

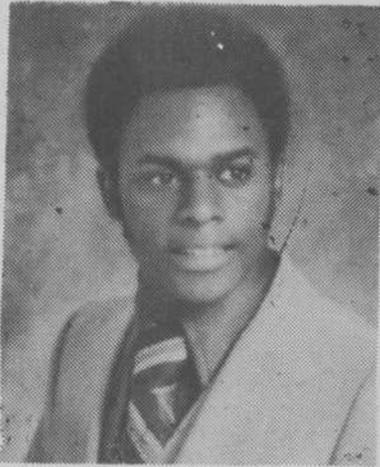
SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

MARCH 31, 1983



KEN'S COMMENTS



By Ken Wilson

Nearing its end, a great college basketball season will reach a spectacular conclusion this weekend with four teams left in the bidding for the 1983 National Championship.

The teams that are now preparing to do battle in the NCAA Final Four in Albuquerque, N.M., are: Houston, Louisville, North Carolina State, and Georgia.

The nation's No. 1 ranked team, the Houston Cougars are set to meet the Louisville Cardinals Saturday in the first of two semifinal games, in what promises to be a classic in the mold of other memory clinging encounters this season (Virginia-Georgetown, Louisville-Kentucky).

In the other semifinal clash, North Carolina State and Georgia meet for a berth in the final, Monday night. Both teams in the latter portion of the season have been playing well while each has also literally "run past" their opponents during the postseason.

The Cardinals, with incredible leapers on the frontline and a relentless full-court pressure defense, will be sure to bother top ranked Houston, but for how long is the question. The contest will

FRANK SINATRA IN A CAESARS WORLD EXCLUSIVE CLOSED CIRCUIT PERFORMANCE

What a team! The legendary Frank Sinatra will appear in a blockbuster program with two world-champion fights on May 27 called "The Chairman and the Champs."

The premiere pairing of boxing and entertainment will be televised exclusively on closed circuit at Caesars Palace and Caesars Tahoe by Caesars World, Inc., the parent company of the internationally-renowned resort and casino hotels.

Opening "The Chairman and the Champs" will be a live concert by the superstar Sinatra

followed by two fifteen-round title bouts including Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini, the WBA light-weight champion, in defense of his crown against Kenny "Bang Bang" Bogner of Trenton, New Jersey.

Viewers will also see Davey Moore, WBA junior middleweight champion facing the great former lightweight and welterweight champion Roberto Duran, who is seeking his third world title.

The fights will be held at Sun City, Botsthuawana, South Africa.

Las Vegas Ed Brown, WBA Regional Vice President, North America, has been

assigned by the world organization to be on hand in South Africa for this spectacular.

Dynamite Undercard

HEAVYWEIGHT DOUBLEHEADER ON SCHEDULE

Plans for the May 20 world heavyweight championship double-header boxing card at the Dunes Hotel and Country Club are progressing on schedule, even though no contracts have been signed.

Already surveys have been taken and prints drawn up for the 20,000-seat, open-air arena that will house the unique card. Construction in the Dunes' northwest parking lot is expected to start soon.

"Everything is coming along nicely and is on or ahead of schedule," according to a spokesman for the Dunes.

The card includes Larry Holmes defending his World Boxing

Council (WBC) heavyweight championship and Michael "Dynamite" Dokes defending his World Boxing Association (SBA) heavyweight crown, making this the first time in boxing history that two heavyweight title fights are on the same card.

In addition, a third world championship fight featuring WBA junior heavyweight champ Ossie "Jaws" Ocasio is scheduled.

The undefeated Holmes defends his WBC heavyweight championship against No. 3 contender "Terrible" Tim Witherspoon in a 12-rounder while Dokes defends his WBA heavyweight title against former champion Mike Weaver.

take one of two forms, either going down to the wire or the Cougars will blow Louisville off the court.

A 27-year veteran coach, skipper Guy Lewis appears to have an NBA frontline on his hands that stands: 7-0 (Akeem "The Dream" Olajuwon), 6-9 (Larry Micheaux), and 6-7 (Clyde Drexler). Throughout the year the entire crew has displayed all of the tools needed to be the National Champs.

Houston is the only returning team in the Final Four, having advanced to the finals in 1982 before dropping a decision to the eventual champion, the Tar Heels of North Carolina. Cougar coach Lewis has his team focused on just one objective: "Put the ball in the hole." On the year, more than 50% of Houston's field goals have been slam dunks. The Cougars aren't pretty, but they get the job done and are the clear favorite to win the title.

For those who enjoy a fastbreak brand of basketball, the North Carolina State-Georgia game should provide plenty of action.

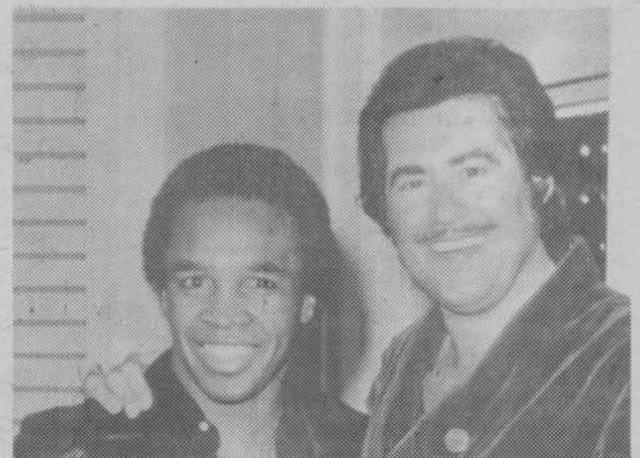
NC State, a very tall team that averages 6-10 on the frontline, features 6-11 Thurl Bailey and will matchup against the cat-quick Bulldogs with senior standout Terry Fair, a 6-7 center.

On a side note, Virginia's standout 7-foot-4 center Ralph Sampson ended his college career, filled with many honors and awards, with a 63-62 loss to North Carolina State in the final of the NCAA Western regionals.

Sampson's skills as a basketball player are unlimited and his talents are unquestioned; however, his failure to lead the Cavaliers to a National Championship or even a berth in the Final Four, has to make one question the 7-footer's "heart."

Sampson's face value seemed to depreciate after catching a glance of Houston's Akeem Abdul Olajuwon, who is constantly involved with the pace of the game, unlike Sampson who at times seems totally ineffective. Akeem on the other hand on many occasions, sparks the Cougars on both offense and defense, triggering fast breaks, snuffing out fast breaks while being a force in the middle as a scorer and rebounder.

At this point in time, Ralph Sampson has yet to prove he's a great player; however, in the pros, maybe he will emerge as an outstanding talent in the same mold as Jabbar and Chamberlain.



RAY LEONARD AND THE MIDNIGHT IDOL A "SWEET" TEAM: Boxing's beautiful Sugar Ray Leonard pulls no punches when it comes to showing support for his friends. He recently stopped by superstar Wayne Newton's dressing room before a curtain call in the Circus Maximus Showroom at Caesars Palace to wish the singer good luck and to encourage the singer to "knock 'em dead out there."

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