

Young boxer starts early



GARY SYKES

Gary Sykes is a good example of a late devotee to the world of pugilism.

One of three children, two of them girls, Gary, being in the middle, had to fight both up and down to maintain his turf at home.

Gary began his boxing career at the tender age of seven under the tutelage of his first coach Lee Jenkins at Matt Dishman Community Center. The Dishman boxing team holds their workouts five days a week and Gary seldom misses a practice.

"I enjoy it now," beams Gary, "but at first I think it was mostly my Dad's idea." Henry Sykes, a devoted father, travels the Northwest with his son and is his staunchest supporter." Quote.

"Don't mind the travel," Henry says. "As long as my son enjoys it I'll keep going. I'm seeing him develop, and that's good. He's had only eight fights and has shown good poise and a nice left hook."

Gary has compiled quite an impressive record during his four years of boxing. His ever growing trophy case now contains eight trophies and two ribbons.

He has won trophies in such places as Salem, Longview, Chehalis, Beaverton, Vancouver and Portland. The Sykes live in Vancouver but travel to Portland daily for training and bouts. Boxing is a great way to keep in shape and Willa and Henry Sykes, Gary's parents, are physical fitness buffs. While their son is traveling, the Sykes often use the opportunity to get in a good workout themselves.

"I like to work out, but don't care much for boxing," mused Willa. "I seldom attend his matches, simply because I hate seeing him get hit."

The Dishman boxing team's next match will be held in early March at Matt Dishman Community Center.

At the 65-pound class Gary is considered a strong aggressive pounder. His long range plan is to keep working hard. He has no professional ambitions but says, "The 1987 Olympics wouldn't be too bad."

Those closest to the young fighter believe that if hard work and dedication mean anything then Gary's ambition will one day be reality.

The winner... Georgetown!

by Al McGillberry

The second season is here. It's the most exciting drama in college sports—the N.C.A.A. College Basketball playoffs. It has in my opinion one of the strongest fields in years. The tourney will bring many joys and disappointments so get ready for some real excitement. I'm going out on the limb and will pick the winners.

In the Eastern Regionals it will be North Carolina. This is a strong team with Worthy, Perkins, and Dougherty giving North Carolina the strongest front line in the Collegiate ranks. Dean Smith has the horses this year to rule in the East.

In the Midwest it will be DePaul. In the past the post season hasn't been too good for Coach Meyer. I think he'll reach the semis this time.

Villanova will push them all the way.

In the Mideast I have to go with the skyscraper Ralph Sampson. He is just too much for the rest of the crowd. Minnesota will press but will fade under Sampson's shot-block-and-defense.

The best team as we have said all year is Georgetown. George Thompson is the best coach in the country and their whole team is playing great at the right time of the year. We pick Georgetown to win the West and win the whole ball of wax. It will be great to see if it all comes out this way; have fun and bet your house of Georgetown.

Oregon State should cry wolf. Georgetown should never be in the Western Regional. Washington D.C. is not in the West; without these politics, Oregon State would reach the final four.

OSU baseball season opens

The Oregon State baseball team (2-2) will open their home schedule this weekend with a Saturday doubleheader against Pacific University (0-0) and a Sunday single game vs. Willamette. Starting time on Saturday is 1:00 pm, 1:30 pm on Sunday.

The Beavers missed their first day of action at the Banana Belt Tournament in Lewiston, Idaho, due to the passing away of freshman outfielder Scott Halbrook. Halbrook, 19, was involved in a head-on collision with shortstop Steve Smith while chasing a fly ball. He never regained consciousness after the tragedy during Tuesday afternoon's practice. Funeral services were held this morning in Eugene for Halbrook. His uniform, number 13, though he never had the opportunity to wear it in a game situation, will be retired.

Oregon State split their four games over the weekend. They got off to a slow start with a 4-3, 10-inning loss to Eastern Washington Saturday afternoon. In the 7 pm nightcap, they pounded host Lewis-Clark State for 15 runs on only nine hits in winning, 15-7. Jim Wilson appears to be the offensive weapon head coach Jack Roley was banking on as the Corvallis junior went 3 x 5 with five runs batted in and a pair of long distance two-run home runs. Shane Gallagher recorded the win in relief of starter Mike Gorman.

Washington State won the slugfest the next morning, 13-9, but the Beavers repeated their clubbing of Lewis-Clark State in the afternoon

game Sunday, 10-4. Wilson smashed his third home run of the season in the loss to Washington State. Jeff Myers went the distance for the victory over LCSC.

LCSC played Washington State today for the championship. Lewis-Clark State's lone two losses came at the hands of the Beavers and they entered the game with a previous win over WSU and a 3-2 tourney mark. Washington State was 4-1. Eastern Washington finished play 1-4.

Pacific is led by Warren Arakaki, a NAIA All-American as a sophomore, and outfielders Terence Lendio and Bobby Gebhardt. They opened their season today at home versus Judson Baptist. Willamette will play their first game of the season against the Beavers Sunday. Senior Cliff Cotton, a .333 hitter in 1981, leads the Bearcats.

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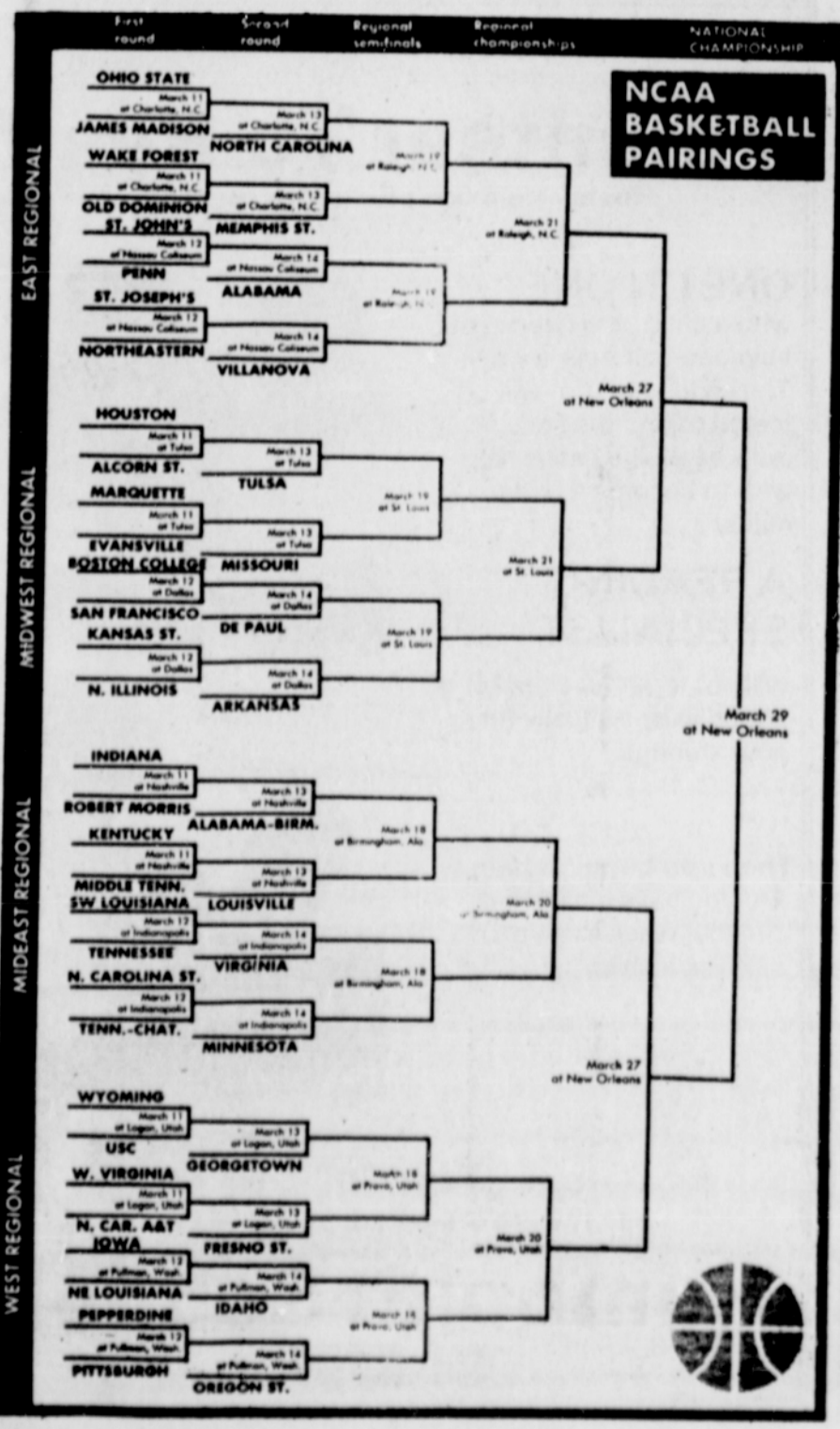
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