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DECEMBER 18, 1986



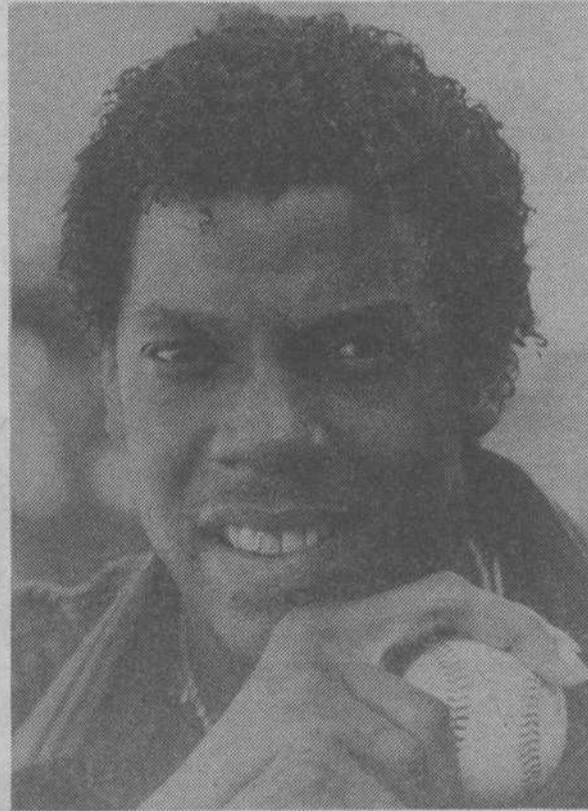
Gooden Claims Cops are Laying for Him in Tampa

TAMPA, Fla.--Dwight Gooden says Tampa police were "laying for me," while an attorney for the New York Mets' pitcher says interviews he's conducted with witnesses indicate police may have used excessive force in restraining Gooden during a fight with officers over the weekend.

"The cops hit me first. It was almost like a setup," Gooden was quoted as saying in today's editions of Newsday. "They were laying for me...it happens a lot with me and the group I hang around with and the cops down here. They put the shackles on me for no reason at all and beat me."

"One guy pulled his gun and shoved the barrel right into my neck."

Attorney Charles Ehrlich said Monday that "witnesses have come forward and provided bits of it. It appears there were



Dwight Gooden

excessive beatings involved."

One witness, Joseph Riley, said he and his two children witnessed the arrest and told the New York Daily News that the children "were crying when they saw what they (the officers) were doing to the man (Gooden)." Riley said Gooden was held by three officers while a fourth, a female officer, rushed across the highway and "struck him in the face with a flashlight."

Newsday quoted one witness, Adrian Siervele, as saying Gooden "was down on the ground and there were a bunch of cops on him, kicking him. I even saw a few knees go into his back."

Police denied the accusations, saying the arresting officers did not act improperly when Gooden, 22, was handcuffed and ankle-cuffed during the scuffle Saturday night.

Tillman in Main on "Fan Appreciation Night" Card Friday, Dec. 26

Olympic gold medalist Henry Tillman of Los Angeles, who has been assured a title shot against World Boxing Association cruiserweight champion Evander Holyfield if he wins, meets Stanley Ross of Philadelphia in the 10-round main event on "Fan Appreciation Night" Friday, Dec. 26, at the Sahara Hotel and Casino.

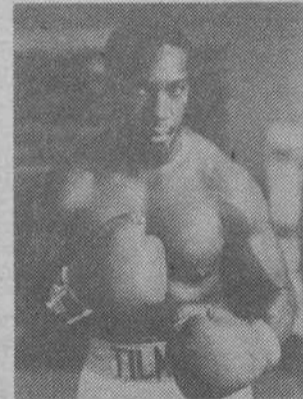
This is the biggest fight of his career for Tillman, ranked No. 6 by the World Boxing Council, International Boxing Federation and WBA. If he beats Ross he's scheduled to face Holyfield on Feb. 14 in Reno.

Tickets for the "Fan Appreciation Night" card remain priced at \$10 for general admission and \$15 for reserved ringside. Tickets are on sale 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the Sahara casino cage.



Joey Belinc

A special Holiday Drawing will be held during the card with the winner receiving two tickets to the Marvellous Marvin Hagler-Sugar Ray Leonard middleweight world championship fight to be held in Las Vegas April. The next four runner-up each will receive two tickets to the closed-circuit telecast of the Hagler-Leonard middleweight title bout.



Henry Tillman

Accompanying the Tillman-Ross main on the monthly ESPN card will be five other bouts, including two eight-rounders featuring fine young prospects: Joe Belinc against Bobby Garcia in a junior welterweight fight and Las Vegas Jeff Franklin against Mark Perea in a junior lightweight clash.

Three other Las Vegas also will be on the card promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank, Inc., in association with the Sahara: junior welterweight Tony Davi and, in separate bouts, lightweights Tim Mosley and Michael Scott.

The card starts at 6 p.m. in the Sahara Space Center. Doors open at 5.



Jeff Franklin

The 26-year-old Tillman has a record of 13-1 with nine knockouts and is coming off three wins in Las Vegas. See FIGHTS, Page 11

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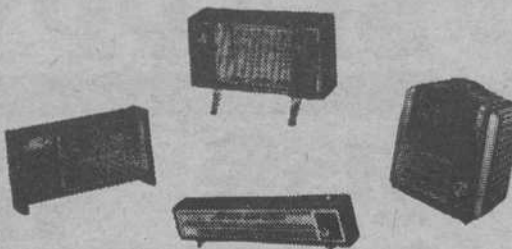
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