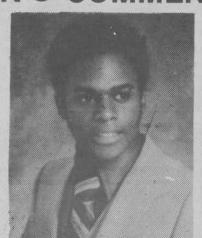
SPORTS

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

BOARD

August 8, 1985

KEN'S COMMENTS



By Ken Wilson

Ask any true professional athlete and he will tell you it is all a big joke, if you will, maybe just a different form of showbiz or entertainment.

However, opinions of socalled "experts," seem to matter little as professional

stling has regained a big tollowing in the United States over the past several years and the potential for even a greater rise at this point in time appear limitless.

Though most of these guys look like they couldn't make it around the block once, the sport's popularity is filling the pockets of these non-athletes in addition to packing arenas around the country, and promoters are raking it in at the box office.

Overflow and turn-away crowds at many of these events have become common place, while all-star cards have produced intense rivalries motivated by great support, plus fan pleasing performances.

Personalities such as Hulk Hogan, Sgt. Slaughter, The Von Eric family, the Road Warriors and many others have become household names while being adopted as a major source of family entertainment.

Of course, the competitors come from all over the world with representatives coming from Germany, Russia, Japan, England and even some place called: Bad Street USA.

Locally, wrestling probably rates as high as other cities regards to the sport, with

monthly cards drawing very well, while even prompting one top establishment to out maneuver another for a group of talented wrestlers with a huge following.

Though the one resort has recovered and now has wrestling back as a fixture, the Riviera Hotel and Casino, with an aggressive new policy will host a sell-out crowd Thursday night, August 8, suggesting that there's enough action to go around.

Like its counterpart, boxing there are many recognized organizations plus many different champions in the heavyweight division as well as other categories, yet the public tends to take it less seriously.

Fueled by celebrities such as Mr. T and singer Cyndi Lauper, plus events like Battle Royals, regular tag team matches, and six-man tag team brawls, the sport continues to grow.

With both network and cable television getting in on the act, the future of professional wrestling looks bright.

A BOXING

Fight schedule

Aug. f8 at Las Vegas, Nev. — c-Jess Lais Ramirez vs. Hecter Camacho, 12, WBC lightweight Utle; c-Traver Barbick vs. Mitchell Green, 12, USBA havyweight Utle.

Aug. 2f at New York — c-Billy Costello vs. Lonnie Smith. 12. WBC super lightweight title; Wilfred Benitez vs. Kevin Moley, 10, junior middleweights, Vito Antuoferno vs. Francisco de Jesus. 10, middleweights.

Aug. 31 at Atlantic City, M.Y. — Carl "The Truth" Williams vs. Jeff Sims, 10, heavyweights Sept. 21 at Las Vegas, Nev. — c-Larry Holmes vs. Michael Spinks, 15, IBF heavyweight

Nov. 14 at Las Vogas, Nov. — c-filarei ingler vs. John Mugabi, 12, world middleweigh the: c-James Simier vs. Thomas Hearns, 13 ABF middle weight title.

Ramirez-Camacho WBC Lightweight Title Bout Set August 10 at Riviera

The much-anticipated World Boxing Council lightweight title bout between champion Jose Luis Ramirez and undefeated challenger Hector "Macho" Camacho has been rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 10, at the Riviera Hotel and Casino.

The internationally significant 12-round bout

originally was set for June 6 at the Riviera, but was postponed when Camacho suffered an ankle injury that prevented him from training.

The championship card, promoted by Don King Productions, Inc., in association with the Riviera, will be held in the Riviera's SuperStar Center.

The card will begin at 5

p.m. with doors to the Riviera's SuperStar Center opening at 4.

The card will be nationally televised live by Home Box Office but, as are all HBO fights from the Riviera, will be blacked out in the Las Vegas area.

The 24-year-old Camacho has a record of 27-0 with 16 knockouts. His last fight was on April 29 in Buffalo when he took a 12-round verdict over Roque Montoya for the North American Boxing Federation lightweight title.

The 26-year-old Ramirez, who turned pro at age 14, has an amazing record of 91-4 with 75 knockouts. His most recent outing was on June 6 at the Riviera when he decisioned Hernandez

