

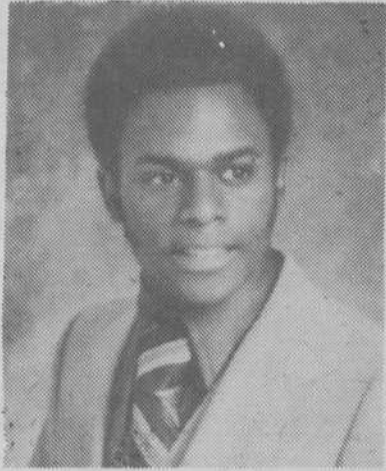
SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

JULY 21, 1983



KEN'S COMMENTS



By Ken Wilson

It's something new and already a trend setter. The new United States Football League in its inaugural season at times has been less than exciting while at other moments replicating thrills of the rival NFL.

Though the U.S. Football League has a long way to go before meeting the standards of the established league, the new league, using a combination of owners, coaches, and players (both new and old), exhibited true effort and hustle that attracted new fans throughout the first year.

The U.S. Football League's championship game Sunday night at Denver's Mile High Stadium, further demonstrated this point.

The league's best talent got together with the Central Division champion Michigan Panthers capturing a 24-22 victory over the Philadelphia Stars to earn the league's first championship.

After a slow opening half things came alive with

'DOUBLE DYNAMITE' BOXING CARD HEADLINES JULY 24 AT 'BOAT'

Four world-ranked fighters plus a 12-round North American and United States championship bout headline a nationally televised "Double Dynamite" boxing card Sunday, July 24, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino, Country Club and Bowling Center.

North American Boxing Federation welterweight champion Marlon Starling faces undefeated Tommy Ayers in the 12-round main event that also is for the vacant United States Boxing Association 147-pound crown.

The 10-round co-main features undefeated "Rockin'" Robin Blake against Tony "The Tiger" Baltazar in a junior welterweight battle.

Both bouts will be nationally televised live by CBS but will be blacked out in Las Vegas.

This unique

doubleheader, one of the best cards held at the Showboat in months, is promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank, Inc., in association with the Showboat.

The championship card starts at 12:30 p.m. Sunday the 24th in the Showboat Sports Pavilion. Doors open at noon.

Tickets remain priced at only \$15 for ringside reserved and \$10 for general admission and are on sale daily at the Showboat Sports Pavilion Ticket Office.

All four fighters are prime candidates for title shots within a year and each knows a win at the Showboat would speed up their time table considerably.

Starling, from Hartford, Conn., is ranked No. 4 by the World Boxing Council and No. 9 by the World Boxing Association among welterweights while Ayers, from Cincinnati,

is rated in the top 20 by both organizations.

Blake, from Levelland, Texas, is ranked No. 3 by the WBA and No. 9 by the WBC among lightweights while Baltazar, from LaPuente, Calif., also is rated among the top 20 by both bodies.

Starling, 23, has a 28-1 record with 18 knockouts. His lone loss came in a WBA title elimination bout against Donald Curry, that group's current 147-pound champion. Ayers, 29, has a 21-0 mark with 18 knockouts.

Blake, 21, has a 20-0 record with 14 knockouts while Baltazar, 22, has a 25-1 mark with 19 knockouts.

Starling will be making his first defense of the vacant NABF title he won on April 23 in Hartford by taking a 12-round decision over world-ranked Kevin Howard. Starling won the USBA crown on July 17 of last year by

knocking out in the first round and dethroning Las Vegas Kevin Morgan in their bout in New York. He lost it when he dropped a close 12-round decision to Curry on Oct. 25 in Atlantic City.

Ayers, a silver medalist at the 1980 Olympic Trials, has had convincing wins against good opponents his last two times out. On May 21 in Cincinnati he knocked out Bruce Finch, who was Sugar Ray Leonard's final opponent, in the second round and on June 16 he halted Al Carter in the third round in Cincinnati.

Black made short word of J.C. Kim at the Showboat on May 26, stopping him in the first round. In his most recent outing, on June 26 in Houston, he dumped Las Vegas Sterling McPhearson in the fourth round.

Baltazar gained national attention on Feb. 27 when he lost a controversial 10-round decision to former Olympic gold medalist Howard Davis despite having the New Yorker on the deck several times.

Aaron Williams Invitational Little League Tournament Held At Doolittle Center

Marking the first time a city-wide invitational Little League Tournament was ever played at Doolittle Recreation Center and the first Little League game played there since 1967, the First Annual Aaron Williams Invitational Little League Baseball Tournament was held at the Center July 6, 7, 8 and 9.

The Opening Ceremony was spearheaded by Assemblyman Eugene Collins, who threw out the first ball.

The Tournament saw play from teams in two separate divisions - the Midget Division and the Pee Wee Division.

In the Midget Division the Astros, coached by Freddie Lyons, dominated the tour-

namment. They lost only one game in the Semi-Finals, and then came back strong to win the Championship game as a result of the excellent hitting by the entire team. Tracy Ealy, Todd McKellar, Robert Riley, Jr., Greg Lyons, Cliff Ried and Bryan Richardson were all excellent players for the Astros.

The Chargers, coached by Bob Romero, were the runners-up in the Midget Division, while Odell's Ray and Ross Pirates took third place.

In the PeeWee Division, Lola's Hair Fashions' Pirates coached by Melvin Givens, won a chance for the Championship of that division, by coming from behind in the last

See LEADERS, Page 13

TOP RANK IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SHOWBOAT HOTEL PROUDLY PRESENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 24
12:30 PM DOORS OPEN AT NOON

DOUBLE DYNAMITE!
North American Welterweight Championship
USBA Welterweight Championship
12 Rounds

MARLON STARLING
Champion - Hartford, Conn.
(28-1 18 K.O.S.) #4 WBC #9 WBA

VS

TOMMY AYERS
Cincinnati Sensation
(21-0 18 K.O.S.)

BOXING at the BOAT

Junior Welterweight
10 Rounds

ROBIN BLAKE
Levelland, Texas (20-0 14 K.O.S.) #3 WBA #9 WBC

VS

TONY BALTAZAR
La Puente, Calif. (25-1 19 K.O.S.)

PLUS AN EXCITING UNDERCARD
CBS-TV - BLACKED OUT LOCALLY

\$15 RINGSIDE \$10 ADVANCE
On Sale 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the
AMERICAN SPORTS PAVILION Ticket Office

SHOWBOAT SPORTS PAVILION

the contest ending on a high note as Michigan fought off a fourth quarter rally by the Stars as the first season of the USFL came to its conclusion.

Headlining a busy sports weekend in Las Vegas, Friday night at the Convention Center the UNLV Alumni went back in history to retrieve a type of revenge as a group of former Rebels players once again teamed, coming away with a 124-121 win over the North Carolina Alumni in the annual Community Roundball Classic.

Contributions were made by most of the key Rebels of the past (Reggie, Jackie, Gondo, Sobers, plus the Smiths: Tony, Robert, and Sam, and others), along with new UNLV Alumni, namely Sidney Green and Larry Anderson, all participated in the downfall of the Tar Heels.

However, it was mainly the name of "Big" Lewis Brown, who disappeared the last time these two teams clashed back in 1977, shined this time coming up with a 23 point-18 rebound effort to neutralize the likes of Walter Davis and Mike O'Koren, both steady NBA performers.

Sunday in the finale of a three-day triple-main event at the Dunes Hotel, Carlos DeLeon took a 12-round unanimous decision over S.T. Gordon to regain the WBC cruiserweight title, a crown he had lost a year ago to his opponent.

DeLeon's triumph marked an end to Don King's weekend termed the "Fist Explosion" that Saturday saw Mustafa Hamsho decision Wilfred Benitez and Tim Witherspoon make his first ring appearance since the Larry Holmes encounter. Also, Friday night Jackie Beard defended his North American Boxing Federation title with a 12-round decision over Margarito Marquez.