

Watts competes in martial arts tourney

By Nathaniel Scott

Barry Watts, a student at Portland Community College, recently made the trip to Oakland, California, as a team member of PCC's Martial Arts Team.

The Martial Arts Expo and World Tournament at the Oakland Coliseum, labeled *The Tournament of Tournaments*, was opened to world wide competitors in all weight divisions. Barry, a lightweight, has an impressive string of victories. In this tournament, he lost a close match and PCC's Martial Arts Team returned home with one first place trophy.

Barry Watts, born in Chicago, Illinois, moved to Portland at the age of four. He has three younger sisters attending high school, two in Portland and the other in Sacramento, California. His father is employed in Customer Services at United Airlines and Barry is employed at the Portland Water Bureau, while working towards a degree in Architectural Drafting.

Barry became interested in the martial arts while in his early teens, because of the potential self defense possibilities, and later found that the principles of mind and body control taught in the martial arts, could be applied in whatever endeavor one may choose.

Barry began his martial arts training at the age of thirteen, is currently a member of the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) and various other martial arts groups, and is presently ranked a brown belt. At the present, he is pursuing a form of the arts known as *Tae Kwon Do* and is being trained by master instructor Ali M. Muhammad, of

the Matt Dishman Community Center in Northeast Portland.

In this interview, Barry was asked if he had anything specific to pass on to the community and his response was: "I recommend the martial arts to every segment of the community. It teaches discipline and control and is a wonderful way to exercise the mind and body." In response to the question of drugs, his answer was: "Leave them alone. They don't do anything for you. They impair the body and distort the mind and the funny thing about it is, these impairments may not materialize until a later time in the life cycle."

His goals are deeply entrenched with dedication. Education, possibly turning professional as a martial artist and community service worker to help ease ignorance and doubt, some of the obstacles and stumbling blocks that hold our brothers and sisters in limited fields of endeavors, because they have no positive role models to identify with, and consequently, do not utilize all of their potential and skills.

The field of the martial arts requires dedication, training and respect for the possibility of injury. One has to adhere to safety factors and proper equipment are virtually necessary for amateurs and professionals alike. Barry Watts is a bright, determined person, who has great personal, community and cultural pride, and although his participation is limited to tournament competition, due to the lack of sponsor or sponsors, he carries the pride of the Black community into each meet and hopes that through his carriage and personal endeavors,



As a student of the martial arts, Barry Watts combines intelligence, pride, spiritual principles, dedication and relentless spirit, as he pursues his endeavors of martial arts student and of obtaining a degree in Architectural Drafting.

others, young and old, will be able to see the correlation between mind and body control and accomplish the dreams of Malcom, Martin and countless other Black innovators

and educators. Congratulations, Mr. Barry Watts. We, the Black community salute you, for your spirit, dedication and accomplishments.

PUSH, Black boxers oppose Coetzee fight

Washington, D.C. -- Rev. Jesse Jackson, President of PUSH, has urged World Boxing Association heavyweight champion Mike Weaver to "withdraw immediately" from the planned title fight against South African Gerrie Coetzee in Botswana, South Africa, on October 25.

In a telegram sent to Weaver this week, through the fighter's manager, Don Manuel, Rev. Jackson said: "I appeal to you not to fight South African heavyweight Gerrie Coetzee in South Africa or anywhere else on October 25th as long as the white minority government of four million continues its practices of apartheid and the denial of basic human rights and dignity to its 21 million Black and mixed-race citizens. Do not be deceived; South

Africa is using sports as a propaganda weapon in an attempt to gain an international face-lift, world recognition and acceptance, and as a cover for its crime against humanity.

"By fighting Gerrie Coetzee," Jackson told Weaver, "you are aiding the continued oppression of your Black brothers and sisters. As recent racial disturbances in South Africa make clear, Blacks and mixed-race people there are dissatisfied with the state of affairs and are struggling heroically against a vicious and violent oppressor.

"I, along with most Black Americans and concerned people of goodwill everywhere, urge you to withdraw from this fight immediately and thus strike a blow for freedom and dignity. I would like to

talk with you at your earlier convenience," Jackson concluded.

Also criticizing the fight was Muhammad Ali, who said, "I protest the scheduled heavyweight championship fight in South Africa between WBA champion Mike Weaver and Gerrie Coetzee. There seems to be a plot to manipulate this title into the hands of a South African. Gerrie Coetzee is the same man that John Tate beat to win the title."

Muhammad Ali explained, "In speaking out together against the exploitation and genocide of Blacks in South Africa and demanding the withdrawal of any participation of Black Americans in any such championship boxing event, we are striking a blow against injustice, oppression and persecution that will be heard around the world.

"In my travels around the world," Muhammad Ali said, "I have learned that you cannot isolate yourself from the problems of the people. I have always been a people's champion and will fight for their rights in and out of the ring. Apartheid is deplorable. It is an unjustifiable and repugnant system. It constitutes an affront to the dignity of men -- of those who are its victims -- and is a flagrant

violation of fundamental human decency. White South Africa's insensitivity to the plight of Black South Africans demands that all people of goodwill speak out against Mike Weaver going to South Africa and being exploited."

Muhammad Ali is in training for an Oct. 2 World Boxing Council heavyweight title fight against WBC champion Larry Holmes.

In commenting on the Weaver-Coetzee fight, Holmes asked, "What is the difference between Russia and South Africa? If it is fitting for our young amateur athletes to boycott the Olympics in protest against the oppression of the Russians, then any American athlete of conscience must give his support morally, and indeed, to his struggling brothers and sisters of South Africa.

"Blacks in South Africa believe that even by agreeing to fight in South Africa, Black Americans give credibility to the white authority which discriminates against them," Holmes said. "As I have continuously said, I am against a country that will strip a Black athlete of his pride and dignity by making him an 'honorary white' just to exploit his athletic skills."

Plan removes Black

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loans and make a bad loan. Jordan pointed out that the loan fund is to assist businesses that have no other access to loans, and that he sees a need to set aside a portion of the fund for "high risk" loans. Definitions of high risk vary, and might mean only that the person has few assets or little experience.

Mayor McCready recommended that if a choice were to be made between funding some high risk loans and success "it is more important to make the program fly."

Wight explained that the loan priorities are for businesses in "lagging areas," employment opportunities, and minority business. "They are not just for minority business, but to create opportunities for employment for CETA eligible persons." Loans "may be made to very good companies that are willing to take the risk to relocate and that are willing to train."

He said a survey of minority businesses showed that there are not many to begin with and very few hire "blue collar" workers. Most provide service jobs.

Among the changes to be made an eligibility criteria for loans are:

1. Lagging area: business no longer need to be located in a lagging area if they are: minority business, being

relocated by City sponsored public improvements, or have "first source" agreement to hire employees referred by the City. (The City's Economic Development Plan requires first source agreement of all businesses receiving City funds, although revolving loan fund loans already made have not included this.)

2. Loans cannot be used for interim construction financing.

3. Loans cannot be used for speculation. Speculation is redefined. Previously loans that would not provide new jobs furnished by the guarantee were barred, but the new definition does not bar them. (One loan already granted included "speculation" under the old definition)

4. Each \$20,000 will generate one job, rather than each \$10,000.

5. Loans cannot be made if the project could be fully financed by private funds.

6. New procedures to allow non-minority businesses access to the one-third "prioritized" to minorities are included. These non-minority companies will have to "directly benefit minority business or the minority community" or "have" a history of activities benefiting minority businesses or the minority community."

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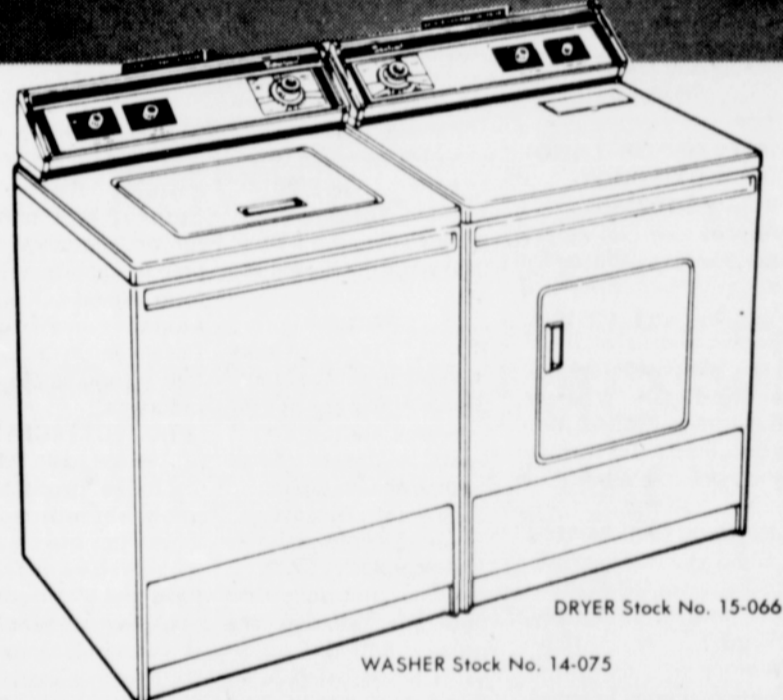
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