

KEITH THURMAN



29 (22KO)-0-0

Division: Welterweight

Nickname: "One Time"

Training: St Petersburg, FL

Keith Thurman has had a two-year arc of healing, self-discovery, continuing his undefeated record and fighting towards his soon-to-be 30th victory against one of the sports most revered fighters – Manny Pacquiao. It's a different evolution than the two-time world boxing champion envisioned. In 2017 the former "Fighter of the Year," suffered an elbow injury that took two years to truly heal. During that time Thurman also took his first true vacation, where on a trip to Tokyo he met his now wife, blending his Florida heritage with her Nepalese heritage and culture.

It was a global whirlwind with love, recovery, victory and re-emergence playing equal parts. Now, in 2019, Thurman faces the fighter he called out six years ago and offered to put his record on the line to show that he has what it takes to be a World Champion Welterweight fighter. That fighter was Manny Pacquiao and on July 20 the long-awaited fight will take place in Las Vegas on the Premier Boxing Champions on FOX Sports pay-per-view.

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A true welterweight (147 pounds), Thurman remains one of the true educators in the sport, his blend of punching power and personality have made him a respected fan-favorite worldwide. Having entered the sport at the age of 7 in a youth afterschool boxing program, his undefeated record has earned him the respect of the boxing world and being pound-for-pound one of the top ten fighters regardless of weight class.

Born in Clearwater, Florida, Keith is the product of a Caucasian mother, Deborah Thorensen, a former volleyball player, and an African American father, Keith Thurman Sr., who played football and wrestled.

He was discovered at the age of 7 by renowned Boxing trainer Ben Getty, who had previously worked with Sugar Ray Leonard, among others. As an amateur fighter, Thurman won six national championships and recorded more than 100 victories, setting the stage for a promising pro career.

After Getty passed away in 2009, Thurman moved into the stable of Dan Birmingham, best known for helping turn Jeff Lacey and Winky Wright into world titlists as well as having worked with former world champion Chad Dawson for a time.

Of his 29 professional fights, Thurman has earned 22 of his victories by knockout. And a number of them have come against some of the most rugged participants in a rugged sport.

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Having defeated some of the Welterweight divisions most competitive champions – from Danny Garcia to Shawn Porter to Robert Guerrero to Josesito Lopez – his fight against Pacquiao is his greatest and most anticipated challenge to date.

“I’ve always been a welterweight,” said Thurman, “Manny has never been in the ring with the likes of me. He’s never been a 40-year-old fighter fighting an undefeated welterweight champion. I still hold the greatest resume of current Welterweight fighters with two-years of inactivity. I unified the WBA with the WBC title and the last one to do that was Floyd Mayweather.”

The highly motivated, focused Thurman is pushing his speed, strength and performance with an elite team from Dan Birmingham to a strength and conditioning team that includes former NFL player and co-owner of the Tampa based Performance Compound Yo Murphy.

“I don’t just have one strength and conditioning coach, I have two,” jokes Thurman. “I’m taking this seriously. I want to beat Deontay Wilder’s last knock out,” he says. “This fight is meaningful. I respect Manny for what he’s done, but I want to dismantle him. Manny is going to get 100% of Keith Thurman and no one has truly had 100% of me until now.

“I’m a hundred times better than what you’ve seen,” said Thurman. “I belong at the top, I am at the top, and on July 20 Keith Thurman is going to remind everyone of why I am the top.”