

SPORTS

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLE HEADER—MARCH 23

Undefeated World Heavyweight Champion Larry Holmes of Easton, Pa., makes the second defense of his crown against unbeaten No. 3 contender Ossie "Jaws" Ocasio of Puerto Rico and No. 1 contender Ken Norton of Los Angeles meets No. 2 challenger Earnie Shavers of Warren, Ohio in a 12-round World Heavyweight Championship Elimination battle at the Las Vegas Hilton on March 23.

The Don King Production to be televised nationally in "prime time" with a blackout in Las Vegas on ABC, marks a new site for a Don King promotion in Las Vegas.

"I'm very excited about promoting at the Hilton with Barron Hilton, the President of the Hilton Hotel Corporation," said King.

"He's a giant in the world of business and sports," King went on. "Anytime a man like Barron Hilton dedicates himself to a project, like he is doing with boxing, it's a tremendous plus for our business.

"He adds dignity and legitimacy to the sport of boxing, which can use a great deal of help with its image," concluded King.

The 29-year old Holmes, "The Easton Assassin", won the World Boxing Council crown in a thrilling 15-round classic with Ken Norton on June 9, 1978 in Las Vegas.

This will be his second title defense, the first was a six-round knockout over European Champion Alfredo Evangelista in Las Vegas on November 10, 1978.

A boxer-puncher with excellent speed, good power and the best left jab in the division, Holmes proved beyond a doubt against Norton, that he had the determination and courage of a champion. His record lists 29 wins with 20 knockouts.

UNLV BASEBALL

"On any given day, any given team could..."

It may be a time-worn cliché, of the variety that most sportswriters abhor, but there are no better words to describe the first-ever UNLV Desert Baseball Classic, a 10-game round-robin tournament held here the other weekend.

The Hustlin' Rebels, with the most productive pitching staff and team defense in the tourney, was declared the classic winner by tiebreaker rules after UNLV ended up in a 3-2 tie with Brigham Young University and Oklahoma State University in games played. The fourth team, University of California at Irvine, finished at 1-4.

The first of four possible tiebreakers, a combined run margin for each of the three tied teams was used to break the deadlock. UNLV, by scoring seven more runs than it gave up in the tournament, edged out BYU (+6) and outdistanced Oklahoma State (-4).

"We're very proud of our guys for winning the tournament," beamed Hustlin' Rebel skipper Fred Dallimore. "We came out of it with one more loss than we wanted, but considering BYU will win the Western Athletic Conference this season and Oklahoma State is the odds-on-favorite to take the Big Eight, I think we proved once again that we are to be recognized as at top-notch collegiate baseball power.

"We're playing the best collegiate baseball right now. We are getting sound pitching, solid defense and the timely hitting necessary to make it to Omaha for the College World Series this year."

The Hustlin' Rebels are in two temporary holding patterns now: first, they are waiting for this Friday-Sunday for a three-game set with Northern Arizona University, which won two of three contests from University of New Mexico in Albuquerque last weekend; and, second, the 9-3 UNLV team is anxiously awaiting the first rankings by Collegiate Baseball, hoping that they will be placed in the top 15 if not the top 10.



Preparing for the Heavyweight Championship bout, which Don King is promoting, on March 23rd, at the Las Vegas Hilton.



Preparing for the March 23rd World Heavyweight Championship Elimination battle at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Ocasio, only 21-years old, is unbeaten and unafraid. The powerfully built challenger showed that his upset over No. 2 contender Jimmy Young was not a fluke by repeating the feat in his last fight on January 27, in San Juan.

A pressure style fighter with good mobility, Ocasio's record of 13 wins, without defeat and 9 knockouts, reveals good punching power.

Norton, 33-years old, is looking for another crack at the crown. Everybody's No. 1 contender, the ex-Marine solidified his rating by stopping Randy Stephens with a third-round, one-punch knockout in his last fight on Nov. 10, 1978.

An excellent puncher with good hand speed, Norton has a mark of 41 victories, 5 losses with 33 knockouts to his credit.

Shavers, 34-years old, is regarded the hardest-hitting heavyweight ever, with 54 knockouts in 56 winning efforts. He has lost 7 with 1 draw.

Like Norton, a muscular all-around athlete, Shavers is one of the proven performers in the heavyweight ranks. Also like Norton, he was on the "short end" of a controversial decision loss to Muhammad Ali in a title bid.

Tickets at the plush 5,500-seat Hilton Pavilion, are priced at \$200, \$100 and \$50.

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