

Amateur boxing U.S.A.

The U.S. amateur boxing team faces several problems as it attempts to supercede Cuba and the U.S.S.R. to win the Olympic Games. Cuba won the 1982 World Championships, with the U.S. edging the Soviet Union for second place. But Cuba defeated the U.S. twice this year 11-1 and 8-4 and won the North American championships using its second team.

U.S. Coach Pat Nappi, who coached the 1976 and the 1980 Olympic teams, predicts that the Cuban team will soon begin to descend, giving the U.S.A. a shot at the top spot. He said age and accumulative experience are starting to show their effects on the team that had three gold medals in the 1976 Olympics and six in 1980.

The U.S. team has been building since the 1976 Olympics in Montreal when it claimed five gold, one silver and one bronze. This performance, the U.S.' best to date in the Olympic games, triggered new interest in amateur boxing.

The 1976 team included now-famous Sugar Ray Leonard, Howard Davis, Michael and Leon Spinks, Leo Randolph and John Tate.

In 1979 a new U.S.A. team won seven gold, one silver and one bronze at the World Cups in New York City. In 1980 a tragic air crash which killed a 22-member delegation, together with a major defection to the professional ranks, set the team back again.

In the 1982 World Championships the U.S.A. did even better, gaining three gold, two silver and two bronze to take second place. Cuba was first with 47, U.S.A. 38, U.S.S.R. 35.

One of the U.S.A.'s major problems has been identification of boxers and provision of consistent coaching and training. Although many young boxers come up through Golden Gloves and U.S. Amateur Athletic Association, there is no coordinated, nationwide effort to identify and assist young athletes.

A look at the current team demonstrates that fact well:

Israel Acosta, the U.S.A.'s oldest team member at 27, is self-coached; Bernard Gray, featherweight, and John Jackson, light middleweight, are coached by their fathers. Others list coaches for the boxing clubs to which they belong. Biggs has received some coaching from Mike Morton, who has coached many amateurs including Sugar Ray Leonard.

This year's team was selected from winners at the U.S. Amateur Boxing Championships in April, followed by the Sport Festival in which the four top contenders in each weight class fought. The U.S.A. Amateur Boxing Federation selected the team based on performance in those two meets and international competition. The team then trained as a unit in Colorado Springs before final selections were made.

The U.S. answer to lack of opportunities for consistent coaching is "Operation Gold," a new grant-in-aid program sponsored by U.S.A./A.B.F. Young men who appear to be Olympic prospects will live and train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Room



MARK BRELAND



Tyrell Biggs gives his all in unsuccessful attempt to defeat Teofilo Stevenson. Biggs was KO'd in the second round.

and board, educational expenses, medical care and training will be provided. U.S.A./A.B.F., through corporate donations, is covering expenses.

Operation Gold's purpose is two-fold—to aid in the growth of young fighters and to assist the U.S. in ensuring a top team in the Olympics.

A third factor operating against the U.S.A. team—and perhaps the strongest—is the pressure to turn professional.

U.S. super-heavyweight Tyrell Biggs, who holds the world's championship, said recently that his toughest fight is with himself. Should he turn pro? Or should he remain an amateur? An Olympic gold medal has always been his dream, Biggs explained, but turning pro before 1984 is a possibility. "I'm not a millionaire and things are getting bad." If the price were right, he would be ready for the pros. Biggs, who lost to Teofilo Stevenson on a second round KO, is

still the U.S.' best bet for the Olympics. His defection would be a major one.

Mark Breland, 19, won the 147-pound title in the 1982 World Boxing Championships and was named the tournament's outstanding boxer. Breland, one of four Americans to win in the Cuba-U.S.A. match last week, is 8-0 in international competition.

A native of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Breland also hears the call of the professional. His current goal is to win the New York Golden Gloves a fifth time—the fourth in 1983 and the fifth in 1984. Then he wants to go to the Olympics and win a gold medal. After that he will turn pro.

Breland, who starred in the movie, "Lords of Discipline," looks forward to an acting career after retiring from boxing at 26 or 27.

Whether either Biggs or Breland will be with the U.S.A. team in Los Angeles is a big question.

Thad Spencer promotes boxing

Thad Spencer, a local former heavyweight, has moved into promoting under the Thad Spencer Productions label.

Spencer began his boxing career at 14 at the old Knott Street Community Center, under the direction of Clyde Quisenberry. At 15, he fought as an amateur middleweight and the next year was chief sparring partner for Eddie Machen (number two ranked WBA, 1959). He won the Golden Gloves Championship in the heavyweight division in 1960.

"He has it all. He punches good. He's got better ability than Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali)," said Joe Louis when he was promoting boxing in Los Angeles. Spencer was California State Heavyweight Championship in 1965.

Spencer fell victim to life in the fast lane and never reached his full potential. At age 29, after cocaine put a damper on his career and destroyed his family life, Spencer retired from the ring.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated that he had been to the mountain top," Spencer said. "Well, so have I. I know what life is all about now and I have a much better perspective. I've been at the top and on the bottom. My positive actions will speak for me from here on out."

Thad Spencer Productions will feature Larry Frazier and Ishar Muhammad at the Seattle Paramount Theatre on December 2nd. Frazier,

ranked tenth by the WBA, has impressive victories over Mike Weaver, Jeff Simmons, and Jumbo Cummings. Muhammad is from London, England.

The card also includes: lightweights Irish Randy McNurlin (Seattle) and Hattie Jimenez (Sacramento); and light heavyweights Dale Grant (Tacoma) and King David Smith (Los Angeles).

(For tickets contact Double Tee Productions.)

High school football hopefuls face quarter-final showdown

by Joe White

The Oregon Class AAA high school football playoffs have reached the critical point as four unique but different teams will battle in the semi-finals Friday night.

Encounter number one pits the surprise team of the group, South Salem, against an undefeated Lebanon squad in Corvallis. The Saxons of South Salem entered the playoffs with a 5-4 record but have scratched their way to three straight wins and the semifinals. Two years ago Beaverton won the state championship with a 10-4 record, a feat the Saxons hope to equal.

Standing in the way though is a powerful and underrated Lebanon Warrior team. Lebanon earned a semifinal berth last week by stampeding over previously undefeated Pendleton 34-20. Running backs Bo Yates and Carl Morris provide the Warriors with a powerful running attack that hasn't been stopped so far. Yates has scored 32 points in the three playoff games while Morris has rambled for five touchdowns and 30 points.

For South Salem to win this contest, they must stop Lebanon's running attack while generating an offensive attack of their own. Soren Sorenson leads the Saxons with five touchdowns during the playoffs. He scored the two touchdowns for South Salem in a 15-0 quarterfinal victory over Canby.

This game begins at 8 p.m. on Friday in Parker Stadium but will be

overshadowed by the other semifinal game that starts a half-hour later in Portland.

The Black Tornado of Medford will invade Portland with the hope of taking one more step on the drive to give retiring head coach Fred Spiegelberg a state championship for a retirement gift. Medford is 12-0 and gunning for victory number 40 in the state playoffs. The team narrowly won its final two regular season games but since then has exploded to three straight wins. Standing in the shadows waiting for the Black Tornado is a red hot Gresham football team. An opening game loss to Sunset has been the only blemish on the Gophers record. The 11-1 Gophers upset number two ranked Lakeridge last weekend, 32-14.

This contest matches up one of the state's stingiest defenses against, without a doubt, the state's most potent offense. Gresham has given up only 91 points in 12 games, an average of 7.6 points per game.

Meanwhile, the Black Tornado scored more than all the Gophers' opponents in just its first two playoff games. After the second round of the tournament, Medford had scored 101 points and added 32 more for a three game total of 133 points.

Not only will Gresham be battling the tradition of Medford playoff success but also an offense that runs up megapoints and a defense that damages like a tornado.

Five Medford players have scored at least two touchdowns during the

playoffs, a balanced attack that forces opponents to cover all angles of the Tornado attack. Steve Stancliff has scored 26 points behind four touchdowns and one two-point conversion. Quarterback Jeff Yarnell guides the Medford offense and has contributed five touchdown passes during the three playoff games.

Gresham also boasts a strong offensive show as evidenced by a 26-point outburst that shocked undefeated Lakeridge last week. Darin Humphrys has four touchdowns to his credit during the post season while Brian Hug and flashy wide receiver Gabe Gomez have scored three touchdowns.

Everytime Gomez touches the ball, sparks start to fly and Medford must tame the little fireplug. If not, an upset to make all upsets could be in the offing.

Gresham won't go down easy but whether or not the players will falter under the Black Tornado pressure will be the telling point.

Picking Lebanon over South Salem looks to be a safe bet but the other one could be close. Medford has the power and tradition. Gresham is hot and has a talented team. If the Gophers can come out strong and gain some early confidence, a victory could be in their grasp. Should Medford open up an early lead, the game could be history before the Gophers know what hit them. No matter what, the Gresham-Medford matchup looks to be one of the best this season.

FOR SALES · SERVICE · PARTS · REPAIRS

Our New Modern Building...Northeast Broadway at First

for the

BEST BUYS

in town

Receive \$50⁰⁰ cash or discount with purchase.

LYNN KIRBY COLISEUM FORD



55 NE Broadway 288-5211

TIRE RANCH II

HOME OF

the GoodyGuys




SNOW Tires

NEW USED & RECAPPED AS LITTLE AS \$30⁰⁰ A PAIR



Batteries MAG WHEELS - SOCKS

2653 UNION AVE N. E.

Portland, Oregon

OPEN MON SAT 8AM - 6PM

288 - 9700

WANNA START SOMETHIN?

Then try the Union Avenue...




BATTERY X-CHANGE



- FREE Installation
- FREE Battery Test
- FREE Electrical check


FROM \$19.95 Exchange

3007 N.E. Union Ave. 249-0101



WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU!

Expert consultation on your transportation needs on both new and used cars.



WENDELL BROWN
Sales Representative

RON TONKIN

CHEVROLET-HONDA CO

122 N.E. 122nd Ave.

255-4100

"THE ONLY DEALER"



Howard University split-end Tracy Singleton is the nation's leading pass receiver in NCAA Division I-AA football. Singleton, a senior, recently broke the all-time career record of no catches set by Joel Sigler of Portland State University (1977-1980).