

Imperial Palace To Host Pro Baseball Team Arm Wrestling Tournament December 7, 1986



Willie Horton (R) of the Chicago White Sox, who is the 1986 defending champion in the Pro Baseball Team Arm Wrestling Tournament, is pictured here battling it out with Dave Henderson (L) of the Boston Red Sox last year. The tournament will take place at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas December 7, 1986.

Strength, timing and will to win are the three essential ingredients in any athletic contest, but rarely does one see them so clearly as in the sport of arm wrestling. And rarely does the public have the opportunity to enjoy the sport as much as during the tournaments staged at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino.

Coming up Sunday, December 7th will be a triple bill guaranteed to thrill arm wrestling fans. Sponsored by the Imperial Palace and Van Melle, Inc., makers of "mentos," a candy with a unique chewy center, pro baseball team players will battle for personal glory (and substantial prize money) as well as the honor of their teams. The big men of the sport, the heavyweights (265 lbs. and under, will compete for the Professional Men's World Championship, and professional women arm wrestlers will face each other in a special Women's Arm Wrestling Tournament (145 lbs. and under).

These 14 ladies that are competing have never before won an AWI (Arm Wrestling International) championship. A favorite in this year's tournament and runner-up last year, is Maria Badaloni, a bell person at the Imperial Palace and Kathy Dudley, a local cocktail waitress. They will be competing against women from Canada and all over the United States.

Each man on the pro baseball teams will compete in his proper weight division, 195 lbs. and under or 196 lbs. and over. Willie Horton, coach for the Chicago White Sox, will be the 1986 defending champion in this year's tournament.

There will be 16 men competing in the Men's World Heavyweight Division with a special eye on defending champion, Johnny Walker from Atlanta, Ga. Walker at 190 lbs. will compete against men from the U.S. and Canada that outweigh him by 20-60 lbs.

Pro baseball players participating include Willie Horton (defending champion) and Ken Williams (Chicago White Sox), Bobby Jones and Oddibe McDowell (Texas Rangers), Timmy Raines (All-Star Team of the Year and 1986 National League Batting Champion) and Tim Wallach (All-Star 3rd baseman) (Montreal Expos), Mark Cresse and Todd Maulding (LA Dodgers), Billy Sample and Terry Harper (Atlanta Braves), Billy Williams and Mike Martin (from Las Vegas) (Chicago Cubs), Rick Peterson and Mike Hargrove (Cleveland Indians), Mike Diaz and R. J. Reynolds (Pittsburgh Pirates), Gary Green and Deacon Jones (San Diego Padres), Matt Nokes and Brian Harper (Detroit Tigers), Phil Lombardi and Shane Turner (NY Yankees), and Dave Sax and Glenn Hoffman (Boston Red Sox in the 1986 World Series).

The event, hosted by the Imperial Palace, is presented by Arm Wrestling International and is coordinated by Tony Celeste, president of AWI.

Corporate sponsor, Van Mells, Inc., is a Holland-based company and has U.S. headquarters in Erlanger, Ky. They market Mentos, Fruitella and other fine confectionary products.

On Saturday, December 6th, the pro baseball players will be available to meet their fans for picture taking and will sign autographs.

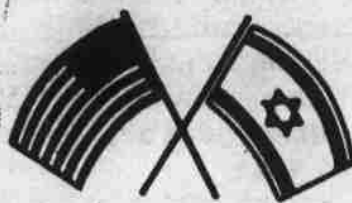
Doors open to the showroom for the tournaments, which will be taped for ESPN Sports Network, at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 7th. Admission is free. Hot dogs and beverages will be for sale for the convenience of sports fans who don't want to miss any of the action once the tournament gets underway.

Arrest Of Leningrad Refusenik Reported

(WNS) — Leningrad activist Albert (Chaim) Burstein was arrested as he spoke by phone from a local post office to Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry director Lynn Singer. He was sentenced to 15 days in jail for "resisting arrest," the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported.

According to the SSSJ, Burstein, 21, is one of Leningrad's most daring refuseniks and has been a target of beatings, threats and

harassment by the KGB. Recently, he was forcibly prevented from flying from Vilnius in Lithuania to join activists there commemorating the Holocaust. The next day KGB agents beat him again and threatened to kill him, the SSSJ reported.



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