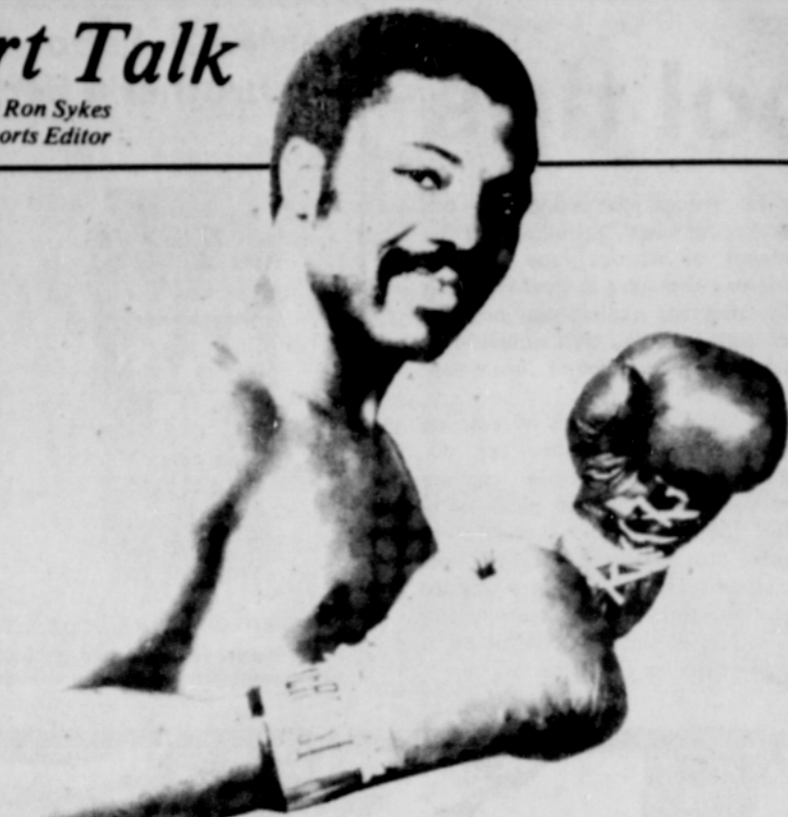


Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor



World Jr. Welterweight Champion Aaron "The Hawk" Pryor.
(Photo: KO Magazine)

Cuban national champion Gorge Luis Gonzalez, 21, had little trouble in his match against the USA's national champion, Tyrell Biggs. Gonzalez, who stands 6'6" and 215 lbs., pressured the American throughout to win a unanimous decision. Gonzalez then stopped Elvia Lauiza of Venezuela to win the Pan American super-heavyweight title. The road seems bright for Gonzalez, and dim for the American Biggs.

Biggs lost twice to three-time Olympian Teofilo Stevenson — once by decision and again via the KO route. The U.S. must now begin its search for another challenger to the Cuban power. Biggs is not the answer.

While Gonzalez' record is impressive, don't look for him to represent Cuba in the 1984 Olympics.

Besides winning the Cuban nationals he also won the gold in Hungary and German Democratic Republic. He defeated Ulli Kaden who, in turn, had defeated Steven-the previous year. Gonzalez, then defeated the U.S.'s Craig Payne in the same year, 1982.

The logical question now is why isn't the Cuban national champ going to the 1984 Olympics?

In Cuba their Olympic hopefuls are named; no trials are held as in the U.S. Gorge Gonzalez, as good as he is, must wait until Stevenson tries for his 4th Olympic gold medal before he tries for his.

That's called taking your turn in the pecking order. Gonzalez is a rough, tough competitor and looks like a good bet in 1988. However, the 21-year-old Cuban will be all of 25 by then. That's about five years from now, and his opponent is probably some U.S. kid playing little league baseball somewhere.

And while on the subject of boxing, here's one from a sports enthusiast, and timely contributor, Louis Harris: Just have to wonder, writes Louis, how the Cuban boxers would fare against our (U.S.) best. We continue to see their men against our boys. Would we lose any gold medals if we sent our best boxers to represent the U.S. with the likes of Macho Camacho, Tommy Hearns, Marvin Hagler, etc.

Wouldn't it be nice. Yes, it certainly would for the U.S., but not for the rest of the world.

After viewing the past Pan American Games, I would certainly support banning the sport.

Not that I'm against pugilism, but it's ridiculous how much politics are now involved.

It was particularly difficult to watch Paul Gonzalez, 106, fight his heart out only to be robbed by the officiating. Gonzalez was clearly the winner as he out-punched Rafael Ramos from Puerto Rico throughout the bout. Gonzalez won the first two rounds easily and the third round was very close. The decision, however, went to Ramos after the jury overturned the 3-2 verdict favoring the American.

"I was robbed," Gonzalez said. And robbed he was. Ramos should

have been ashamed to take his Gold ... it was a disgrace to amateur boxing.

Pryor vs. Arguello

The same as the first fight, only this time Aaron "The Hawk" Pryor will not take so long. Pryor, before, had more respect for the lightweight champion, Arguello. After now knowing that there's nothing in Arguello's arsenal that can hurt him, the Hawk will find, seek and destroy. And it shouldn't take more than eight rounds.

Arguello has been a good champion, but this is one fight that he doesn't need. Instead of Pryor, his handlers should have been looking for a rematch with Boom Boom Mancini. It would have been an easier fight and brought more money.

At 139 lbs., the Hawk just may be invincible. At least he believes he is. And so do many others.
Did you hear that, Mr. Peters?

Ron's NFL picks of the week

Miami at Buffalo... take the Dolphins by six.

Atlanta at Chicago... This is a battle of also rans. The Bears' offense is still shaky as they search for a QB. Vince Evans, the back-up, could be the best bet. Atlanta's mediocre offense and good 'D' makes them 3 point favorite.

LA Raiders at Cincinnati... Raiders were best team in AFL last year. Should be as strong. Despite QB John Plunkett, Raiders should prevail. Raiders by 1.

Minnesota vs. Cleveland... Coach Bud Grant's Vikings should finish 4th in the NFL central, while Cleveland should finish 3rd in the AFL central. Pick Cleveland by 1.

Green Bay at Houston... Earl Campbell is not enough. Green Bay should win the NFL central and Houston appears in trouble again

this year. Green Bay's receivers John Jefferson and James Lofton are the deadliest duo in the game. Green Bay by 6.

Baltimore at NE... Baltimore will once again have the worst team in the NFL. NE by 7 1/2.

St. Louis at New Orleans... New Orleans should win at home. Offense is key. If Stabler gets untracked early this one could be easy. Neil Lomax still lacks the necessary confidence needed to run the team. New Orleans by two.

Denver at Pittsburgh... John Elway is definitely the QB of the '80s. However, he will find the going tough against the Steelers. Chuck Noll, though going through a transition in Pittsburgh, will still have enough to conquer Broncos. Pitt by 6.

Philadelphia at S.F... This one is close. Give home field edge to S.F. Running game improved with addition of Wendell Tyler from Rams. S.F. by 1.

Dallas vs. Washington... This one is always tough. These two are easily the class of the NFL East. Both are loaded. Pick 'em.

'Spoiler' Williams meets Robles

On September 3rd, 1983, Thad Spencer Promotions will make history in the Pacific Northwest as the first Black owned and operated boxing promotion corporation.

Scheduled to be held at Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington, this Elimination Fight Night will feature two of Portland's finest boxers. James "The Spoiler" Williams, on a steady climb up the WBA ladder with a recent upset victory over Light-Heavyweight contender Oscar Rivaderegra, is the main event.

James Williams is now ranked number eight by the World Boxing Association and Thad Spencer is prepared to bring Michael Spinx to the Portland Coliseum to fight "The Spoiler" should he (James Williams) win his signed fights with Dwight Braxton and Muhammad Owai. James Williams will be fighting Rudy Robles on this September 3rd card.

Alex DuLucia. You'll be hearing this name. One of the hottest newcomers from Portland ever to join the pro ranks, DuLucia's ability in the amateur ring gained him the title of 1980 Light-Heavyweight National Champion. DuLucia now boasts an impressive 7-1 record since turning professional.

The evenings entertainment will consist of 32 total rounds of pure pugilists' pleasure and may very well foretell the future of boxing in the Northwest. Cablesystems Pacific will tape the fight for Thad Spencer Promotions. No date is set for their release.

In 1921 and 1922, "Man-O-War", the legendary race-horse, won 20 of 21 starts!

BOXING MAJOR FIGHTS ON SCHEDULE

Sept. 3 at San Remo, Italy — Donald Curry (champion) vs. Roger Stafford, 15, WBA welterweight title.

Sept. 9 at Las Vegas, Nev. — Aaron Pryor (champion) vs. Alexis Arguello, 15, WBA junior welterweight title; Thomas Hearns (champion) vs. James Green, 12, WBC super welterweight title.

Sept. 10 at Atlantic City, N.J. — Larry Holmes vs. Scott Frank, 12, WBC heavyweight title.

Sept. 13 at Atlantic City, N.J. — Alex Ramos vs. Murray Sutherland, 10, middleweights.

Sept. 15 at New York — Ray Mancini (champion) vs. Orlando Romero, 15, WBA lightweight title; Nino LaRocca vs. Jerry Cheatham, 10, welterweights; Alfredo Escalero vs. Charlie "White Lightning" Brown, 10, lightweights.

Sept. 17 at Las Vegas, Nev. — Robin Blake vs. Melvin Paul, 10, lightweights.

Sept. 23 at undetermined site — Michael Dokes (champion) vs. Gerrie Coetzee, 15, WBA heavyweight title.

Sept. 24 at Totowa, N.J. — Bobby Czyz vs. Bill Medel, 10, middleweights.



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The star nearest to Earth is four light years away; that's 25 trillion miles.

Sir James Mackintosh, a Scottish philosopher, claimed that the powers of a man's mind were directly proportional to the amount of coffee he drank.

The expression "He wears his heart on his sleeve" probably comes from an old English Valentine's Day custom. In the 1700s, a young man used to wear a paper with his loved one's name on his sleeve for several days after the holiday.

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