

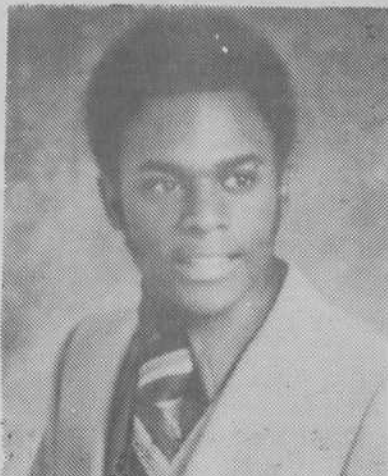
SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

AUGUST 4, 1983



KEN'S COMMENTS



By Ken Wilson

Several suspensions levied by NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle to various players for possible involvement with illegal drugs will surely dampen the forthcoming season.

The punishment, a four-game suspension in addition to a loss of salary, were dished out to Cincinnati Bengals fullback Pete Johnson and defensive standout Ross Browner, along with E.J. Junior of the St. Louis Cardinals and Greg Stenrick of the New Orleans Saints.

Both Cincinnati players recently received immunity from prosecution for turning over in the recent trial of a Cincinnati man accused of drug trafficking, while Stenrick and Junior have been placed on probation following possession convictions.

Rozelle, looking to improve the image of the established football league, has indicated that these new actions are just the beginning of efforts aimed at cleaning up the sport. All signals originating from the Commissioner's office, indicate that Rozelle and Col. will now be actively involved in the crack down of rule offenders.

The issue of drug abuse is a complex one which each individual, regardless of one's life chosen profession, must face independently.

However, in the case of professional athletes who remain in the public eye constantly, they must attempt to maintain a clean slate. In today's society athletes are held on pedestals, in some instances even revered more than our country's leaders, and must act accordingly.

With the inaugural season of the new United States football league just concluded, the existing

PRYOR, ARGUELLO MEET SEPT. 9 AT CAESARS IN REMATCH OF '82 FIGHT

Fight fans around the world will have the opportunity to witness a repeat performance of the boxing event of 1982 when Aaron Pryor defends his WBA World Junior Welterweight title against Alexis Arguello on Friday, September 9, Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

More than 10,000 spectators are expected to jam the outdoor stadium on the Caesars Palace grounds in anticipation of another awesome confrontation between two of boxing's finest pound-for-pound fighters. The first Pryor-Arguello battle, last November 12 in Miami, saw Pryor retain his crown with a stunning 14th-round knockout in what was universally hailed as the 1982 "Fight of the Year."

A co-feature to Pryor-Arguello II will have Thomas Hearns facing James "Hard Rock" Green in the first defense of Hearns' WBC Super Welterweight title. Hearns won the championship with a unanimous 15-round decision over Wilfred Benitez last December 3 in New Orleans.

The Pryor-Arguello fight, which is being promoted by Main Event Production in association with Caesars Palace, will be available on a pay-per-

view basis to more than two million cable and subscription TV homes. In addition, there will be over one million closed-circuit seats in those markets where the bout cannot be seen on home television.

Pryor, 27, will be defending his belt for the eighth time when he steps into the ring with Arguello. The fighter known as "The Hawk" stopped the legendary Antonio "Kid Pambale" Cervantes in four rounds on August 2, 1980 to win the 140-pound title, and each of his seven defenses have ended in knockout victories.

For the 31-year-old Arguello, the rematch with Pryor represents a second opportunity in his quest to become the first boxer in history to win four world titles. Since the Pryor loss, Arguello has avenged an earlier career defeat at the hands of Vilomar Fernandez and scored a third-round kayo over former lightweight champion Claude Noel which has run his ring record to 78-5, with 63 knockouts.

By beating Arguello, Pryor finally earned the respect that had previously eluded him during his meteoric fistic career. Even with his impressive 33-0 record (31 KOs) and knockout percentage of .939 (the best

in junior welterweight history), Pryor was never given his just due until he triumphed over the former three-time titleholder.

In their first bout, dubbed the "Battle of the Champions," Pryor and Arguello went at each other for better than 13 rounds until referee Stanley Christodoulou stopped the contest with 1:06 gone in the 14th round. Neither fighter gave an inch, as they each landed numerous blows which would have felled lesser boxers.

The closeness of the fight was reflected in the scoring. After 13 rounds, Pryor was leading on two scorecards, while Arguello was ahead on the other. It wasn't until Pryor landed a "pictured-perfect" right hand on Arguello's chin in the first minute of Round 14

that one fighter was really able to take command of the contest.

The Hearns-Green title matchup showcase two boxers with completely contrasting styles and appearances. Hearns, a strapping 6'1", is a skilled boxer whose vaunted punching power has earned him the nickname of "Hitman." At 5'5", Green is a compact fighter who likes to concentrate on a body attack.

Hearns, 24, will bring a career mark of 37-1 (32 KOs) into the Green bout, which marks the "Hitman's" return to the scene of his most memorable contest - the 14th round title loss to Sugar Ray Leonard in September of 1981. The 25-year-old Green has scored 17 victories in 19 pro bouts, with 10 wins coming via the knockout route.

FORMULA I WILL NOT APPEAR AT 1983 CAESARS PALACE GRAND PRIX

Officials of the Caesars Palace Grand Prix today confirmed that for the 1983 Caesars Palace Grand Prix, a Formula One auto race will not be featured at this event. The weekend of racing will begin on Thursday, October 6, with Indy car and Trans Am qualifying, and will continue with the Indy car and Trans Am finals on Saturday, October 8. Also included in this year's event will be a Winston West race sanctioned by Nascar, scheduled for Sunday, October 9.

Caesars Palace Grand Prix officials made the Formula One announce-

ment in conjunction with the Formula One Constructors Association (FOCA). The announcement stated that due to circumstances beyond the control of both organizations, there will be no Formula One at this year's Caesars Palace Grand Prix.

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12 teams will expand to 18 with the addition of six new franchises joining the league next season.

The league Commissioner and owners have granted entrance to the following cities: Pittsburgh, Houston, Jacksonville, Fla., Oklahoma, San Antonio, Texas, and Memphis, Tenn.

The USFL seems intent on surviving while also collecting its fair share of the consumers' time and money. However, only time will tell.