

SPORTS

Martha Proves Sports Are For Women Too!

E.Z. Duzzit's
Sportin'
Life



Duke Durden, chairman of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, finds his job with this state agency very challenging and rewarding. As a former professional athlete, Durden is very much at home in this role. He is presently the director, Dula Recreation Center in Las Vegas.

Durden, 43, born in New Orleans, was brought up by an athletically inclined family. In particular, his father was a boxing nut dragging his son off to as many fights as possible. Very few slipped through their hands. Fights there were held each Monday, Friday and Saturday.

A graduate of Southern University, New Orleans, Durden became a professional baseball player ending up with the Los Angeles Dodger's chain playing as a first baseman. He was with the organization four years ending his career while playing with Mexico City, 1963. His 4-year stint took him to Macon, Reno, Tri-Cities in the Northwest League, Cedar Rapids and held St. Paul and Ft. Worth contracts.



DUKE DURDEN...happy with his job

A skilled left-hander, Durden was an excellent ball handler. His roommates during his Dodger assignments included Maury Wills, Tommy Davis, Willie Davis. He was drawing \$800.00 a month while playing for the Dodgers and picked up \$1300.00 plus \$300.00 for expenses when playing winter ball.

Durden also utilized his basketball skills during those early days and played some games with Marques Haynes and the Harlem Magicians. He was considered an all-around athlete during his Clark High School days in New Orleans.

As to how he reached Las Vegas, Durden related that "in 1957 while playing in Reno they sent me to Las Vegas, which at that time was in the Arizona-Mexico League." While here he met a lovely, beautiful girl whom he finally married in 1957. He then hung up the gloves and started work at the test site working there until 1966.

After leaving the test site, he became an auditor with the Mint Hotel of the Del Webb Corporation for (See Duke Durden, page 20)

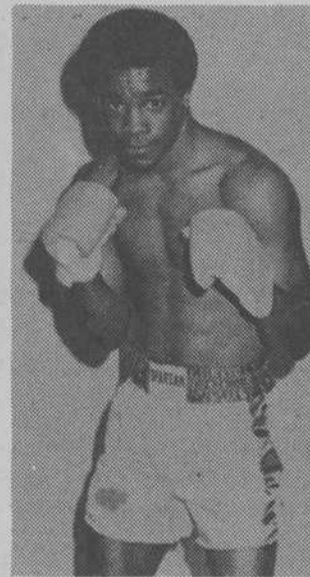
Caesars Palace Will Broadcast Leonard - Duran

Maintaining its reputation as the fight capital of the world, Caesars Palace has announced that the eagerly anticipated Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran welterweight championship fight will be broadcast live in Las Vegas at the popular resort hotel via closed circuit.

The Leonard-Duran superfight was created by an almost frenzied public decree. Not since the Ali-Frazier bout in 1971 has a match-up been demanded by so many around the world. Interest in the fight knows no cultural or geographical boundaries and has placed the match in the exclusive category of Super Sporting Event.

When the bell sounds for Round One at approximately 7:30 p.m., Las Vegas time on June 20, it is estimated that nearly one billion fight fans around the world will be honed in on the Olympic Stadium in Montreal, anxiously waiting to see the historic confrontation.

Caesars Palace is bringing in the finest in closed-circuit television screens, guaranteeing a large and lifelike picture that will carry the full impact of every punch. Two locations at Caesars Palace are being prepared



SUGAR RAY

for June 20. One set-up will be in the Sports Pavilion, scene of so many other championship fights, and the other will be in the Convention Complex.

Tickets for the broadcast are priced at \$20.00; but fight fans in Las Vegas can take advantage of a special package which would allow them not only to see the Leonard-Duran skirmish, but also the highly anticipated Salvador Sanchez-Danny "Little Red" Lopez World Featherweight Championship fight the following day, Saturday, June 21.

By Lonnie Wright
Sentinel Sports Editor

Being athletic has in the past been synonymous with masculinity. This idea kept America from developing its female potential. However, an exception to this is Martha Washington.

Martha is a veteran of three Olympic Games, a silver medal winner in the Pan Am games and a gold medal winner in four 100 meter relays in 1975.

To Martha, a beautiful 33 year old athlete great, being competitive plays a major role in life. Although she is not yet married, she does not regret it, because of the insight she has gained through being one of the best female athletes in America today.

This writer feels that women are as competitive, if not more so, than men. The advantages of being an athletic woman are the same in comparison as those of men. Women like Martha, who started competition at an early age, develop stronger individuality.

Martha began competing at eleven years of age; some athletes start earlier. She remembers the response of her peers during those formative years. To a certain extent, she was discouraged by her non-athletic female peers. Obviously, her male friends unfortunately felt their male ego was at stake as a result of their association with Martha.

In spite of the few minor drawbacks concerning female athletes on society's part, the life is quite physically, mentally and psychologically rewarding. Women who are athletic are less prone to sickness and injuries.

The body must be as one with the mind. Knowing where one must be physically in order to get the job done, pushes the athlete to maintain superb physical condition.

Psychologically, whether competing among other athletes or with oneself, one develops a drive to overcome adversities. This development enables the athlete to perform under control in stressful situations.

Times have changed and so has the role of women. I feel the change in attitude of women has been a breath of fresh air.

Many natural qualities of women are implemented in the fundamental development of beginning athletes. Finesse, sensitivity, graceful control and flexibility are useful in most major sports.

Most American women have been programmed with taboos about being athletic. But with the trend moving toward keeping in better physical condition, these taboos are beginning to break down.

Starting women off in athletics as young as possible can only bring about a healthier America.

Las Vegas Sports Roundup

UNLV's pentathlete Ann Crump was named to the All-American team last week after she placed third in the pentathlon in the Association for Women's Intercollegiate Athletics National Track And Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon, with a 3,932 score. Now that the season is over, Crump is

looking forward to the Canadian Olympic Trials, which will take place June 13-15.

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Doolittle Center will present its 3rd annual Slam Dunk contest June 13-14. Outstanding repeaters will include Michael "Spider" Burns,

Joe Dixon, Rick Williams and Melvin Washington. Newcomers lining up will be Sid Green, Mike Johnson and jothers. For information, contact Bobby McRoy at the Center, Monday thru Friday at 386-6374.

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Cornerstone ceremoni-

es for the new Las Vegas YMCA across from the Meadows Mall, were held over the weekend. The ceremony unveiled one of the most innovative and functional physical complexes in the country. The new building design enables the staff to program the entire family simultaneously as well as handicapped and seniors.