

MONTE “TWO GUNZ” BARRETT

**Former World Boxing Council Continental Americas Heavyweight Champion
Born in Queens, N.Y., on May 26, 1971, now living in Hackensack, N.J.
Height: 6' 3" Weight: Heavyweight (218)
Record: 31-4, 17 KOs**

When describing Monte Barrett, one can use words like charismatic, poised, self-assured, humble, confident and gentlemanly. To meet Monte Barrett is to like him. He's that kind of guy. But once he enters the ring, he transforms into a highly motivated, intensely determined, and totally focused fighting machine.

As a young man, Barrett became an ardent admirer of Muhammad Ali. Not just as a fighter but as a personality and role model. This admiration for Ali turned Barrett into a fan of the sport, a student of boxing and, ultimately, a participant in the sweet science.

Barrett quickly moved up the ranks as an amateur. His hard work and dedication made him one of America's most highly touted young boxing talents. Victories in the Golden Gloves, National Pal Tournament, and New York's prestigious Empire State Games gave him the inner strength and confidence to make the natural transition into professional boxing.

In August of 1996, Barrett made his professional debut in Yonkers, N.Y., in spectacular fashion by knocking out Jamal Edward in one round. This was followed by 20 straight wins including victories over former world heavyweight champion Greg Page and former heavyweight contender Phil Jackson. The win over Jackson gave Barrett the World Boxing Council Continental Americas heavyweight title.

This title catapulted Barrett into the world heavyweight title picture. The eyes of the boxing world were now zooming in on him.

After a first-round knockout win over Tim Ray, Barrett was soon to discover adversity for the first time in his fast-moving professional career. In a battle for Barrett's title, he discovered defeat for the first time against fellow contender Lance “Mount” Whitaker in a disputed split-decision loss.

Defeated but not beaten, Barrett continued his assault on the heavyweight division by scoring wins over respected contenders Derrick Banks and Jimmy Thunder, both in New York City where Barrett's skills were showcased before many of boxing's most influential journalists.

Seemingly back on track, Barrett accepted the challenge of facing Wladimir Klitschko in London, England. Not as prepared as he should have been, Barrett was knocked out for the first and only time in his career by the Ukrainian giant, surviving for seven rounds only because of his heart and courage. Boxing is a very unforgiving sport, and Barrett needed to prove his mettle immediately.

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Digging deep into his inner soul, Barrett worked diligently to re-establish himself. He reeled off six wins in a row including a victory over “Terrible” Tim Witherspoon.

Barrett then faced Buffalo sensation “Baby” Joe Mesi at Madison Square Garden and on HBO on Dec. 6, 2003. Mesi is known for early-round knockouts before hometown crowds in Buffalo, and he started quickly against Barrett and knocked him down in round five with a thunderous right hand to the jaw.

Undaunted, Barrett survived Mesi’s best shots and managed to battle back in the second half of the contest. Mesi walked into a sharp left hook to the jaw at the start of the seventh round that landed flush, and Mesi dropped to one knee—the first knockdown of his career. Barrett punished Mesi throughout the remainder of the round, and with only 41 seconds left, Barrett jolted Mesi again with a solid left hook to the head. Both men traded shots in the center of the ring as the Garden fans stood and cheered the fireworks.

Despite a left eye that was almost closed and the fact Barrett had evened the knockdowns, Mesi won by majority decision. Judge Joseph Dwyer tallied 94-93, and Arthur Mercante Sr. scored it 95-93, both for Mesi, while Tom Schreck had it 94-94, a draw. The verdict was greeted with a chorus of boos by the Garden crowd, and many believe Barrett would have won the fight had it been scheduled for more than 10 rounds.

Barrett then took on undefeated and highly touted Dominick Guinn (24-0, 17 KOs) of Hot Springs, Ark., on March 27, 2004, in the co-main event on HBO’s Boxing After Dark. Barrett asserted his dominance from round one, throwing punishing hooks to the body and head. Barrett won a hard-fought split decision over the hometown favorite.

Barrett faced another undefeated heavyweight contender in Owen “What the Heck” Beck (24-0, 18 KOs) in an IBF and WBC elimination bout in St. Louis on Feb. 5, 2005. Both fighters came out strong in what became one of the best heavyweight fights of the year.

Barrett used his superior ring experience to thwart Beck’s spirited attacks. Barrett floored the Jamaican in the second round, but a game Beck fought back valiantly, lasting until the ninth round when Barrett decked him twice more before the referee halted the action.

Barrett was now the mandatory challenger to IBF heavyweight champion Chris Byrd and the No. 2-ranked contender in the WBC. Two Gunz could have simply waited for the world title shot he had earned against Byrd, but promoter Don King had other ideas.

Likewise, WBC No. 1-ranked mandatory challenger Hasim “The Rock” Rahman had been waiting through three postponements to face WBC champion Vitali Klitschko. Due to these delays, King successfully petitioned the WBC to sanction a match between Rahman and Barrett for the WBC interim championship. Both fighters were brave and accepted the challenge, knowing only one fighter would move ahead to a world championship match.

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King reminded everyone that if Klitschko failed to answer the challenge immediately, the winner of Rahman/Barrett would be named the outright WBC champion. Few realized how prescient his thinking was.

Rahman vs. Barrett took place at the United Center in Chicago on Aug. 13, 2005. In the year leading up to the fight, Barrett has undergone many personal and professional changes. His longtime mentor and friend Tommy Parks passed away. Harold “Shadow” Knight, who also trained world champion Lennox Louis was named his trainer. He also was experiencing personal problems at home that few new about. If all of this were not enough, Monte and Rock are close friends. Both assured everyone it would not affect their performance in the ring.

Rahman established his jab early, winning the first two rounds. Barrett dug in during the third round and ripped Rahman with a sharp left hand. Barrett seemed unaware that he had buzzed his opponent and did not apply any extra pressure before the bell sounded ending the round. That punch alone won Barrett the round on two of the three judges’ scorecards.

Monte fell silent after the third, abnormally content to allow Rahman to out-work him. He seemed to wake up in the last three rounds of the contest winning two of the last three rounds on two scorecards and winning the tenth on the other. Regardless, it was too late for Monte who lost by unanimous decision.

Rahman went from interim WBC champion to outright champion after Klitschko sustained an injury preparing for a meeting that never took place on Nov. 12, 2005.

Monte remains bound and determined to become heavyweight champion of the world. His motivation is to succeed and provide for his five children: Teyana, Ashanti, Shai, Makayla and Brandon.

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF
MONTE BARRETT

GREENVILLE, NC
 Date of Birth: 05/26/1971

Won-Lost-Draw-KO'S
 31 4 0 17

1996

Aug 16	JAMAL EDWARDS, NY, NY.....	TKO	1	PRO DEB	213
Sep 18	SCOTT MARCANTONIO, WESTBURY, NY.....	TKO	1		215
Oct 15	ANDRE HORNE, AC, NJ.....	TKO	1		214
Nov 08	MITCHELL ROSE, YONKERS, NY.....	W	4		212

1997

Jan 21	FRANK GRAZIER, BILOXI, MS.....	KO	1		214
Jan 31	RUSSELL PERRY, NY, NY.....	KO	1		220
Mar 14	RON MC CARTHY, ALBANY, NY.....	W	6		224
May 01	LIYADI ALHASSAN, ASBURY PARK, NJ.....	W	6		220
May 17	JUAN QUINTANA, DOVER, NH.....	W	6		215
Jul 13	KEVIN BRISTER, YONKERS, NY.....	TKO	1		216
Oct 02	BILL LEWIS, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.....	KO	1		216
Nov 01	VAL SMITH, NY, NY.....	TKO	6		219
Nov 21	SANTIAGO DE PAULA, YONKERS, NY.....	TKO	3		219

1998

Jan 16	GUY SONNENBERG, AC, NJ.....	TKO	4		220
Mar 27	JEFF PEGUES, AC, NJ.....	TKO	1		217
May 09	LOUIS MONACO, AC, NJ.....	W	6		219
Jun 19	DEREK AMOS, AC, NJ.....	TKO	8		217
Sep 11	BRYANT SMITH, YONKERS, NY.....	W	10		218
Oct 23	GREG PAGE, AC, NJ.....	W	10		217

1999

Apr 03	PHIL JACKSON, LAS VEGAS, NV.....	W	12	WBC/CA	217
Jul 25	TIM RAY, KANSAS CITY, MO.....	KO	1		220
Aug 28	LANCE WHITAKER, LAS VEGAS, NV.....	L	12	WBC/CA	218

2000

Jan 27	DERRICK BANKS, NY, NY.....	W	10		224
Feb 24	JIMMY THUNDER, NY, NY.....	TKO	7		221
Jul 15	WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO, LONDON, ENGLAND..	TKBY	7		221

2001

Jan 27	MARIO CAWLEY, AC, NJ.....	TKO	9		224
Jun 08	TIM WITHERSPOON, VERONA, NY.....	W(S)	10		224

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Sep 28 ROBERT DAVIS, LAS VEGAS, NV..... W 10 225

2003

Mar 08 TERRY PORTER, TUSTIN, CA..... W 6 223

Apr 04 ROBERT WIGGINS, UNCASVILLE, CT..... W(S) 10 221

Oct 03 ERIC KIRKLAND, ALBUQUERQUE, NM..... TKO 10 218

Dec 06 JOSEPH MESI, NY, NY..... L(M) 10 215

2004

Mar 27 DOMINICK GUINN, LITTLE ROCK, AR..... W(S) 10 217

2005

Feb 05 OWEN BECK, ST LOUIS, MO..... TKO 9 IBF/ELIM 218

Aug 13 HASIM RAHMAN, CHICAGO, IL..... L 12 WBC-I 224