

Floyd 'ready' for title go tonight against big Liston

By Jack Cuddy
UPI Staff Writer
LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI)—Fast and fearless Floyd Patterson, admittedly in the best physical and mental condition of his career, will try tonight to stretch his record to three-time heavyweight king in a return title fight with champion Sonny Liston.

A victory by Patterson would knock Liston out of a "seven-million-dollar fight" with Cassius Clay at Philadelphia Sept. 30.

"I feel more relaxed than at any time since I first won the title seven years ago," explained 28-year-old Patterson at the Dunes Hotel, after driving in from his quarters at the Hidden Well Ranch.

The massive, muscular Liston of Chicago was favored at 5-1 to keep his title before a sellout crowd of 7,691 paid spectators in the Las Vegas Convention Center. A record Nevada gate of more than \$280,000 is assured, promoter Al Bolan said.

The betting was practically on a par with a United Press International poll of 64 sports writers here in this gambling metropolis. Thirty-year-old Liston was favored by the poll, 51-13.

That the bout was not expected to last its scheduled 15 rounds was emphasized by the fact that all 51 voters for Sonny were on knockouts and nine of the 13 for Patterson called for kayoes.

Liston was a lopsided favorite because of his explosive left hook to body or head, and his ruggedness record of never having been knocked out or even floored in his 35 professional fights. Also because of his previous first-round knockout over Floyd.

Before that Sept. 25 match at Chicago's Comiskey Park, Liston was favored at only 8-5, and a poll of sports writers actually favored Patterson. But Sonny knocked him out at 2:06 of the first round, for the all-time quickest capture of the heavyweight crown.

After Sunday's third examination by Drs. Don Romeo and Charles West, the physicians reported both in excellent physical and mental condition.

This indoor fight will not be televised to homes, when Sonny and Floyd square off at 7:30 p.m. PDT, and 10:30 EDT.

However, it will be sent by Sports Vision, Inc., to 143 theaters, arenas and other locations in 109 cities of the United States and Canada. The gross receipts from theater-TV are expected to

approximate \$1,200,000 for the sale of about 300,000 of the available 400,000 seats.

Chuck McKinley takes men's singles event

CHICAGO (UPI)—Chuck McKinley won his second successive men's singles titles at the National Clay Courts championships Sunday by defeating Dennis Ralston in a battle of two young men who hold the key to the United States' Davis Cup fortunes.

Both McKinley and Ralston frankly admitted after McKinley's 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 victory at River Forest that the Davis Cup was foremost in their minds.

McKinley, 22, San Antonio, Tex., the Wimbledon champion, said he was not going to think about turning pro until after the Forest Hill, Davis Cup and other championships—"and a lot could happen before then," he said.

Ralston, 20, Bakersfield, Calif., playing the summer circuit with blisters on his hand he got while winning the national collegiate title this spring, said the Davis Cup team was his big goal of the moment.

In other play at River Forest Sunday, Nancy Richey, 20, of Dallas, Tex., defeated Vickie Palmer, 18, of Phoenix, Ariz., 6-1, 6-1, for the women's singles title in a contest in which Miss Richey's machine-like efficiency won out over Miss Palmer's powerful play.

OSUNA WINS SINGLES
ESTORIL, Portugal (UPI)—Rafael Osuna of Mexico won the men's singles title of the Portuguese Lawn Tennis championships Sunday by beating Don Dell of Bethesda, Md., 7-5, 8-6, 6-4. The Gordon Forbes, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2, and Schmidt downed Cliff Drysdale, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, 6-0.

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Wildlife group parleys here Sunday

Oregon Wildlife Federation officers held an all-day meeting in Bend Sunday, with some 30 present from all parts of the state. George Reed, Baker, is president of the group, and presided at the conference. A Bend man, Francis Stokesberry, is a state director.

Topics discussed included the resolution that would bar the Columbia River to fishing. This resolution was submitted to the general membership of the Federation at its summer meeting in Baker and has been generally supported by members.

The Deschutes County Sportsmen's Association is affiliated with the Federation. Kenneth Helm heads the local group, which was represented at the meeting

by John Smith and Bill Baer, Jr. The meeting was at the Rustic Inn.

Seattle netter tennis winner

SEATTLE (UPI)—Defending champion Bill Quillian of Seattle beat Reidar Getz, Vancouver, B.C., 6-2, 6-3 Sunday for the men's championship of the Washington State Tennis Tournament at the Seattle Tennis Club.

SWEDEN, BRITAIN MEET

BAASTAD, Sweden (UPI)—Sweden will meet Great Britain in the final of the European Zone Davis Cup competition at Wimbledon on Aug. 1-3. The Swedes gained the final by beating South Africa, 5-0, with Jan Erik Lundquist and Ulf Schmidt scoring windup singles victories Sunday.

NOTCHES A FIRST

GSTAAD, Switzerland (UPI)—Nicola Pietrangeli, the temperamental Italian Davis Cup tennis star, had a first today when he became the initial player from his country to win the men's singles title in the Switzerland championships. Pietrangeli won by beating top-seeded Roy Emerson of Australia, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2.

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