

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

JANUARY 29, 1987



## Tyson--"Bonecrusher" Smith Vie for WBC-WBA Heavyweight Titles

World Boxing Council heavyweight champion "Iron" Mike Tyson and his World Boxing Association counterpart James "Bonecrusher" Smith will clash in a title unification bout Saturday, March 7, in a specially constructed outdoor stadium at the Las Vegas Hilton.

The bout, the seventh in the eight-fight unification

series to determine one champion in the heavyweight division, matches the undefeated Tyson against Smith, perhaps the hardest hitting one-punch fighter in the sport.

Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in history when on Nov. 22, 1986, in the Las Vegas Hilton at the age of 20 he stopped former WBC

champ Trevor Berbick in the second round. Smith became the WBA heavyweight king three weeks later on Dec. 12, stopping former champ Tim Witherspoon even quicker, in only the first round.

The WBC-WBA unification bout, promote by Dynamic Duo Inc. and the Las Vegas Hilton, will be held in a 14,600-seat outdoor stadium

located northwest of the resort hotel/casino. This will be the first outdoor boxing card held at the Hilton in its nine-year involvement with the sport.

Tyson, from Catskill, N.Y., has a record of 28-0 with 26 knockouts and solidified his position as the most exciting and impressive performer in boxing with his devastating second-round knockout of Trevor Berbick for the WBC championship. This will be the first defense and third fight at the Hilton for the soft-spoken slugger. Tyson has stopped his past seven opponents and since turning pro in 1985, has halted 16 of his 28 foes in the first round.

Smith, or "Bonecrusher" as he's better known, is an articulate college graduate with a degree in business administration. He also may be the most powerful puncher as well as one of the largest fighters in the sport. At 6-feet-4-inches, he's four-and-one-half inches taller than Tyson and his 82-inch reach is a whopping 11 inches longer than "Iron" Mike's. Smith weighed a lean 227 for his explosive first-round knockout of Witherspoon, but he's been

## Happenings At Doolittle Community Center

### Free Aerobics Classes

Here's your chance to take some inches off your waist, but not your wallet. The Doolittle Community Center will be offering free Aerobics Classes Monday thru Friday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. beginning January 20. For more information, contact Doolittle Center, 1901 N. "J" Street, 386-6374.

### Soccer Clinic

Doolittle Community Center, located at 1901 N. "J" Street will be having a Soccer Clinic for youths 5 to 18 years old. This is a co-ed clinic and everyone can participate. The fee is \$10 and the clinic will be held Feb. 14, 1987 from 8 a.m.-10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Hurry and sign-up now. For more information phone 386-6374.

### Three on Three Basketball

A Three on Three Basketball League for Men, ages 18 and over will begin on February 16 at the City of Las Vegas Doolittle Community Center, 1901 N. "J" Street. Entry fee is \$10 per team. For more information call 386-6374.

### Soccer and Volleyball Fun Day

A Soccer and Volleyball Fun Day will be held each Saturday during the month of February at Doolittle Community Center, 1901 N. "J" Street. The City of Las Vegas sponsored activities will begin with soccer from 10 a.m. to noon, followed by volleyball from noon to 2:00 p.m.; open play basketball will conclude the day from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. For more information call 386-6374.

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effective at more than 240 pounds.

The 31-year-old Smith, who didn't turn pro until 1981, has a record of 19-5 with 14 knockouts. He's won four straight, three by knockout in the first round including world-ranked David Bey on Aug. 23 in

Fayetteville, N.C., near his home of Buies Creek, and former WBA heavyweight champion Mike Weaver on April 5 in Latham, N.Y.

Smith, who graduated from Shaw College in Raleigh, N.C., and then served in the United States Army, challenged Larry Holmes for the International Boxing Federation heavyweight championship on Nov. 9, 1984, in Las Vegas, finally falling in the 12th round.

This will be the sixth world championship fight to be held at the Las Vegas Hilton since December 1985, and the fourth in the heavyweight unification World Series.

Gates to the Las Vegas Hilton Outdoor Stadium open at 4 p.m. (PST) with the first bout starting at 4:30. The Tyson-Smith championship fight is scheduled to start at approximately 7:15.

The card will be televised by Home Box Office (HBO) but will be blacked out in the Las Vegas area unless there is a sellout in advance.

Tickets are available with prices starting at \$75.