

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Boxing Morrison TKOs Ruddock

Tommy Morrison stopped Donovan "Razor" Puddock with five seconds remaining in the sixth round to capture the vacant International Boxing Council heavyweight title at Kansas City Mo. and breathed new life into his waning career. Morrison 45-2-1 appeared tired in the fourth round, but came back to knock down Ruddock with a powerful left hook early in the sixth round, finishing him off with right left combination.

Ruddock fighting only his second bout in two years did not go down but the fight was stopped. Referee Ron Lipton stepped in and said the Canadian fighter was in trouble.

"His eyes went back into his head" Lipton said. "He wanted to continue but he was hurt."

Duran Scores Knock-Out

Roberto Duran improved on his extensive career record with a seventh round knock out Saturday night of Ron Martinez. The match was a bout to decide the IBC Supermiddle weight title.

Martinez lost for the first time in 18 fights. He went down from a vicious combination from a charging Duran who improved to 95-12 with 66 knock-outs.

Football Offer Made

Hollywood Park Chairman R.D. Hubbard said Saturday he has made a proposal to the Los Angeles Raiders. The team is contemplating moving back to Oakland.

However Hubbard and Raider owner Al Davis have been in negotiations all week and Hubbard expect an answer soon.

"This basically our final offer to the Raiders. The league is definitely go to have a team in L.A. and we're going to enter negotiations" said Hubbard who also owns Multnomah Greyhound Park.

Racing Unfinished Finishes Tops

Unfinished Symph. who emerged as one of the nation's top turf runners out dueling Bon Point for the early lead then held off Rapan Boy down the stretch for the 165,900 Shoemaker Handicap at Hollywood Park.

Tennis Summer Tennis Camps Scheduled

Kids N' Tennis is sponsoring two tennis camps this summer to provide supervised activities for children.

Once again Irving Park in northeast Portland and Roosevelt High School in north Portland will serve as sites for the camps which will begin June 19 and July 28. For more information contact Don Johnson or Andre St. James at St. Johns Racquet Center at 823-3629 or 823-3630.

TYSON IS BACK

With promoter Don King at his side, Mike Tyson announced his return to boxing in a press conference at the MGM Grand Hotel-Casino where he will fight at least six times under a new long-term contract.

"I'm ready to resume where I left off," Tyson declared, displaying an aggressive attitude.

Tyson (41-1, with 36 knock-outs) will initiate his comeback with a fight on Pay-Pre-View TV against little-known "Hurricane" Peter McNeeley (36-1) on Aug. 19 at the MGM Garden.

The former undisputed heavyweight champion has been inactive four years while serving a prison sentence for a controversial rape conviction.

He was released from an Indiana correctional facility March 25 and resumed training two weeks later after realigning with Don King Productions and signing two multi-million dollar contracts--one with Showtime Cable Network and one with MGM.

His first five fights will be at the hotel and Showtime will televise each one, netting Tyson over \$50 million.

Tyson's last fight was June 28, 1991 when he won a 12-round decision over Razor Ruddock in Las Vegas. Earlier, he won 37 fights before losing the title to Buster Douglas by a 10th round knockout in Tokyo, Japan on Feb. 11, 1990.

Sitting next to co-managers Rory Holloway and John Horne at the press conference, Tyson wore a conservative black suit, white shirt and tie with a straw hat and dark glasses. He appeared at ease and confident in his public comments as he answered 26 questions from a large gathering of

print and electronic reporters--many from the international press.

He responded to reporters' questions carefully, speaking 15 minutes.

There was little doubt that Iron Mike feels that he is ready to regain the spotlight and solidify the title again and even less doubt about what kind of fighter he expects to be.

And there was no signs that prison tempered the inner fire that made him one of the most feared heavyweight champions ever.

"I don't know how many fights it will take. But I feel I can fight the champ now," he said, not specifying which one.

"I haven't felt any ill effects from the last four years. I'm sure I'll do well," he said, implying that he is on a mission to prove something.

"I've looked good in the gym. I feel good," he continued, staying positive.

Tyson chided a reporter for asking about his conversion to the Muslim religion. Before the news conference, reporters were told to ask only questions about boxing.

"I don't mean to sound abrupt," Tyson stated. "Yes, I'm a Muslim. That's all. If you wish me to stay here, you have to ask me questions about boxing. That's what I'm her for."

"Whatever falls upon us, falls upon us in the name of Allah," Tyson said, alluding to his new-found faith.

On the surface, the Tyson-McNeeley bout appears to be a mismatch. Taken on face value, it's easy to see why. McNeeley's career is best described as nondescript.

The Boston native, a true 220-pound heavyweight, is an ex-college football player who started boxing at the urging of his father, a former

heavyweight fighter, after his football career waned.

As a promising contender in 1961, the father Tom McNeeley, challenged Floyd Patterson for the heavyweight title after posting 23 consecutive victories.

Patterson floored McNeeley eight times before knocking him out in the fourth round.

Young McNeeley's grandfather was a member of the 1928 U.S. Olympic boxing team and fought on the first fight card in the Boston Garden that same year. Hence, the boxing pedigree.

The McNeeley camp considers the Tyson fight a chance of a lifetime. The underdog role seems to fuel their fire.

Peter McNeeley has high expectations and confidence in his ability. "You have to be a professional and you have to be able to adjust," he said. "I'm ready for this challenge."

Possessing power in both hands, the 26-year-old boxer is eager to defy history. He has 21 first round knockouts to prove his punching prowess.

But most boxing writers in attendance at the press conference regard McNeeley as little more than a blue light special for Tyson.

His chances are considered slim and none.

"He's a slow-moving guy and he's no big puncher, so Tyson can afford to make mistakes," according to veteran trainer Angelo Dundee, who worked comeback fights in the corners of Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard.

"He'll stand in front of Tyson and give him the perfect fight," Dundee reasoned.



Promoter Don King: Don King announced Mike Tyson's first fight since being released from prison in his quest to regain the heavyweight championship at a press conference in Las Vegas Wednesday. Tyson will fight Peter McNeeley on Aug. 19 at the MGM Grand Hotel in a pay-per-view TV bout expected to cost \$50 for home deliver. Last year, over 300,000 boxing fans watched King promoted fights in the United States, Europe, Mexico, and South America.

Manager Vinny Vecchione disagrees. "My fighter is a deserving challenger motivated by pride. Peter is resolute and determined to demonstrate his boxing skills to prove he's no lark."

Papa McNeeley bristles and contends that "the world will be in for a great surprise. My son is a worthy contender and he's not intimidated."

King will announce a stellar undercard for the gemstone attraction at a later date. "It will feature some of the best fighters in the world," he said.

Tickets for the fight are scaled at \$200, \$400, \$600, \$800, \$1,000 and \$1,500.

Showtime Event Television and King vision Pay-Per-View will air the fight domestically and Don King International, a division of Don King Productions, will distribute the fight to international markets.

The fight will be available to nearly 25 million cable television homes, plus closed-circuit locations, select satellite delivery homes, bars and commercial locations throughout North America.



The Les Schwab Tires team at Riverside Little League stands proud on the field at Fernhill Park. The players are entering the last two weeks of play with a 10-6 record.

DISCOUNT GOLF AVAILABLE

Are you looking for the perfect graduation or Father's Day gift? Do you know a golfer who has everything? The American Lung Association of Oregon has a great suggestion: the 1995 Golf Privilege Card. With this card, your favorite golfer can play for free or at reduced fees at over 550 West Coast premiere golf courses, including seven right here in Oregon.

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time!

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To order your Golf Privilege Card, simply call (503) 246-1997 or 1-800-LUNG-USA in Oregon. You may also send a check made payable to the American Lung Association of Oregon at 9320 SW Barbur Blvd.,

Suite 140, Portland, 97219. Please be sure to add \$1 per card for shipping and handling.

Your gift, whether for a friend or for yourself, helps support the work of the American Lung Association of Oregon in fighting lung disease, such as asthma. The American Lung Association is dedicated to fighting lung disease and promoting lung health.

Don't hesitate gift givers and golfers! Call today to order your 1995 Golf Privilege Card and start helping all of us breathe a little easier! Remember When You Can't Breathe, Nothing Else matters.

THANK YOU V.D. SIMINGTON

During the 1980's V.D. Simington headed up the most successful community-based grade school boys basketball program yet to operate in the City of Portland. V.D. played high school basketball at the old Washington high school with the legendary Stoudamire brothers Willie and Charles. Who are the players produced by the Matt Dishman program? Terrell Brandon and Damon Stoudamire played their entire grade school careers at Matt Dishman while competing in the Goldenball and A.A.U. programs. Matt Dishman is the only grade school program to produce two NBA players, namely Terrell Brandon of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Damon Stoudamire soon to be in the NBA.

Oftentimes grade school coaches are completely forgotten after players go on to high school, college and even the professional leagues. It is in grade school that the competitive spirit and basic skills are developed for most players. This article is intended to make sure that the great former Matt Dishman coaches get full credit for a job well done. Under V.D. Simington's lead-

ership the program dominated local Goldenball and produced teams that dominated the A.A.U.'s at the state and regional levels. The program produced a number of teams that competed successfully at the national level with Damon Stoudamire becoming an A.A.U. All-American. The following are just some of the college players produced by the program:

Terrell Barndon
Damon Stoudamire
Patrick Strickland
Erin Cowans
Carren Wilson
Marcel Brame
Solomon David
Canaan Chatman
Orlando Williams
Kenny Warren

Under V.D. Simington many long hours were put in at the gym and on the highways by his staff and players. Two of V.D.'s top assistants were Booker Wells and Vernon Baker. Other Matt Dishman coaches were Marvin Johnson and another affectionately known as "Rabbit."

Once again thank you V.D. Simington and staff for a job well done. We haven't forgotten!

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