso Ratliff, Las Vegas	KO 2
Aug. 17, 1986	Jose Ribalta, Atlantic City	TKO 10
July 26, 1986	Marvis Frazier, Glen Falls, N.Y.	KO 1
July 11, 1986	Lorenzo Boyd, Swan Lake, N.Y.	KO 2
June 28, 1986	William Hosea, Troy, N.Y.	KO 1
June 13, 1986	Reggie Gross, New York	TKO 1
May 20, 1986	Mitchell Green, New York	W 10
May 3, 1986	James Tillis, Glen Falls, N.Y.	W 10
March 10, 1986	Steve Zouski, Uniondale, N.Y.	KO 3
Feb. 16, 1986	Jesse Ferguson, Troy, N.Y.	TKO 6
Jan. 24, 1986	Mike Jameson, Atlantic City	TKO 5
Jan. 11, 1986	David Jaco, Albany, N.Y.	TKO 1
Dec. 27, 1985	Mark Young, Latham, N.Y.	KO 1
Dec. 6, 1985	Sam Scaff, New York	KO 1
Nov. 22, 1985	Conroy Nelson, Latham, N.Y.	KO 2
Nov. 13, 1985	Eddie Richardson, Houston	KO 1
Nov. 1, 1985	Sterling Benjamin, Latham, N.Y.	TKO 1
Oct. 25, 1985	Robert Colay, Atlantic City	KO 1
Oct. 9, 1985	Donnie Long, Atlantic City	KO 1
Sept. 5, 1985	Michael Johnson, Atlantic City	KO 1
Aug. 15, 1985	Lorenzo Canady, Atlantic City	TKO 1
July 19, 1985	Larry Sims, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.	KO 3
July 11, 1985	John Anderson, Atlantic City	TKO 2
June 20, 1985	Rick Spain, Atlantic City	KO 1
May 23, 1985	Donald Halpin, Atlantic City	KO 4
April 10, 1985	Trent Singleton, Albany, N.Y.	TKO 1
March 6, 1985	Hector Mercedes, Albany, N.Y.	TKO 1
Totals: 50-6-2, with 44 knockouts.		