

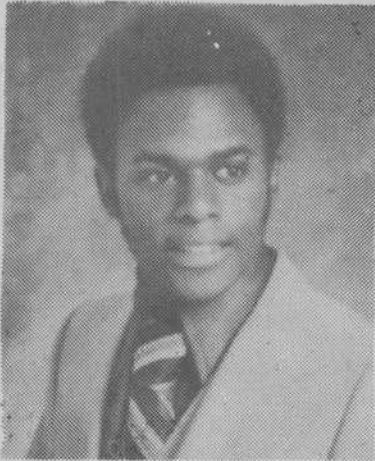
SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

FEBRUARY 14, 1985



KEN'S COMMENTS



By Ken Wilson

With the final box score in on this past Sunday's National Basketball Association All-Star game, it would appear that the changing of the guard may be underway.

As usual, the league's elite registered their expected performances. However, fresh faces such as Jordan, Wilkins, and in particular those of Ralph Sampson and

Akeem Olajuwon, made the playing much more exciting.

Houston's second year player, Ralph Sampson, powered the Western Conference to a 140-129 victory over the Eastern Conference with 24 points, 10 rebounds, and earned the game's Most Valuable Player award.

Rocket teammate Akeem Olajuwon had a

case of All-Star jitters before a record crowd of more than 40,000, but the rookie had memorable moments against friend 76er, center Moses Malone, while demonstrating why Houston is now a contender.

After being in the cellar of the Midwest Division for years, Rocket officials tabbed Sampson and Olajuwon with the first pick in back-to-back drafts, and results are already producing fear in opponents.

The acquisition of Olajuwon, a 7-foot leaper from Nigeria whose strengths are rebounding and shot blocking, allowed the Rockets to take advantage of the 7-foot-4-inch Sampson's athletic ability by moving last year's Rookie of the Year to forward.

With the guidance of Coach Bill Fitch, the newest twin-tower experiment is beginning to jell at both ends of the court, especially on defense, where Sampson and Olajuwon make up for Houston's lack of quality guard play.

As the one-two punch

Hearns named Boxer of Year

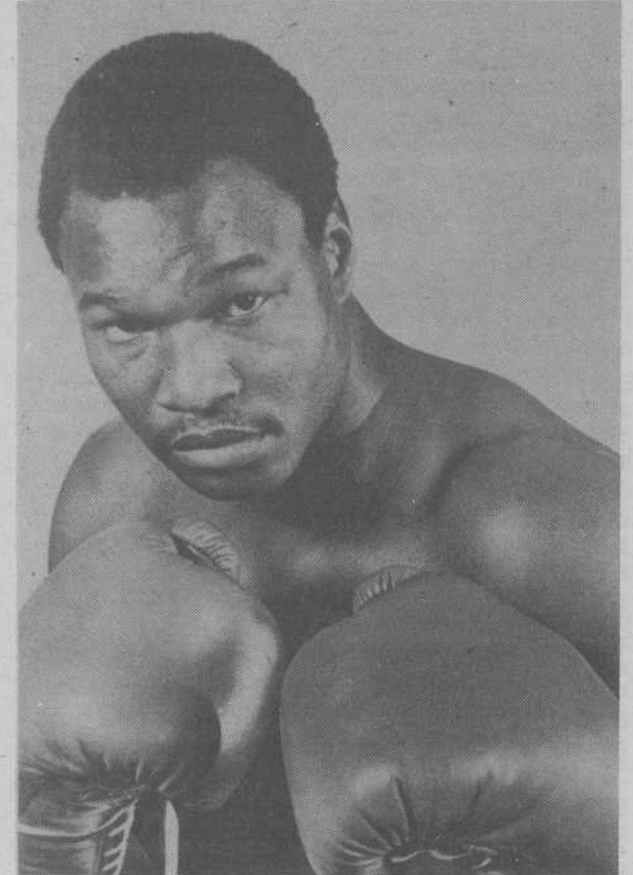
MEXICO CITY — The WBC Monday named super welterweight champion Tommy Hearns, the "Detroit Cobra," 1984's "Boxer of the Year."

The statement from World Boxing Council headquarters in Mexico City said Hearns, who won his title in December 1982, will be given the award during a ceremony with other boxing champs in Los Angeles Feb. 27.

Hearns, whose only loss came at the hands of retired Sugar Ray Leonard in Sept. of 1981, will challenge Marvellous Marvin Hagler for the undisputed world middleweight title April 15 at Caesars Palace.

combination further develops in terms of league experience, future results are certain. Improvement is already present as the Rockets, at the midway point of the season, are 28-21.

Blessed with great talent and good coaching, Houston is now in the position to become the Celtics of our decade.



SAHARA HOSTS CHAMP—Undisputed heavyweight champ Larry Holmes is working out daily, except Wednesday and Sunday, in the Space Center convention complex of the Sahara Hotel & Casino in preparation for his Mar. 15 title bout with challenger David Bey. Holmes's workouts begin at 3:30 p.m. and the public is invited free of charge to watch the champ.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, BASKETBALL CLASSIC FEB. 17

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of Las Vegas will hold its

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Basketball Classic on Saturday, Feb. 16 and Sunday, Feb. 17 at the Doolittle Community Center located at the corner of West Lake Mead Blvd. and "J" Street.

The tournament will begin Saturday at 10 a.m. and run thru the entire day. Sunday games will commence at 12 noon and run thru the championships.

This year's classic will feature local teams as well as men's and women's teams from the Phoenix, Ariz. area.

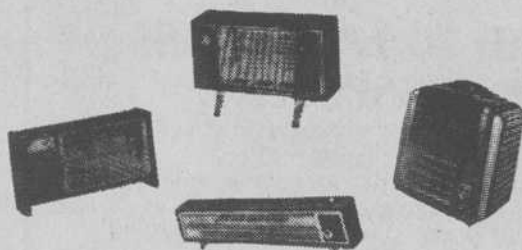
Food and refreshments will be provided. Admission cost for this year's classic is \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 per child.

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