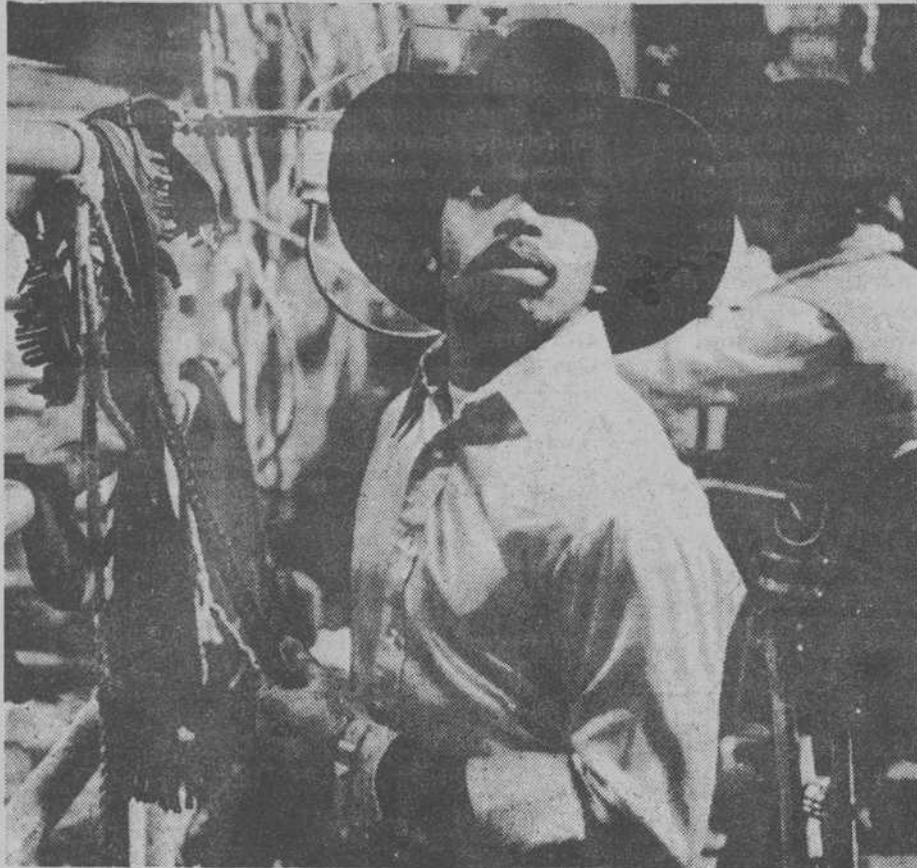


# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

July 30, 1981



FRANK MARTIN

Charles Sampson works rosin into his bull rope behind the bucking chutes.

## Black Wins Bull-Riding Championship

### He Grew Up to Be an Inner-City Cowboy

By RONALD B. TAYLOR, Times Staff Writer

This is the first in a series of articles on Charles Sampson, the inner-city cowboy. It covers the many trial and tribulations of a black inner-city youth who broke the barrier to become one of the nation's premier cowboys. "Chuckie" Sampson found his mark in what was considered a "closed avocation." Meet Charles Sampson, a bull-riding champion.

As the Houston Astrodome lights went dark and Waylon Jennings began singing "Mommas, don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys," 46,400 screaming rodeo fans went wild.

Behind the bucking chutes, Charles Sampson, 23, worked rosin into his bull rope and nervously adjusted his spurs.

If he was bucked off, "Pee-Wee" Sampson, from the 122nd Street Elementary School and Locke High in Watts, was in financial trouble.

Sampson, who stands just under five feet four and weighs 133 pounds, had started the season in December in Denver and had been working three and four rodeos a week, flying, driving hitching rides to climb on as many bulls as possible.

But before entering the Houston rodeo, he had won only \$400, owned \$900 on his Master Charge, was still paying off a \$7,000 hospital bill from a 1980 rodeo injury, and didn't know where the entrance fees for his next rodeo were coming from.

The Houston Livestock Show is big time rodeo. More than 800 cowboys

— had come from all over the nation to compete for \$271,078 riding bucking horses and bulls, roping calves and bull-dogging steers.

Sampson, who once wanted to ride race horses, is the only world-class black bull rider in professional rodeo competition today.

#### INNER-CITY COWBOY

How did a youngster from the inner city, who had lived on the turf claimed by the Athens Park Boys in their gang war against the Crips, grow up to a cowboy?

The question still puzzles Sampson's mother, Mildred Sampson. He is the 11th of her 13 children, a city boy, a quiet, "humble" youngster who learned

See BLACK, page 12

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## TONY 'TIGER' BALTAZAR LOCKS WITH ROCKY GARCIA AT 'BOAT'

Unbeaten Tony (The Tiger) Baltazar and Rocky Garcia headline Azteca Promotions' "Undefeated Champion-

face tough Roberto Garcia in a 10-round lightweight battle while Garcia — 20-0 with 15 knockouts — will take on Salvador Ugalde in a 10-round featherweight clash.

A third 10-rounder bout features undefeated middleweight Jeff Morgan, 6-0, against Humberto de los Rios.

Three other bouts, one six-rounder and two four-rounders, complete the action-packed card in the Showboat Sports Pavilion.

Doors to the Sports Pavilion, located at the top of the escalator above the Trophy Star Lounge, open at 6:30 p.m. Frjday. The first

fight starts at 7.

Ticket prices are \$10 for reserved and \$5 for general admission if purchased prior to



BALTAZAR

s of the Future" triple main event card Friday, July 31, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino and Bowling Center.

Baltazar — 17-0 with 14 knockouts — will



Garcia

Friday. Prices are \$15 and \$10 if purchased at the door Friday.

The 20 year old Baltazar, from La Puente, Calif., is a quick, See BOAT, page 11