

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

NOVEMBER 1, 1984



LARRY HOLMES vs. JAMES "BONECRUSHER" SMITH (IBF) HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9
RIVIERA HOTEL AND CASINO

Larry Holmes, the great Champion from Easton, Pa., returns to action after an absence of almost a year when he makes the first defense of his International Boxing Federation World

Heavyweight Championship against James "Bonecrusher" Smith, the devastating puncher from Magnolia, North Carolina, at the Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, on Friday even-

ing, Nov. 9.

The fight — tagged "Countdown to Glory" — will also see Holmes' first fight under the promotional banner of Don King since he won a split decision over Tim

Witherspoon in defense of his WBC title on May 20.

The fight, to be promoted by Don King in association with the Riviera, Las Vegas, will be carried in prime time on the Home Box Office (HBO) Cable Network from 10 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. (E.S.T.).

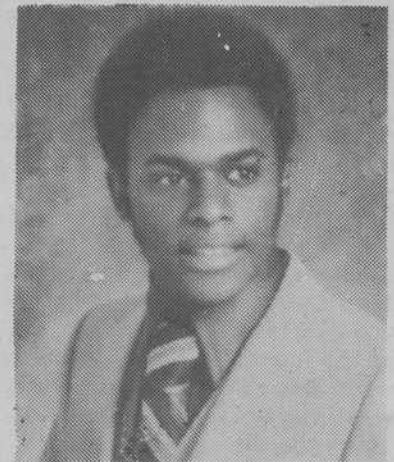
For Holmes, who will celebrate his 35th birthday on Nov. 3, this marks a welcome return to the ring in quest of five more victories which could include a unification of the title. If successful, Holmes will have won 50 fights, one more than Rocky Marciano, and become the second champion to retire undefeated in the history of the heavyweight division.

Holmes last fought on Nov. 25 when he stopped Marvis Frazier in one round. He defended his World Boxing Council title a total of 16 times, second only to the mighty Joe Louis. He held that crown from June 9, 1978 through Sept. 10, 1983. He gave up the championship over a matter of principle and became the IBF king.

Larry has won all 45 of his pro bouts, 32 of them by knockout.

By contrast, "Bonecrusher" Smith — ranked 11th in the world by the IBF, ninth by the World Boxing Association, and 15th by the WBC. Gifted with awesome power, he is considered a most dangerous opponent.

KEN'S COMMENTS



By Ken Wilson

Once again it is time for the big boys of the hardwood to knock heads as the 1984-1985 National Basketball Association season recently got underway.

With the kickoff of the new campaign, sports enthusiasts can anticipate NBA hoopsters providing many exciting moments filled with high-wire acts and spectacular slam-dunks during the year.

However, observers insist that there are many lingering questions concerning the current season with personnel changes, impressive rookies, and experiments, with perhaps the most important being the attempt of Boston's team to become the first club to repeat as league champions since the 1969 Celtics accomplished the feat.

After posting the League's best record and rallying past the Los Angeles Lakers in the championship series to gain the crown, the Celtics look tough again with last season's Most Valuable Player Larry Bird leading the way.

Celtics coach K.C. Jones can also rely on Robert Parish, Cedric Maxwell, Dennis Johnson, and Kevin McHale.

Though the task of repeating will be a difficult one, Boston has a good chance, but indeed must survive the toughest division in the NBA.

Of course, in trying to capture a league title, teams are always looking to improve through player deals. Thus all of the off season activity was not that unusual.

As is the case with each arrival of fall, there are certain numbers of rookies looking to make an impact on the National Basketball Association, and this year's cream of the crop will feature the Chicago Bulls' high flying Michael Jordan.

Tabbed as the next Julius Erving, Jordan can do many things, but to win a NBA crown takes muscle up front. Yet the former North Carolina standout should more than make his presence felt.

Joining Jordan and Olajuwon among the top rookies are some other players that should make significant contributions include: Portland's Sam Bowie, Philadelphia's Charles Barkley and Leon Wood, Dallas' Sam Perkins, Cleveland's Melvin Turpin, and several more.

DON KING PRODUCTIONS — RIVIERA HOTEL PRESENT

COUNTDOWN TO GLORY!

IBF WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT

CHAMPIONSHIP • 15 ROUNDS

HOLMES vs FRAZIER

HOLMES vs SHAVERS

HOLMES vs NORTON

HOLMES vs SNIPES

HOLMES vs LeDOUX

HOLMES vs WITHERSPOON

HOLMES vs WEAVER

HOLMES vs OCASIO

HOLMES vs BERBICK

HOLMES vs SPINKS

HOLMES vs COONEY

HOLMES vs ALI

LARRY

HOLMES

CHAMPION — RECORD 45-0

VS

JAMES "BONECRUSHER"

SMITH

POWERFUL CONTENDER

— ALSO FEATURING —

MIKE WEAVER	TONY TUBBS	TREVOR BERBICK	MARK HOLMES
vs	vs	vs	vs
TONY ANTHONY	JERRY WILLIAMS	RANDY "Tex" COBB	ODELL HADLEY, JR.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1984

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