

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

FEBRUARY 16, 1984



Holmes-Tate Gear For March Bout Page-Witherspoon WBC Title Fight Set For Convention Center

Top-ranked, Greg Page and second-ranked Tim Witherspoon will meet on March 9 in a scheduled 12-round bout at the Las Vegas Convention Center for the vacant World Boxing Council heavyweight championship, promoter Don King announced in New York Thursday.

The Page-Witherspoon fight will be co-promoted by the Riviera Hotel, but will be held at the nearby Convention Center.

Page and Witherspoon will be meeting for the WBC crown vacated by Holmes at the annual WBC convention here. Holmes had refused to make a mandatory de-

fense against Page for promoter King as ordered by the WBC.

The 25-year-old Page, of Louisville, Ky., has a 23-1 record with 18 knockouts. His only loss was to Trevor Berbick.

The 26-year-old Witherspoon, of Philadelphia, has a 17-1 record with 11 knockouts. His only loss was by a 12-round split decision to Holmes for the WBC title last year at the Dunes.

Page has been in Las Vegas for about 10 days, training for one week at the Golden Gloves gym, then moving to the Treasury Hotel Thursday.

It will be the first world title fight at the Convention Center since May 16, 1975, when Muhammad

Ali stopped Ron Lyle in the 11th round to retain the world heavyweight

crown. And Las Vegas still has a good chance of host-



Greg Page

ing an International Boxing Federation world heavyweight championship bout between undefeated Larry Holmes and John Tate on the weekend dates of either March 23-24 or March 30-31.

If the Holmes-Tate bout is in Las Vegas, Caesars Palace would be the site. However, Reno and the Lawlor Events Center on the Nevada-Reno campus is still under consideration.

Las Vegas already has a major fight on March 30

at the Riviera Hotel with Marvin Hagler defending his undisputed world middleweight championship against Juan Roldan of Argentina.

Holmes, however, is already in Las Vegas and is staying at the Dunes Hotel where he is waiting for a training facility to be set up so he can start training here.

A Dunes spokesman said Thursday Holmes may start training there any day, possibly in a ring located on the stage in the hotel showroom.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR HAGLER-ROLDAN FIGHT

Tickets for the Marvellous Margin Hagler-Juan Domingo Roldan 15-round undisputed world middleweight championship fight Friday, March 30, at the Riviera Hotel and Casino are now on sale.

A special box office opened Wednesday, Feb. 8, to sell tickets for this world championship bout that will be held in



Hagler

the Riviera's Superstar Center. The fight box office will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ticket prices range from \$50 to \$250 for ring-side. All 5,000 seats in the Riviera Superstar Center are reserved.

The championship

fight card at the Riviera also features undefeated welterweight sensation Nino LaRocca from Italy.

This will be the ninth title defense for Hagler, regarded by many as the finest fighter in the sport today, regardless of weight division. The 29-year-old Hagler enters with a record of 58-2-2 with 48 knockouts. He has not lost a fight in more than eight years.

Roldan, the World Boxing Association's No. 1 ranked contender, comes from Argentina and has a record of 50-2-2 with 34 knockouts. The hardhitting 26-year-old has stopped seven of his past nine opponents.

LaRocca has a perfect 53-0 record. His opponent will be rugged Felipe Canela.

The Hager-Roldan world championship card is a joint promotion between the Riviera and Bob Arum's Top Rank, Inc.

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The Clark County Board of Commissioners

First NBA Black Player Dies At 57

PITTSBURGH — Charles "Chuck" Cooper, who became the first black to play in the National Basketball Association when he was drafted by the Boston Celtics in 1950, died of cancer Sunday in a Pittsburgh hospice. He was 57.

Cooper, who averaged 6.7 points per game in his six seasons in the NBA, later called his pioneering status "a rather dubious achievement."

"The Harlem Globetrotters were around long before me," Cooper told Pittsburgh Magazine in 1976. "Also a league up in New York state produced many great black players, including Dolly King and Pop Gates. So if I was good enough, plenty before me were equally good."

Cooper, 6-5, entered Duquesne University in 1946 on the GI Bill of Rights, where his presence on the basketball team caused the University of Tennessee to

Sugar Ray Fight Halted For Surgery

WORCESTER, Mass. — New eye problems for Sugar Ray Leonard have postponed indefinitely the former welterweight

champion's first comeback bout, but opponent Kevin Howard says he won't let it frustrate him.

Leonard underwent "preventive surgery" on his right eye Monday at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston, and doctors told him to rest at least 10 days.

EDWIN MOSES HONORED AS WORLD'S BEST



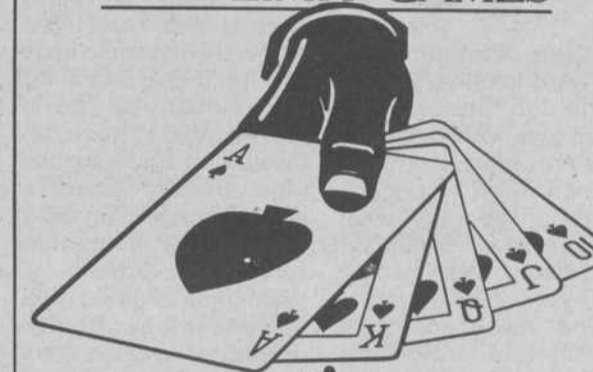
RECORD-BREAKING track star, Edwin Moses, 3rd from left, winner of the prestigious Jesse Owens International Amateur Athlete Award, designating him the top amateur athlete in the world, admires the bronze trophy presented during the Fourth Annual Jesse Owens Awards Dinner at the New York Hilton. Joining the honoree following the presentation ceremonies are, from left: Herb Douglas, Vice President Schieffelin & Co., Founder of the Jesse Owens Amateur Athlete Award; Jacques de Vriese, Export Manager, Moet & Chandon Champagnes, France; Edwin Moses; Mrs.

Jesse Owens; Ed Frantel, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Seven-Up Company and Chairman of the Jesse Owens Amateur Athlete Dinner; J. Pensington Kavanaugh, President of Schieffelin & Co., Co-Chairman of the dinner, and William Simon, former Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, current president of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Dinner proceeds benefited the United States Olympic Committee and the Jesse Owens Foundation, which sponsors academic scholarships to student-athletes.

The 27-year-old fighter had surgery on his left eye in May 1982. In December, Leonard an-

nounced his comeback, planned for Feb. 25 at the Worcester Centrum against Howard.

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