

LAS VEGAS SENTINEL

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SPORTS BOARD

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SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

*Perlman Real Pal*

DON KING THREATENS TO QUIT CAESARS



By Ed Brown

Boxing promoter Don King was in town over the weekend with World Boxing Council heavyweight champion to promote the Nov. 25 WBC welterweight title tilt between the champion Roberto Duran and former champ Sugar Ray Leonard.

He held a press conference in his suite at Caesars Palace and told newsmen that a February show featuring Holmes against a contender ranked 10th or better in the world depends strongly on whether his pal Caesars World Chairman Clifford Perlman still is in control of the world famous Strip casino hotel. King said if New Jersey gaming authorities are successful in forcing out Perlman, he may pull out of Caesars Palace. This move would deal a severe blow to the Las Vegas economy.

Caesars World, Inc., is seeking a license to operate in New Jersey. That license stands in jeopardy unless Perlman

removes himself from Caesars. That would include giving up his chairmanship and selling all of his Caesars World stock.

"Perlman is a friend and a doer," said King. "The only major stumbling block for the February card, and a card in May featuring Holmes against No. 1 contender Leon Spinks and possibly a semi-main event featuring the winner of the Duran-Leonard fight in New Orleans would be if Perlman wanted the fight here."

While King threatened to move his fights from Caesars, he admitted that he might keep his shows in Las Vegas.

"I've been catching hell from people at Caesars with Cliff Perlman beside me," King continued. "Can you imagine what it'd be like without him?"

"Perlman has always given Larry recognition. He was responsible for the Holmes-Muhammad Ali fight coming to

Caesars. It was the largest gate in the history of boxing (\$6.2 million), but others said NO before the fight, while Cliff Perlman said YES. Cliff Perlman put his money where his mouth is. The Holmes-Ali fight was the greatest thing that ever happened to Las Vegas."

King indicated that he would use Ali again, if the three-time champion proved himself against a top contender in the ring or in the gym.

There had been some earlier speculation that Holmes would fire his long-time manager Richie Giachetti but Holmes squelched such possibilities. Holmes added though that Giachetti "should be fired but I love the man." Holmes said he has paid Giachetti well but Giachetti embarrasses him with his "cheapness." He also added that Giachetti "undermines" him. Holmes concluded that "Giachetti has a position with me as long as he wants."

BLACK BASEBALL HALL PLANNED

NEW YORK (UPI) — Plans for the establishment of a Black Baseball Hall of History, designed to honor players who performed in the shadowland of the old Negro Leagues before Jackie Robinson broke the majors' color line in 1947, were announced Thursday.

Organizers of the Hall, to be erected in Ashland, Ky., said the project had the support of Kentucky governor John Y. Brown, Jr., and Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn.

Hall of Famers Monte Irvin, Ernie Banks and Judy Johnson were among the black stars present when the announcement of the new hall's establishment was made in a midtown hotel.

There are 10 black players in the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., but organizers of the Black Baseball Hall of History feel recognition for the contributions of black players should be extended beyond those who were good enough to be elected to the Cooperstown shrine.

Ashland was selected as the site of the new hall because it was the site the last two years of reunions of black players honoring Clinton Thomas, an outfielder with the New York Black Yankees who was called the "Black Joe DiMaggio." A native of Eastern Kentucky, he is suffering with a broken hip.

"We are deeply appreciative that someone

remembers," said Irvin, who had been chosen by some major league owners as the black they most wanted to see break the color line. "I was fortunate enough to have a little bit of both sides and believe me there was no comparison."

"Irvin and I were fortunate enough to make the Hall of Fame," said Banks. "My life was touched by a lot of the men we are talking about in the old Negro Leagues. One thing I learned from all of them is to have enthusiasm — to always give that extra step. It is wonderful to give these good men the credit they deserve."

"It was tough but we enjoyed it," said Johnson, who celebrated his

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DURAN-LEONARD TV TICKETS ON SALE AT CAESARS

LAS VEGAS — Tickets for the eagerly anticipated rematch between World Welterweight Champion ROBERTO DURAN vs former champion SUGAR RAY LEONARD will go on sale at Caesars Palace on Wednesday, November 12 at 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. and daily thereafter in the Fantasy

Tower Box Office. Caesars Palace, "The Home of Champions," will present exclusive live closed circuit television utilizing the finest projection equipment available. Special Eidophor cameras, each weighing 2,000 lbs are being brought in from Los Angeles especially for this event.

Wagers on the Duran-Leonard rematch only, will be accepted in the Hotel's unique new Sports Book.

The Hotel will offer tickets in two prices: \$20.00 for seats in the Sports Pavilion, traditional site of many boxing matches and other special events, in-

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