The End of a Basketball Legend

LOS ANGELES- Wilt Chamberlain, one of the most dominant players in the history of basketball and the only one to score 100 points in an NBA game, died Tuesday at 63.

Chamberlain's body was found by authorities who were called to his Bel-Air home shortly after noon PT, said John Black, a Los Angeles Lakers spokesman.

A fire department spokesman, Jim Wells, said there were signs Chamberlain might have had a heart attack. Chamberlain was hospitalized with an irregular heart beat in 1992.

Known as "Wilt the Stilt" and "The Big Dipper," the 7-foot-1 Chamberlain dominated the NBA from 1959 through 1973, when he played for the Philadelphia (later the San Francisco) Warriors, the 76ers and the Lakers.

He scored 31,419 points during his career, a record until Kareem Abdul-Jabbar broke it in 1984. Chamberlain, who never fouled out in a 1,205 regular-season and playoff games, holds the record for career rebounding with 23,924.

"Wilt was one of the greatest ever, and we will never see another one like him," Abdul-Jabbar said.

Chamberlain, who began his professional career with the Harlem Globetrotters in 1958, was one of only two men to win the MVP and rookie of the year awards in the same season (1959). He was also MVP in 1966 through 1968. He led the NBA in scoring seven straight seasons, 1960-66, and led the league in rebounding 11 of his 14 seasons.

One of his most famous records is the 100 points he scored in a single game in the Philadelphia Warriors' 169-147 defeat of the New York Knicks on March 2, 1962, in Hershey,

In the 1961-62 season with Philadelphia, he averaged a record 50.4 points a game, and averaged 30.1 for his career. He also was one of the most versatile big men ever, leading the league in assists with 702 in 1967-

Chamberlain led his team into the playoffs 13 times, winning two world championships. The first came in 1966-67 with the Philadelphia 76ers, the second in 1971-72 with the Los Angeles Lakers.

His teams lost in the final four other times and were beaten in the conference final six times.

Bill Russell and the Boston Celtics; almost always seemed to be the nemesis of Chamberlain-led teams, beating them twice in the championship' series and five times in the conference finals. Three times, a series was decided by a seventh game that Boston won by either one or two points.

Extremely agile for his size, Chamberlain ran cross-country in high school in Philadelphia and was an outstanding high jumper and shot-putter at the University of Kansas. He had remained active since his NBA career ended and was considered an outstanding volleyball player. He also ran in the Honolulu marathon recently and com-

peted in a 50-mile race in Canada.

A lifelong bachelor, Chamberlain made news after his basketball career by claiming in an autobiography that he had made love to 20,000

"The women who I have been the most attracted to, the most in love with, I've pushed away the strongest," Chamberlain said in a 1991 interview with The Associated Press. "There are about five women I can think of I could have married. I cared for them a lot, but not enough to make a commitment." In January 1998, Chamberlain made his first official visit to Kansas since his abbreviated college

career ended in 1958. His jersey was raised to the rafters of Allen Fieldhouse, where Chamberlain starred for the Javhawks. He led the 1957 team to the NCAA tournament finals, where Kansas lost to unbeaten North Carolina in triple overtime.

"I've learned in life that you have to take the bitter with the sweet, and how sweet this is," Chamberlain said at the ceremony.

He seemed genuinely surprised at how much he was loved by the rabid Kansas fans, especially after staying away for 40 years.

"Forty years ago I lost a heartbreaking battle, losing to North Carolina by one point in triple overtime," he told the crowd, referring to the NCAA title game his sophomore season in 1957. "It was a devastating thing for me because I felt like I let the university down, I let KU down."

The crowd interrupted, yelling, "No, no," before resuming another standing ovation. His huge hand brushed his cheek as he paused again, drowned out by more applause.

afraid. Anxious, perhaps. Over-

whelmed by the occasion, prob-

ably. Whatever it was, he said he

took some medicine to bring down

his blood pressure, relaxed a bit,

and passed the doctor's second test.

When Chow entered the ring, he

held his red gloves high and con-

torted his face in the fiercest expres-

sion he could summon - a cross be-

tween a grimace and a frown. It was as

Mercer Arena, which paid

\$75,705 for the second largest

boxing gross in Northwest his-

tory, cheered Chow, from nearby

Vancouver, British Columbia, with

a blend of respect and pity. Here,

they all knew, was a man who

The sellout crowd of 2,768 at

bad as he would get all night.

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Woman Beats Man in Boxing Match weight Martin O'Malley (11-0). a manner befitting a middle-aged SEATTLE (AP) - In the end, Marfirst sanctioned battle of the sexes. Chow (0-3) insisted he wasn't

garet MacGregor and Loi Chow embraced and left it to the world to decide whether their waltz in the ring will be remembered as a landmark in sports, a stride for women or yet another punch in the nose for boxing.

If nothing else, MacGregor proved Saturday night that a woman who can box a little can beat a man who can't box at all. MacGregor won all four rounds on all three judges' cards, and not one of those rounds was even close.

Boxing survived Mike Tyson biting a chunk off Evander Holyfield's ear, so it can probably survive this whimsical promotion between a 36year-old female landscaper and a 33-year-old male jockey, who earned \$1,500 apiece in boxing's

(New York Mets at Atlanta)

Game One

"The weight of the world was on

my shoulders," said the 129-pound MacGregor. "I hope I've done good for boxing."

Asked what she thinks she proved, she responded: "Just that I'm a winner."

Chow, who weighed 128 and wore a welt on his forehead, answered the same question with a cryptic smile and a hollow boast, saying, "It proves a woman cannot hurt a man."

MacGregor certainly showed she had the moxie to stand up to a man, even with a dozen television cameras and reporters from around the world recording every move. She flicked light jabs, landed a few combinations to the head and body, slipped or blocked punches nicely, and generally comported herself in fighter with a 4-0 record. In other words, she didn't stink up the joint. Chow, on the other hand, did.

The jumpy little jockey - he's listed as 5-foot-2 but barely came up to the 5-4 MacGregor's chin bounced around the ring as if he were looking for an exit. He didn't fight so much as cover up. The few looping punches he threw seemed designed for effect rather than damage, as if he learned his new trade by watching old Westerns.

When the judges' cards were announced - each scored it 40-36 for MacGregor - and Chow fled with a final wave, the crowd showered him with boos.

Chow had an excuse, though: His blood pressure zoomed to 185 over 115 a few hours before the

"I didn't feel right," Chow said. "He looked scared out of his wits," said Bob Jarvis, a former fighter who worked with the promoters and also managed the

couldn't win even if he won. If he defeated MacGregor, he would be taunted as a woman beater. If he lost, he would be ridiculed as a wimp. As Chow, himself, described it, he was in a "lose-lose night's main-event winner, lightsituation."

> SPORTS STANDINGS **FALL STANDINGS** 1999

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