

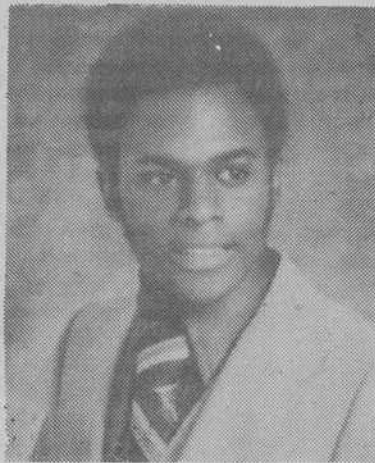
# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

JANUARY 3, 1985



## KEN'S COMMENTS



By Ken Wilson

The big mystery of who has earned the right to be called the National College Football Champion has been announced as the collegiate season draws to a conclusion.

In the end, the final decision rested with the media around our country. Never mind the fans, coaches, and members of various college football teams.

Major wire polling services had the last word in choosing the eventual 1984-85 national champion regardless of on-field performances as this year's title-holder will surely demonstrate.

Since the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) does not sanction an on-the-field title game for Division I-A football, the task of tabbing the top team usually is handled by the Associated Press, the United Press International (and also contributing USA TODAY,)

in surveys taken after the final bowl contests.

Annually, the voting is done by a board of 42 coaches in the UPI poll and 60 sportswriters and broadcasters in the AP poll.

Though the two polls haven't disagreed on the final national champion team since 1978, when AP had Alabama as No. 1 and UPI picked Southern California, a turn-about of events this year could produce the same results. A large controversy appeared to have developed with regards to Brigham Young University. At the end of the regular season, BYU firmly held down the top spot on both polls, followed in order by Oklahoma, Florida, and Washington. However, according to some observers, the Titlist, it is speculated, at this writing, could come from the Orange Bowl where No. 2 Oklahoma (9-1-1) met No. 4 Wash-

ington (10-1). Washington upset Oklahoma 28-17.

Still the undefeated Cougars of Brigham Young University may have clamped down the mythical championship recently by wrapping up a stellar 13-0 season with a stunning comeback 24-17 victory over Michigan in the Holiday Bowl.

Critics contend that BYU, a member of the Western Athletic Conference, hasn't faced any real quality competition during the entire season, or even a ranked team, including its recent bowl appearance.

However, given the valiant effort by Cougar quarterback Robbie Bosco against Michigan, and the fact that Coach LaVell Edwards directed his squad to a perfect record, BYU's claim to a national championship is a valid one.

Of course the debate will continue until the final polls are released, but Oklahoma Coach Barry Switzer insists that the Sooners deserve the title since they were victorious against Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl.

In the final analysis, a cloud will hang over the mythical national champion until the stiff-necked NCAA adopts a true playoff system to determine the best team.

## SHARE

## 18th ANNUAL LOUIS SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM SET FOR APR. 14

The 18th Annual Good Sportsmanship Awards Program is all set to be held in the Triple Crown Room of the Union Plaza Hotel on Sunday, Apr. 14.

Between 150 and 200 youngsters will be given awards of recognition for their good sportsmanship in athletics during the past year. Since the program was initiated in 1968, more than 2,000 youths have been honored for their leadership, inspiration and good sportsmanship in various sports in southern Nevada.

Dr. Donald J. Romeo, the renowned sports physician and Constable Lou Tabat, AAU official and boxing judge, are this year's co-chairmen.

Athletes selected will represent the Boys and Girls Clubs, soccer, baseball, football, the recreation departments, all the local high schools, Nellis Air Force Base, UNLV, swimmers, junior bowlers, golfers and tennis as well as youth from other sports.

Selections are made by the coaches, athletic directors, recreation supervisors and other leaders in their fields according to John Cronan, originator and coordinator of the annual event.

"Joe Louis, for whom the event is named, once again will be sadly missed," according to Tabat. "Our greatest

boxing champion attended many of these programs and always received a standing ovation from the kids when he made his entrance." Tabat further stated, "What better way to perpetuate the name of Joe Louis than with Good Sportsmanship tribute to deserving youngsters. There isn't an athlete whose name is more synonymous with good sportsmanship than the Brown Bomber's."

Others who have been presented with special awards in the past include Las Vegas' David Humm, who played foot-

ball at Bishop Gorman High School, Joe DiMaggio, Willie Mays, Maury Wills, Johnny Bench of baseball fame and such local executives as William Weinberger, the former president of Caesars Palace and Summa Executive Perry Lieber. Danny Tarkanian was presented an award last year.

The Joe Louis Good Sportsmanship Awards Program has always proved to be an exciting event for the youngsters, their parents and friends with interesting surprises planned for this year's program.

## Former lightweight champ Kenty plans to retire

DETROIT — Former World Boxing Association lightweight champion Hilmer Kenty, who attempted a comeback after suffering a detached retina, apparently plans to retire, it was reported Friday.

The Michigan Chronicle, a Detroit weekly

newspaper, said Kenty has told close friends and associates he intends to retire and pursue several financial projects.

Kenty, 29, was the first member of Detroit's Kronk boxing team to capture a world championship.

## PARADE WINNER ANNOUNCED

The Economic Opportunity Board was judged as having the best float when the tabulations were completed after the recent Jackson Avenue Merchants Association Christmas Parade. A \$100 cash prize was awarded to the Board participants for their entry, which depicted

Santa and his elves.

The contest was part of the day-long event which was sponsored by the Jackson Avenue Merchants for the disadvantaged children in the Westside and neighboring communities.

Over 800 delighted children and teens participated in the parade

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