

## SPORTS

*He's A Very Talented Baritone*

# Karate, Boxing Champ Howard Jackson Turns To 'Show Biz'

*E.Z. Duzzit's*

**Sportin'  
Life**



The Los Angeles papers are playing up the June 20 SUPER FIGHT closed-circuit giant screen theatre television 15-round world welterweight title fight between WBC Champion Sugar Ray Leonard, 27 wins-18 KO's, and the No. 1 contender Roberto Duran, 69-1, 55 KO's.

The huge, colorful eye catching 8x12 ads play up the live battle to be held at Montreal's Olympic Games Stadium with the first bout on the card set for 6 p.m.

There are seven locations set up for the Los Angeles coverage with tickets scaling \$20 and \$25.

At this writing, negotiations are underway for a closed circuit showing at one of the Las Vegas hotels. The SENTINEL was told that the details are currently being established and an announcement should be forthcoming in a matter of days.

★★★

Heavyweight Gerry Cooney, labeled by some as the latest "Great White Hope," battered a bloody Philadelphia's Jimmy Young until the referee stopped the fight after the fourth round in the ballroom of Atlantic City's Convention Hall.

Cooney, 23, fighting before a following of 3,000, opened up a deep one-inch gash over Young's right eye with a sweeping left and used left-right combinations to set up powerful hooks to Young's mid-section.

Young, 31, took a lot of punishment in those four short rounds of a nationally-televised scheduled 10-rounder Sunday. He was stunned by the blows and the blood, which blinded him during most of the closing rounds.

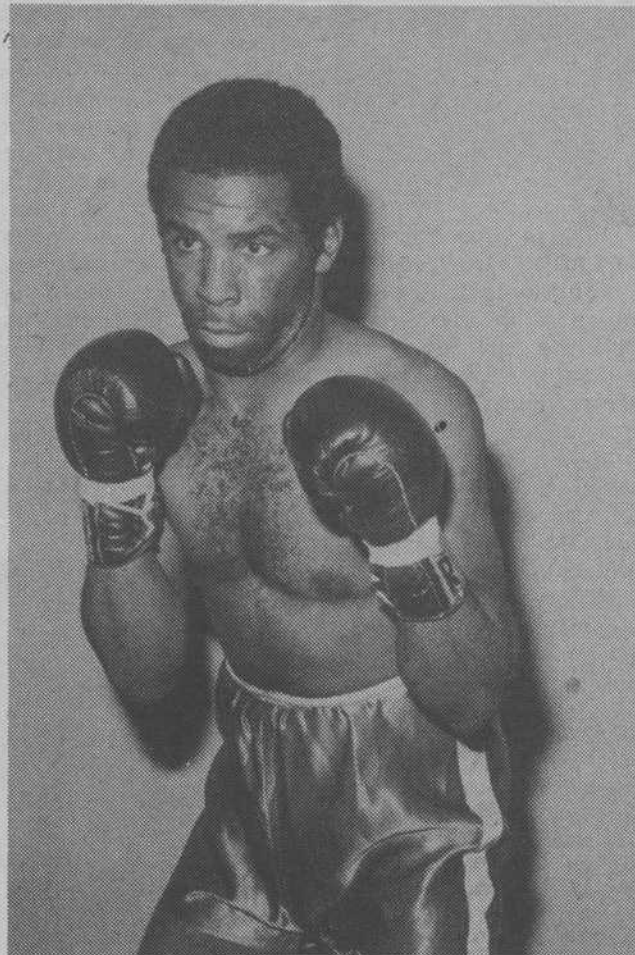
Cooney, Huntington, N.Y., is still undefeated in 23 outings stacking up 19 knockouts. He is ranked No. 1 by the World Boxing Association.

Asked if he was ready for WBC champion Larry Holmes or World Boxing Association champ Mike Weaver, Cooney responded: "I have much to learn. I must do more gym work."

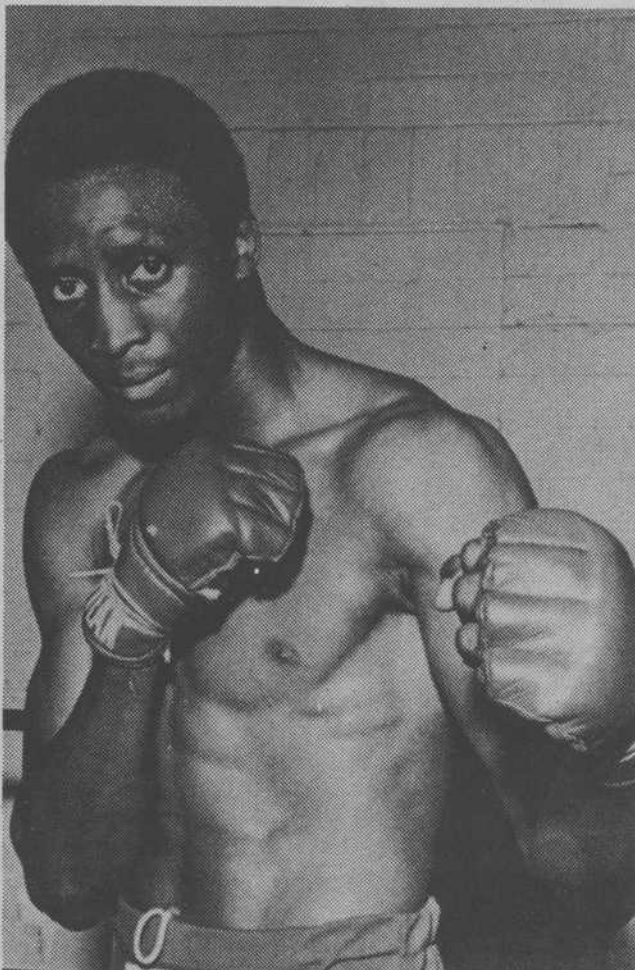
★★★

In it's second "live" Thursday night nationally televised boxing tournament, Caesars Palace is set to present the \$2,000 Regional 10-round middleweight championship between Randy McGrady and Mauricio "El Gato" Aldana plus the beginning of the light heavyweight tournament at the Sports Pavilion.

The fights start at 6 p.m. for this fight card co-promoted between Caesars Palace and Top Rank, Inc.



HOWARD JACKSON



TOMMY HEARNS

World welterweight full contact karate champion, Alaskan welterweight boxing champion and former Nevada State welterweight boxing champion Howard Jackson has gone the full cycle and in the midst of changing his career.

Jackson is on the verge of stepping in front of the bright lights-center stage as a talented singer. A lyric baritone, he is very much at home with the disco, pop, ballads and contemporary sounds. When it comes to dancing, Jackson can "get down" with the best. He, too, has the "disco fever."

A native of Detroit, he had served in the Marine Corps as a court reporter and legal clerk. Karate fascinated him and he undertook the art during the period 1968-76.

"I decided to improve my full contact karate and to do so, I started to enter the field of boxing," said Jackson. "If I expected to be any good at karate, I needed to master the art of boxing. It really paid off and I don't regret a single moment," he continued.

He remembers his first pro fight. "I felt good that night. I had to face Auturo Gorla. After getting tagged a few times, I rapidly began to realize that it was no "cops and robbers" game. It was the real thing. I came on strong and stopped Gorla via TKO in the 4th round. I was off and running," Jackson lamented. His record, to date is 20-1-4.

Now a security guard at the Tropicana Hotel, Jackson pulled up stakes in Las Vegas and, where possible, works hard toward developing his son, Howard, Jr. Right now, the boy's head is turned to the medical profession.

Jackson is hopeful that his long-time dream of becoming a singer will soon become a reality.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

Tommy "Hit Man" Hearns' dreams of getting a shot at the World Boxing Association welterweight title against the champion Pipino Cuevas of Mexico, draws closer as both have signed an agreement for the fight sometime this summer, said matchmakers of All-Star Boxing Promotions of Detroit and Muhammad Ali Professional Sports of Santa Monica, Calif.

Cuevas is slated to earn \$1.5 million while Hearns, Detroit, would get \$500,000 for the fight. The date and site will be announced sometime during the week. Mel Greb, a Caesars Palace employee and boxing matchmaker who has been involved in Hearns' Las Vegas fights, said recently that there were negotiations underway to obtain the fight in Las Vegas. He made it clear

that nothing was firm to this point.

Sand drag racing at the Las Vegas Speedrome is building a band of enthusiasts that draw heavily each time when staged at the "old oval track."

This feature is also developing fast at the tracks of the Speedrome, Lake Havasu, St. George, Utah and Southern California.

The Speedrome is fast becoming a hotspot for asphalt drags and is in the progress of being recognized as one of the Southwest's top race tracks.

The upcoming National Basketball Association draft to stock the expansion Dallas Mavericks will be drawing on some top unprotected superstars. Among the many (See Sports, page 23)