

MATT “BOOM BOOM” ZEGAN

WBO No. 3-Ranked Contender – WBC No. 5-Ranked Contender

Born on Feb. 8, 1976, in Wroclaw, Poland

Height: 5' 7" Weight: Lightweight (135)

Record: 35-1, 20 KOs

Matt “Boom Boom” Zegan is hometown guy. He was born and raised in Wroclaw, Poland, and while he could have moved on to brighter lights in Warsaw or outside of his native country, he’s been content to remain at home.

“I love my town,” Zegan said. “All my friends and family are there. I’m a regular guy. I can’t see myself living anywhere else.”

Zegan says the only thing unconventional about him is his platinum blond-dyed hair and the fact that he has been featured in four Polish films.

He was a good soccer player as a child. When asked why he gave up soccer, he gives an incredulous look and says, “As always in Poland, I quarreled with the coach and that was it for me.”

At age 11, friends encouraged him to join them at the boxing gym where he took to the sport immediately. Boxing tournaments for Polish youth begin at age 14, and Zegan went on to become a five-time national champion that was undefeated until age 18, racking up over 80 wins. He finished his amateur career with over 300 wins against only 23 losses.

Zegan had his eyes on the 2000 Olympics, but British promoter Panos Eliades urged him to turn professional in 1998. Coming from a poor family, it wasn’t an offer he felt he could wait on.

His first six fights as a pro were held in England, and then his next 18 were staged in Poland. He won all 24 fights.

Zegan signed with manager Andrew Wasilewski and his Hammer KnockOut Promotions, the leading promotional group in Eastern and Central Europe, in 2001.

His performances earned him his first world title appearance against longtime World Boxing Organization 135-pound champion “King” Artur Grigorian in Germany on Jan. 18, 2003. While the legendary Grigorian was born in Uzbekistan, he moved to Germany in his twenties.

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It was a battle of undefeated boxers with Zegan's record of 24-0 and Grigorian's at 35-0. Grigorian, an invincible world champion, was attempting his 17th consecutive title defense of his WBO crown—the longest reign by a lightweight in history—and all but one of those successful title defenses were held in Germany. To say the Pole was in hostile territory was a vast understatement.

Zegan started fast, maintained a busy pace and provided a strong effort throughout. At the finish of the full 12 rounds, Grigorian was cut over both eyes, while Zegan had only suffered a bloody nose.

Zegan was convinced he had won. A German television broadcaster announced prior to the decision that a new champion was about to be crowned.

In the end, the two German judges scored the fight 115-113 and 115-112 for Grigorian and the third judge, Levi Martinez from New Mexico, scored it a 114-114 draw. The fight was remembered by many European writers as one of the “robberies of the year” in 2003 summary articles.

“It was clear to everyone, including me, that I won the fight against Grigorian,” Zegan said. I dreamed only of a rematch. Even though I had a rematch clause in my contract, my pleas were ignored.”

Grigorian went on to a big payday in his next fight against Brazilian legend Acelino “Popo” Freitas.

“To this day, I regret that I did not have the opportunity to avenge my first and only loss,” Zegan said. “It’s not like Grigorian knocked me out. He knows and I know who won that fight.”

After seeing his fellow countryman Tomasz Adamek sign with Don King in 2005, where he immediately became the first Polish fighter to win a world title on American soil, Zegan reached out to King for the same opportunity.

Zegan rewarded his new promoter by dispatching Jesus Salvador Perez by way of technical knockout in round 7 in Chicago, on Aug. 13, 2005—his first match in America.

In his last appearance, Zegan won a unanimous eight-round decision over Geoffrey Munica in Hamburg, Germany, and increased his current winning streak to 13 in a row.

At age 30, Zegan feels he is in his prime and can defeat the best in the sport. His goals include becoming a world champion and pursuing his dream of becoming a car collector.

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His favorite foods are polish staples that he likes to cook with lean meats to help him make the 135-pound lightweight limit.

He likes to play soccer and basketball when at home, and is a family man with his wife of seven years, Malgorzata, and his six-year-old daughter, Julia.

Respected because he has not moved away from his hometown, Zegan is often asked to participate in charity events, which he is happy to oblige. His main charity is Knockout Dystrophy, a well known organization in Poland that raises funds to fight muscular dystrophy.

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF
MACIEJ MAT ZEGAN

SOUTHPAW

WROCLAW, POLAND

Date of Birth: 02/08/1976

Won-Lost-Draw-KO'S

37 1 0 21

1998

Sep 12	MALCOLM THOMAS, BETHNAL GREEN,	W	4	PRO DEB	135
Nov 21	KEITH JONES, LONDON, ENGLAND.....	W	4		133

1999

Feb 04	CARL ALLEN, CATFORD, ENGLAND.....	W	4		131
Mar 13	DEAN MURDOCH, MANCHESTER, ENGLAND....	TKO	2		132
Apr 29	WAYNE JONES, BETHNAL GREEN, ENGLAND..	TKO	3		133
Sep 20	PETER BUCKLEY, PETERBOROUGH, ENGLAND.	W	6		132
Oct 22	LUDOMIR NANEV, WARSAW, POLAND.....	TKO	1		
Dec 10	RAKHIM MINGALEEV, WARSAW, POLAND.....	W	6		132

2000

Mar 25	DAVID TURNER, BIALYSTOK, POLAND.....	TKO	5		134
Jun 10	IVO GOLAKOV, ELBLAG, POLAND.....	TKO	4		135
Sep 30	PETR KITERA, POZNAN, POLAND.....	TKO	4		134
Nov 03	ARMANDO ARRIAGA, NOWY DWOR	TKO	5		134
Dec 09	KAREL RUZIZKA, KATOWICE, POLAND.....	W	6		

2001

Mar 02	VLADO VARHEGYI, WARSAW, POLAND.....	KO	1		
May 18	ADRIAN PARLOGEA, WARSAW, POLAND.....	W	6		
Aug 11	PETER FEHER, JAWORZNO, POLAND.....	TKO	2		
Oct 27	ADAM JAROMIR, PRUSZKOW, POLAND.....	TKO	2		
Nov 24	YANNICK PAGET, LODZ, POLAND.....	TKO	9	POL/INTE	130
Dec 29	MAURYCY GOJKO, KONIN, POLAND.....	W	6		

2002

Apr 13	YOUSSEF DJIBABA, BIELSKI, POLAND.....	W	10	POL/INTE	130
May 04	MARIAN LEONARDU, WROCLAW, POLAND.....	W	6		
Sep 21	PATRIK PROKOPECZ, STARGARD	TKO	1		
Oct 26	MAURYCY GOJKO, RZESZOW, POLAND.....	W	6		
Nov 23	ANTON GLOFAK, OPOLE, POLAND.....	TKO	1		

2003

Jan 18	ARTUR GRIGORIAN, ESSEN, GERMANY.....	L (M)	12	WBO	134
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37 1 0 21

Feb 15	STAN MIHALY, ZABRZE, POLAND.....	KO	5		
May 10	MANUEL GOMES, STUTTGART, GERMANY.....	TKO	5		135
Jul 12	ROBERTO ARRIETA, LEVERKUSEN, GERMANY.	W	12	WBO/INTE	134
Sep 27	LASZLO BOGNAR, GORZOW, POLAND.....	TKO	6	POL/INTE	135
Oct 24	CLAUDIO POP, WROCLAW, POLAND.....	W	6		
Dec 13	ONDREJ SKALA, OPOLE, POLAND.....	TKO	1		

2004

Apr 24	JIMMI ZEIKLE, DABROWA GORNICZA,	KO	3	WBF	134
Sep 24	BELA SANDOR, TARNOWSKIE, POLAND.....	TKO	3		
Nov 20	CLAUDIO MARTINET, KATOWICW, POLAND...	KO	6	WBF	135

2005

Feb 19	MARIAN LEONARDU, WOLOW, POLAND.....	W	6		
May 21	CHEUREMBO PALASA, ZDZIESZOWICE,	W	8		132
Aug 13	JESUS PEREZ, CHICAGO, IL.....	TKO	7		135

2006

Mar 11	GEOFFREY MUNICA, HAMBURG, GERMANY....	W	8		134
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