

# I'M THE NEXT MARVEL MAN

## Hagler is 'Treasure's inspiration

**PATIENT:**  
Theophane

**BY PAUL WARBURTON**

WHAT keeps Ashley 'Treasure' Theophane going is the thought of his hero – the legendary

'Marvelous' Marvin Hagler.

Paddington-born Theophane racked up win number 21 of his career with a convincing points win over African champion Geoffrey Munika at York Hall, Bethnal Green, on Sunday.

But Theophane will be surprised if his name is in the frame for a shot at the British light-welter title, despite winning a so-called eliminator more than 18 months ago.

That defeat of Alan Bosworth should have shunted the west Londoner up the pecking order for his chance of a belt. But since then, a succession of bouts for a variety of domestic titles at the weight have all bypassed the 27-year-old.

Is he bitter? Not as much as you might think, because Theophane believes his day will eventually come – like Hagler's did nearly 30 years ago.

He said: "Marvin had to wait almost three years before he got a shot at Vito Antuofermo, and even then they reckoned it was a dodgy draw.

"Eventually I'll get my chance, because there will be no way I can be ignored.

"I wasn't meant to beat Bosworth. And the likes of then-champion Barry Morrison didn't want to face me.

"These people have a family to feed, and they don't want to harm that by facing the likes of me, who can do them damage."

There was a gasp from Theophane's corner on Sunday when they thought their man had broken his hand felling Munika for an eight-count in the second round.

From then on, the Paddington man lead largely with his left, but still managed to pile up the points.

As it turned out, it was only a dislodged finger bone, put back into place after a visit to hospital on Monday.

Theophane added: "I'm fine, and if I have to wait three years like Hagler, then I can do it."

