

by Roy Lee Jernigan Sports Editor



# • SPORT TALK • SPORT TALK •

In the last few weeks we have concentrated on sports on the local scene and much has happened on the national level that needs to be scrutinized. I'm sure you are aware that I haven't mentioned baseball at all this season, so let's begin there.

Major league baseball fans are once again faced with the possibility of a strike by the players. August 6, 1985 is the deadline that the players have given the owners to settle this matter. If the players go ahead with the proposed strike they will be striking out. No matter what smoke screen the players put before our eyes, the bottom line is once again the almighty big buck.

Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth vowed Sunday that he "will not allow our negotiations to fail" in trying to reach a settlement before the Aug. 6 strike deadline. My hat is off to the Commissioner for intervening in the dispute and attempting to resolve this situation.

I personally don't think that the game can afford another strike and expect the fans to forgive and forget once again. The players are well paid for their talents and the owners deserve whatever profits they make through their business dealings.

Former Baltimore Orioles standout, Paul Blair, is the Commissioner of a newly formed professional baseball league and Paul is probably just licking his chops waiting for the strike to happen. A Black Commissioner of baseball in America, please strike!

**HOLMES vs. SPINKS** 

That almighty big buck is at it again. Michael Spinks can only have dollar signs in his eyes wanting to tangle with Larry Holmes. Whatever his reason, the fight is on and set for Sept. 21, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Michael is the reigning Lightheavyweight champion and needless to say, he must put on some beef before stepping into that square with "The Eastern Assassin." A win by the heavyweight champ will tie him with Rocky Marciano. Oddly enough, the Rock attained his 49th victory with a win over the lightheavyweight champ at the time, the ageless Archie Moore. The smart money says that history

will repeat itself. Michael's older brother, Leon, tried to wrest the title from Holmes and had to be helped out of the ring by brother Michael. The Spinks jinx didn't work then and it won't work in September, either. If Michael doesn't come into the ring weighing at least 210 pounds, he will leave himself open for some serious hurt.

#### UNITED STATES **BASKETBALL LEAGUE** HALTS SEASON

USBL Commissioner Earl "The Pearl" Monroe had to call a halt to season play for his league because there were too many players heading for the NBA training camps. Com-

missioner Monroe felt that bringing in replacements for the players would cause his league to lose credibility and chose to cut the season short to accomodate the players and fns. The league only runs for approxi-

mately 90 days but an oversight in planning didn't foresee the conflict in bumping heads with the NBA training camps. Hopefully, next year this conflict will be resolved and the league will have an opportunity to do its

### SAM BOWIE GETS HELP



Hall of Famer and former Boston Celtic great, Bill Russell, has offered to give Sam Bowie the benefit of his experiences in the trenches of the NBA and has offered to help Sam realize his potential as a basketball player. Bill has offered his services in this manner only once before and Bob Lanier was the recipient then. Credit must be given to Jack Ramsey for accepting the generous offer and not feeling threatened by allowing Sam to proceed with the tutoring under

Bill said that he was only attempting to show Sam how to realize his potential within the framework of Jack Ramsey's system. To my amazement, Bill further stated that he thought very highly of the Ramsey system. Although Bill was a great one, his is still only one opinion.

I can see the help that Russell can offer on defense but I can't see where this will benefit Sam on the offense. I followed Bill Russell's entire career at Boston and he was never a threat on the offensive end of the court. Sam needs to learn how to play and score with his back to the basket down low and Bill Russell can't help with that. Someone should give Wilt

#### **BLAZER ROOKIES**

It's going to be interesting to see what the Blazers do with their backcourt for the coming season. Terry Porter, the No. 1 draft pick has shown that he will be a player in the NBA. The kid has defensive talent and he can fill the hole. For the job that he does and for the salary that he gets, Steve Colter will be here. Paxson has too large a salary to be picked up for a decent trade and so it looks like adios for Darnell Valentine. Clyde's going to be here!

Jerome Kersey has improved his defense considerably but I'm afraid that his natural instincts on the offensive end will suffer because the coaches want him to think more on the floor. Thinking is for practice not for game situations. In a fastpaced game of basketball, instinct and muscle memory are the tools that will get the job done.

Ben Coleman has a lock on the power forward position. The first thing that any coach looks for in a big man is his hands and Ben has some hooks. Ben plays down low where he is most effective and that is a commodity that the Blazers don't have in any other big forward. Mychal Thompson has hands but he doesn't like it down low. Audie has the heart but not the hands to keep this big man off the roster.

#### LOU BROCK INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



Former St. Louis Cardinal great, Lou Brock, was formally inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame Sunday in Coopertown, N.Y. Brock's sterling career was highlighted by his record-setting base-stealing performances. Brock holds the major league record for most stolen bases with

Inducted along with Brock, were pitching great Hoyt Wilhelm, Enos 'Country" Slaughter, and the late Arky Vaughan.

#### The Royal Esquire Club's **Community Service Statement** by A.D.S. Volume 1,

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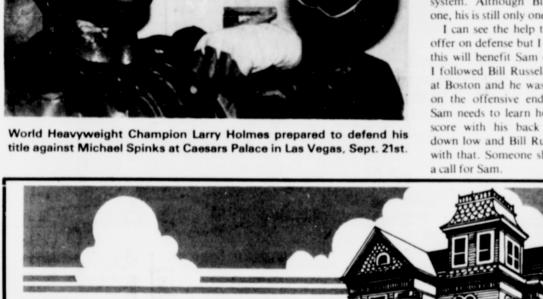
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