

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

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## HOLMES-COETZEE FIGHT RUMORED

In an associated Press Monday news release, South African Gerrie Coetzee, the World Boxing Association heavyweight champion, has signed a contract to meet undefeated Larry Holmes at Las Vegas in June or July the Sunday Johannesburg newspaper Sunday Rapport said.

The Afrikaans-language paper said that Coetzee would fight a warm-up bout in March at South Africa's Sun City resort against a still unnamed opponent.

Reports from the United States have said Holmes had not made a

final agreement to fight Coetzee, with financing the major hurdle still to be settled.



Holmes

Cedric Kushner, a South African promoter, said complex negotiations lay ahead before

the Coetzee-Holmes fight could be held.

Ed Brown, WBA Regional Vice President, said Tuesday that Coetzee will need to hurdle his WBA heavyweight commitment before such fight arrangements can be honored.

Rapport quoted Coetzee as saying the contract he signed in the past week would be turned over to Don King, the United States promoter who has been handling Holmes.

Coetzee said he hoped his March opponent would be John Tate or Renaldo Snipes.

## Hearns To Defend Title

NEW YORK—Thomas Hearns announced Tuesday he will make the first defense of his World Boxing Council super welterweight title in a 12-rounder against Italy's Luigi Minchillo on Jan. 27 at a site to be determined.

Then "Hitman" Hearns wants Sugar Ray Leonard and undisputed world middleweight champion Marvin Hagler, in any order he can get them.

Also on the Hearns-Minchillo card for the "Night of Champions" fight program, 1976 Olympic gold medalist Howard Davis meets United States Boxing Association champion Jimmy Paul for the International Boxing Federation lightweight title and Duane Thomas defends his USBA junior middleweight title against former World Boxing Association champion Davey Moore.



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