

SPORTS BOARD

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JULY 19, 1984



Relay members irritated by Lewis' no-shows

BERKELEY, Calif. — Even though he didn't compete Saturday at the Kinney Invitational, Carl Lewis still was the main topic of conversation, reports Tom Weir Monday in USA TODAY.

Lewis' absence riled the other three men with whom he will run the 400-meter relay at the Olym-

pics.

Sam Graddy, Ron Brown and Calvin Smith all questioned whether Lewis is being allowed to set his own rules. USA coaches had said all relay team members would have to run at Kinney and at a Sacramento, Calif., meet Saturday, to work on baton handoffs.

But Lewis was allowed to bypass the meet and go home to Houston to work on his other three events — the 100- and 200-meter dashes, and the long jump.

"I just feel all athletes on the team should have been at this meet," said Smith, who will run the third leg of the relay and hand off to anchorman Lewis.

Last Saturday, Smith gave the baton to relay alternate Harvey Glance en route to a 38.91-second clocking that set an Edwards Stadium record. But it was well off the 37.86 world record Lewis and Smith helped the USA team set at last year's World Track and Field Championships in Helsinki, Finland.

"I can understand Carl's situation, but we've got a job to do," said Brown, the 100-meter winner Saturday in 10.26. "It's not a given that we're going to win the relay. I think we should work together as much as possible."

Graddy, third in the 100, said, "If rules are set out for everybody on the team, it shouldn't exclude anybody."

Smith said Lewis received an undue amount of credit for the world record at Helsinki.

"It was like he ran the whole relay by himself," said Smith, who was joined on that team by Emmit King and Willie Gault. "It was like the other three of us weren't even there."

Spinks-Qawi Fight Planned For Reno Sept. 7

Promoter Butch Lewis said he hopes to complete arrangements today that will bring the world light heavyweight title fight between Michael Spinks and Dwight Muhammad Qawi to Reno, Nev. The rematch between Spinks and Qawi, formerly Dwight Braxton, is scheduled Sept. 7.

Change of venue:

COONEY FIGHT DELAYED 3 WEEKS

NEW YORK — Gerry Cooney is expected to be sidelined only three weeks with what is now diagnosed as a pulled muscle in his left shoulder, instead of rotator-cuff damage. Last week it was reported that Cooney would be sidelined indefinitely because of the injury.

But some observers at Cooney's training sessions doubt that the injury is even that serious. They believe that the erstwhile heavyweight contender, after being off for two years, was looking so bad in sparring that his camp was afraid to go through with his July 20 comeback fight with Philip Brown.

Mike Jones, one of Cooney's managers, acknowledged Wednesday that Cooney "at times didn't look so good." He also said that "anyone who thinks we're pulling a fast one is ludicrous," insisting:

"The fight's off because of the injury. No doubt about that."

Brown has waited more than a year to fight the often-injured Cooney, and is losing a \$75,000 payday, as the bout was to have been televised by Home Box Office. But the HBO producer, Ross Greenburg, was able to get Brown some work. Greenburg's brother Michael, who is producing an NBC movie, "The Vegas Hotel War," needed someone to play a heavyweight fighter for shooting July 27. On Ross Green-

burg's recommendation, Brown got the \$1,500 one-day part.

Cooney has top billing while working out at the Concord Hotel, but a world champion has also been training at that Catskills resort. Billy Costello makes his first defense of the World Boxing Council's junior-welterweight title Sunday in his hometown of Kingston, N.Y., against top-ranked Ronnie Shields. The undefeated Costello, who called his more famous stablemate "just an unlucky guy," said the publicity surrounding Cooney was not a distraction. But after all, he was not distracted early in his career, when his wife, Jane, was training him.

"She knows more about boxing than a lot of trainers," said Costello, now trained by Victor Valle. "She's a very smart girl, has a degree from Ulster Community College and works with the handicapped. I used to work out in the back of my father's little newspaper store, and Jane would tell me, 'Bill, you're dropping your hands,' or 'Your legs are too wide apart,' or 'You're not moving your head enough when you step back.' When I moved to New York in 1978 and she was still going to college, I had to drop her as a trainer."

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