

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

SEPTEMBER 13, 1984



Holmes-Coetzee Las Vegas Fight Put In Jeopardy

PHILADELPHIA — A proposed November heavyweight championship fight between undefeated Larry Holmes and South Africa's Gerrie Coetzee was in jeopardy Monday after a federal judge ruled that a Virginia lawyer had first refusal rights to match the promotion within 90 days.

Richard Hirschfeld of Virginia Beach, Va., who heads Champion Sports Management with former heavyweight king Muhammad Ali, won a preliminary injunction Monday in his suit against Holmes, the International Boxing Federation champion.

But U.S. District Judge Daniel H. Huyett III ruled that promoter Richard Hirschfeld of Virginia Beach, Va has a prior valid contract with Holmes that entitles Hirschfeld to promote the event if he can match King's offer.

Holmes claimed Hirschfeld, a lawyer, duped him into signing a

"right of first refusal" contract last Oct. 20.

Holmes had testified he didn't understand the full implications of the first-refusal agreement.

Holmes said he has

grade education, the champion said he was ill-equipped to understand the implications of the one-page contract that Hirschfeld read aloud to him.

boxers.

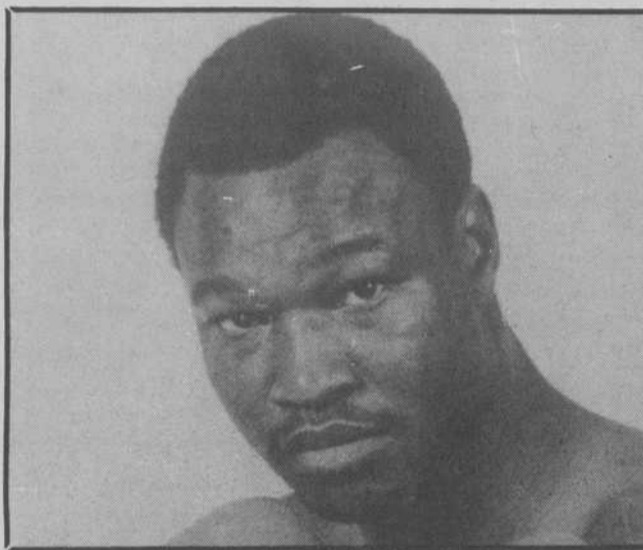
Huyett said Holmes "is not naive with respect to business matters, but rather is a relatively sophisticated individual who admits that he prides himself on conducting his own business affairs."

"Despite his somewhat limited educational background, Holmes is capable of understanding contracts of the type in issue in this case," Huyett said.

The judge also pointed out that Holmes, in addition to his role as a professional boxer, "has been involved in various business activities (and) these activities reflect a familiarity with and an understanding of the way in which business is conducted."

The judge added Holmes had been involved in negotiations for 45 professional rights and "is capable of understanding contracts of the type at issue in this case."

Any match, however,



Larry Holmes

third-grade reading ability and claimed he signed the agreement with Hirschfeld without his lawyer and that he didn't understand it fully.

With only a seventh-

On the day he signed the contract, Holmes agreed to take the \$110,000-a-year position as co-chairman with Muhammad Ali of Hirschfeld's Champion Sports Management, Inc., a newly formed enterprise to train young

AEROBIC CLASS REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

Time to shape up with aerobic classes at the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizen Activities' Stewart/Mojave Sports Center. Classes begin the week of Sept. 10 and will run for six weeks. Free classes will be offered

during registration week. Call the Center for details.

Other classes currently being offered are youth gymnastics, tiny tots, karate, judo, racquetball, ski conditioning and more.

For more information call 386-6563.

BASKETBALL FINAL STANDINGS ANNOUNCED

The City of Las Vegas' Department of Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizen Activities Doolittle Community Center recently announced the conclusion of its 1984 Open Summer Basketball League with a newly crowned champion. El-Bob-Bo Dream Team is the league champion with a 10-4 record and the league runner-ups

were the Dog-Catchers with a 10-4 record also, but they were defeated twice in head-to-head confrontations with the Dream Team.

The Dream Team was also the winner of the summer league tournament, defeating the defending champions, The Fire Department and the eventual tournament runner-up, TNT.

would need the approval of New York promoter Don King, who has exclusive rights to Coetzee's services.

King had hoped to stage a Holmes-Coetzee battle in Las Vegas in November. But during court testimony last month in the suit, King said the 90-day first refusal right, which he called "very, very unusual," was tantamount to killing any chance of the match.

King, reached at his home Monday in Cleveland, said, "I have no comment at this time."

League Individual Awards were as follows: "Spoon" James - League M.V.P., Fred Banks - Assistant Champion, Kenny Harmon - Rebounding Champion, Bill Junior - Shot-Blocking Champion, Mike Slocum - Scoring Champion.

All Tournament Team members were: Averian Parrish - M.V.P., Dream Team; "Spoon" James - TNT; Kenny Scott - TNT; Ricky Williams - TNT; Fred Banks - Dream Team; Tracy Holman - Fire Department.

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