

LAS VEGAS SENTINEL

Watch Us Grow

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

September 19, 1985



TENNIS --

from a pro

By B.J. RICHARD



You are what you think you are. Growing up black for me had its obstacles. As a natural athlete in sports, tennis came easy to me. I started at a late age of 15. However, the killer instinct in me met that challenge and two weeks after learning from the Park and Recreation

Department, I captured the most prestigious tournament in Texas. My contenders were more experienced and had been taking private lessons for a number of years, but they lacked that drive to be the best.

After winning the tournament the media

labeled me as the next Althea Gibson. The turning point in tennis and my outlook on life came during my junior year in high school, after reading "I Always Wanted To Be Somebody," by Althea Gibson.

Blacks on the professional tour in the late 70's had many obstacles. The main thing was self-image and the feeling of being inferior when challenging the majority. My approach was quite simple: a system plus discipline equals victory. This inforced a positive image as I continued to win numerous local, state, and national titles.

After receiving my college degree I turned pro in 1975

and continued my quest to be the best. After several years on tour I was burned out and my financial supply was low.

I started teaching in Las Vegas. After seven years as a teacher, I saw a need to reach the many who feel that tennis is a rich man's game. Tennis is a life long sport that can be enjoyed by all. I see so much raw talent as I watch the social players at Community College and Lorenzi Park. They need direction. They need to be aware.

Think about it! Change your image. The money is out there. It was for me. A system plus discipline gave me the confidence to be somebody.

"HISTORY!"

A SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER!

World Heavyweight Champion

LARRY HOLMES vs.

MICHAEL SPINKS

Riviera, Las Vegas

September 21, 1985

On September 21, 1955, Rocky Marciano, the unbeaten heavyweight champion, stopped the great light heavyweight champions, Archie Moore, in eight rounds to extend his victory string to 49 fights. Marciano retired early the following year and became the first World Heavyweight Champion to retire undefeated and the 49-0 record set the standard of excellence for heavyweights in boxing history.

Now, exactly 30 years later, Larry Holmes, the mighty heavyweight champion from Easton, Pa., will try to equal Marciano's record, facing the challenge of unbeaten and undisputed world light heavyweight champion, Michael Spinks, the Gold Medalist from St. Louis and Philadelphia, on September 21, 1985, at the Riviera Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. Holmes is, of course, 48-0.

The 15-round battle will be promoted by the newly-formed Dynamic Duo, Inc. — Don King, Chairman of the Board, and Butch Lewis, President — in association with the Riviera Las Vegas. The Home Box Office Cable Network (HBO) will televise the program from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. (E.D.T.)

Holmes is not only seeking to become the second in history to retire as heavyweight champion undefeated, he also wants to surpass the mark of 49-0 set by the legendary Rocky Marciano. It's two to go in Larry's brush with history and the equalizer could be the toughest of them all.

For Spinks, he faces a task never achieved in the history of boxing. Though many have tried since the 1975-pound division was created at the turn of the century, no light

heavyweight champion has ever succeeded in winning the heavyweight crown. Ruby Bob Fitzsimmons was the heavyweight champion briefly but did not become the light heavyweight king until after he was dethroned as the heavyweight champion.

Philadelphia Jack O'Brien fought a 20-round draw with heavyweight ruler Tommy Burns but lost in a subsequent effort.

Great light heavyweight champs like Billy Conn, Tommy Loughran, Bob Foster and, of course, Archie Moore made valiant efforts but as yet nobody has been able to bridge the gap. Spinks' credentials, however, narrow the odds in this age-old battle of the "good little man against the good big man."

The Spinks fight will mark the 21st defense of a world heavyweight title by Holmes.

On June 9th Larry celebrated his seventh year as world champion, second only to Joe Louis. He has proved not only a worthy champion but he has earned the respect of the boxing community.

BOXING

Boxing schedule

Major Fight Schedule (c-denotes defending champion)

- Sept. 17 at Atlantic City, N.J. — Wilford Scypion vs. Dwight "Tiger" Walker, 16, middleweights.
- Sept. 18 at London — Colin Jones vs. Thomas Garcia, 12, welterweights.
- Sept. 18 at Atlantic City, N.J. — John Meekins vs. Joey Farrell, 18, junior welterweights; Henry Tillman vs. Tony McMan, 8, heavyweights; Freddie Guzman vs. Mike Randall, 8, light heavyweights.
- Sept. 18 at Tampa, Fla. — Glenn Wolfe vs. Steve Little, 16, welterweights.
- Sept. 19 at Atlantic City, N.J. — Calvin Grove vs. Paul DeVorco, 16, featherweights.
- Sept. 21 at Las Vegas, Nev. — c-Larry Holmes vs. Michael Spinks, 15, IBF heavyweight title; c-Alfonso Ratliff vs. Bernard Benton, 12, WBC cruiserweights; c-Julio Cesar Chavez vs. Dwight Probst, 12, WBC super featherweight title.
- Sept. 24 at Atlantic City, N.J. — Sam David vs. Ray Minus, Jr., 12, vacant WBC Continental-Americas bantamweight title.
- Sept. 25 at Las Vegas, Nev. — Tommy Corrows vs. Joe Busina, 12, vacant NABF featherweight title.
- Sept. 26 at Irvine, Calif. — Sean Mannion vs. Billy Robertson, 16, middles.
- Sept. 27 at Atlantic City, N.J. — c-Jose Quinones vs. Curtis Parker, 12, WBC Continental-Americas middleweight title.
- Sept. 28 at Belfast, Northern Ireland — c-Barry McGuigan vs. Bernard Taylor, 15, WBA featherweight title.

DYNAMIC DUO Presents

HISTORY

A September to Remember

Larry Holmes goes for his 49th consecutive Heavyweight win to tie Marciano's record set 30 years ago this day!

Michael Spinks goes for the Heavyweight Championship never won by a Light Heavyweight challenger.

WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP
15 ROUNDS

SATURDAY SEPT. 21ST 1985

LARRY HOLMES vs MICHAEL SPINKS

World Heavyweight Champion (48-0, 34 Ko's) Undisputed World Light Heavyweight Champion (27-0, 19 Ko's)

Plus two additional World Title Fights!

Julio Cesar (45-0, 41 Ko's) vs. Dwight (13-6, 7 Ko's)

CHAVEZ JR vs. PRATCHETT

Jr. Lightweight Champ (WBC) NABF Super Featherweight Champion

Alfonzo (20-2, 15 Ko's) vs. Bernard (17-3-1, 9 Ko's)

RATLIFF vs BENTON

Cruiserweight Champ (WBC) Former USBA Champ

Ticket Prices: \$500., \$300., \$200., \$100., \$50. Doors Open 4:00 pm First Fight 5:00 pm

Tickets available through TICKETRON or Call 1-800-634-3420 or (702) 734-5110