

Forty Is Too Young To Die

By *Alexander Baron* - Nov 27, 2015



3
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It isn't a nice feeling writing the obituary of a younger man than yourself, especially one who is nearly twenty years younger. And *two sportsmen* who were both nearly twenty years younger...This month, two such sportsmen departed this mortal coil. Although he was a superbly fit rugby player, Jonah Lomu was also a very sick man; he was diagnosed with a rare kidney condition in 1995 and had even undergone a transplant. He died **at his home** on November 18. He was born May 12, 1975.



Jonah Lomu

While Lomu's death is sad, it could probably not have been avoided. The same cannot be said for the death of the boxer O'Neil Bell, who was a rare bird in this age of *alphabet soup*, a unified world champion. Bell unified the world cruiserweight title in January 2006 when he added the WBA and WBC titles to his UBF title with a 10th round stoppage of Jean-Marc Momeck. Although he lost in his next fight, a rematch, he held the unified titles for over a year. After a three year layoff he fought twice more in 2011 losing the first but winning his last ever fight in devastating style. O'Neil "Supernova" Bell ended his career with an impressive 27-4-1 record with 25 stoppages.



O'Neil Bell

Bell was born in Jamaica on December 29, 1974, and was shot dead at Atlanta on November 25; details are sketchy but he appears to have been the victim of a robbery in a country that has an insane gun culture. Jonah Lomu's funeral will be held next Monday, for which there will surely be a massive turnout. Bell appears to have been a bit of a mystery man, but a fan has already put together [this short tribute](#).

3
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