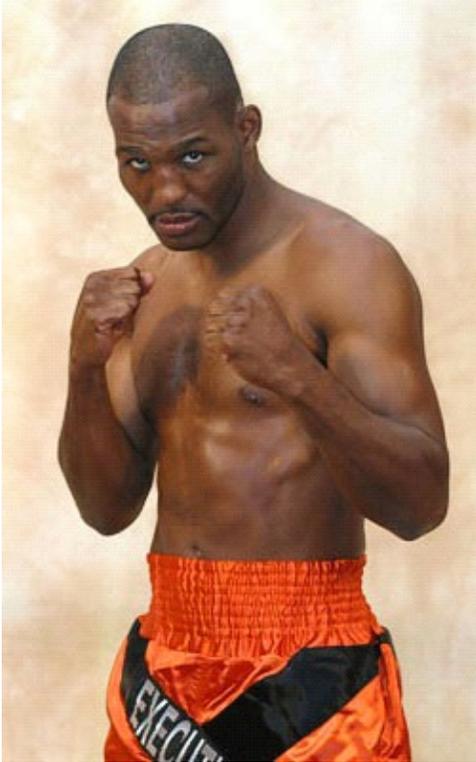


Student Handout 2-Bernard Hopkins



Bernard “The Executioner” Hopkins was born in [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania](#), where he became involved in crime and gang activity at a young age. Despite winning the Pennsylvania Junior Olympics at the age of nine, he was convicted of robbery in 1982 and was sent to Graterford State Penitentiary. During his incarceration, he converted to Islam, earned his high school diploma, and won the national penitentiary middleweight championship three times.

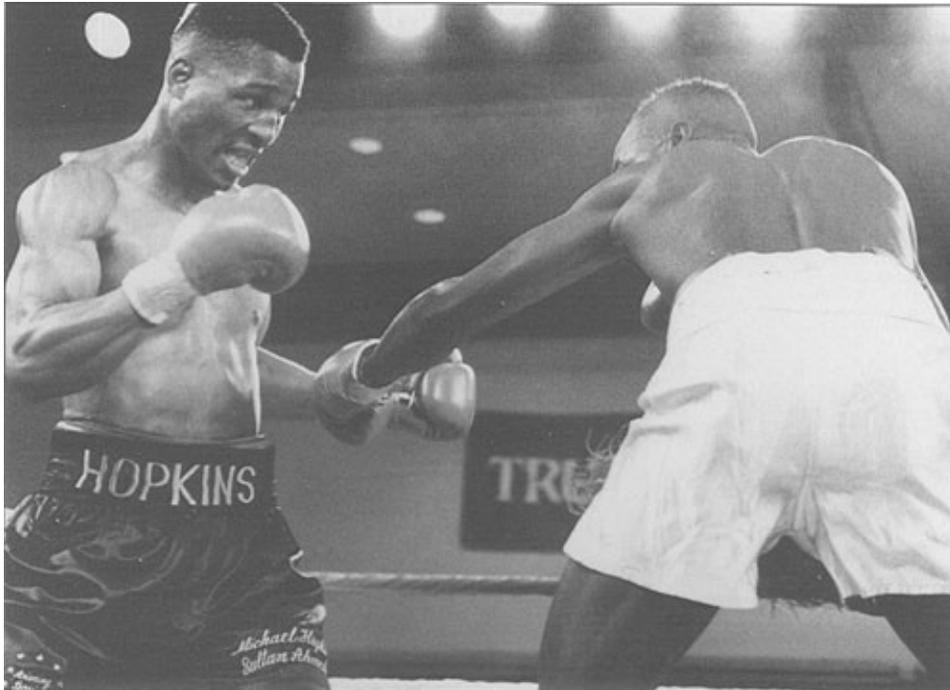
As a professional boxer, Hopkins dominated his class. With a final record of 47 Wins, 4 Losses, 1 Draw, 1 No-contest, 32 Knockouts, his nick-name was well-

Courtesy www.phillyboxinghistory.com

deserved. In 1995 Hopkins won the IBF Middleweight Title. In 2000 Hopkins suffered an arm injury during an illegal takedown during his fight with Antwun Echols. He refused the offer by the referee to win by disqualification and continued fighting, primarily with his left arm. This cemented his reputation as a tough, “old-school” fighter. In the biggest fight of his career, Hopkins fought six-division titleholder [Oscar de la Hoya](#) for the undisputed middleweight championship. Hopkins

won the bout with a knockout in the ninth round. After this fight, Hopkins joined with La Hoya to promote younger boxers on the East Coast.

When asked about those he most admired, Hopkins responded: “Anybody that comes from the inner-city and rises from that situation...anybody that comes from adversity. Because it’s so easy to lay down. Lay down and say I’m gonna rob a bank. That’s an easy cop-out. But to say, I’m not gonna be like that...it takes a lot when you have nothing in the refrigerator.”



Hopkins vs. Stokes
Courtesy www.phillyboxinghistory.com

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