

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

DECEMBER 15, 1983



## HOLMES DROPS WBC CROWN

Larry Holmes resigned his World Boxing Council world heavy-weight title Sunday. Holmes made the sur-

Sulaiman accepted Holmes' title resignation.

Holmes relinquished the title just as the WBC was to approve a compromise that would have ordered arbitration to resolve Holmes' dispute with promoter Don King over a mandatory defense against No. 1-ranked Greg Page.

Sig Rogich, a WBC vice president, said Page now would fight No. 2-ranked Tim Witherspoon for the vacant title. The fight reportedly will be held Feb. 24 at a site to be determined.

Holmes had an agreement to fight Page for King, but said he would not fight for the \$2.55 million contract figure.



prise announcement at the final day of the WBC's convention at Caesars Palace, and WBC President Jose

## 'Sugar Ray' Plans Return

Former welterweight champion Sugar Ray Leonard, who retired last November after eye surgery, said Saturday night he will fight again, perhaps as early as February.

Leonard, 27, boxed two three-round exhibitions Saturday night before making the surprise announcement. He showed some flashes of the quickness that characterized his 32-1 record that included 23 knockouts.

Leonard's last fight was a third round TKO of Bruce Finch on Feb. 15, 1982 in Reno, Nev.

"Yes, I will fight again but it's not a comeback," said Leonard. "I'm back. I've got to get in serious shape and get with (attorney) Mike Trainer and

work out the logistics. Hopefully, I could have a 10-round tuneup by February or March, maybe."

Leonard has steadfastly denied that he would ever return to the ring but there were indi-



cations in recent weeks that he might change his mind. The key to his decision to return may have come last month when he served as a television commentator at the world middleweight title fight between defending champion Marvin Hagler and Roberto Duran, the only man ever to defeat Leonard as a pro.

After the fight, in which Hagler won an unimpressive 15-round unanimous decision, Leonard simply smiled and nodded when fans asked if he felt now that he could beat Hagler. A multi-million dollar bout against Hagler was in the negotiation stage when Leonard sustained his eye injury.

Leonard burst into the public eye in 1976 when he was one of five American fighters to win gold medals at the Olympic Games at Montreal. He reeled off a series of impressive victories as a pro and won the World Boxing Council welterweight title in December, 1979, with a 15th round knockout of defending champion Wilfredo Benitez.

Leonard lost his only pro fight when he dropped a 15-round decision to Duran at Montreal in June, 1980, but he regained the title in their rematch in New Orleans.

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## Availability of Olympic tickets

Event	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31	8/1	8/2	8/3	8/4	8/5	8/6	8/7	8/8	8/9	8/10	8/11	8/12
Opening Ceremonies	SOLO OUT															
Archery																
Baseball																
Basketball																
Boxing																
Canoeing																
Cycling																
Equestrian																
Fencing																
Field Hockey																
Gymnastics																
Judo																
Modern Pentathlon																
Rowing																
Shooting																
Soccer																
Swimming																
Team Handball																
Tennis																
Track and Field																
Volleyball																
Weight Lifting																
Wrestling																
Yachting (Not ticketed)																
Closing Ceremonies																

Swimming, Diving and Synchronized Swimming are sold out. Water Polo available for Aug. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9.