

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

December 24, 1981



## HOLMES-COONEY BATTLE SET FOR MARCH 15

LAS VEGAS — Larry Holmes versus Gerry Cooney — the undefeated World Heavyweight Champion against the unbeaten No. 1 Challenger with

Ultimate heavyweight battle of modern times — in a temporary outdoor arena, specially constructed by Caesars Palace to accommodate more than 30,000 people.

will exceed even the \$6,000,000 record established by the Holmes-Muhammad Ali fight at Caesars Palace on October 2, 1980. The estimated purses of the

modern times and it is spiced by the fact that neither fighter respects the other.

is able to adjust to different styles. He has proved his courage and ability to take a punch by

coming off the floor against both Shavers and most recently, Renaldo Snipes.



the devastating left hand — will take place at Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada on Monday evening, March 15, 1982.

This matchup of the champion who has proved beyond doubt that he is the best heavyweight in the world, and the exciting Cooney, who has captured the imagination of every fight fan, has every ingredient for a fistic feast — controversy, drama, emotion, the established skills of a great champion and the potential power of a destructive giant.



Cooney fighters is a record \$10,000 each.

For the 32-year old Holmes, of Easton, Pa., this fight will mark the 12th defense of the title he won at Caesars Palace on June 8, 1978, he pitched a near-perfect shutout in a 12-round elimination fight with Earnie Shavers.

### Duran-Benitez Fight At Caesars Jan. 30

Roberto Duran and Wilfred Benitez engaged in a scuffle at a news conference in New York on Monday to announce Benitez's World Boxing Council super welterweight title defense Jan. 30 at Caesars Palace.

slapped Duran with a right hand that left a red mark on the champion's face.

Superb boxer with a jolting, accurate left jab, and a forceful puncher whose balanced attack with combinations to the head and body have earned him 29 knockouts in his spotless string of 39 fights, Holmes is not one to waste energy. He is fast of hand and foot and

When the two were brought together to pose for pictures, Duran pushed Benitez of Puerto Rico. Benitez then

The bout will be promoted by Don King Productions and shown live on Home Box Office.

Also on the card will be a 10-round heavyweight contest between No. 2 ranked Michael Dokes of Akron, Ohio and Lynn Ball of Dallas.

Caesars Palace, Don King Productions and Tiffany Promotions will promote this World Heavyweight Championship (WBC) — the

The fight will be shown in the United States and Canada on closed circuit television in theatres, arenas and ball parks, as well as pay-per-view to homes in certain areas, and via satellite throughout the rest of the world. It is expected that the live gate


The match between Holmes and Cooney was long in the making and at times, seemed a complete impossibility. But this is a fight made necessary by public demand. It is the heavyweight natural of

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