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July 23, 1987

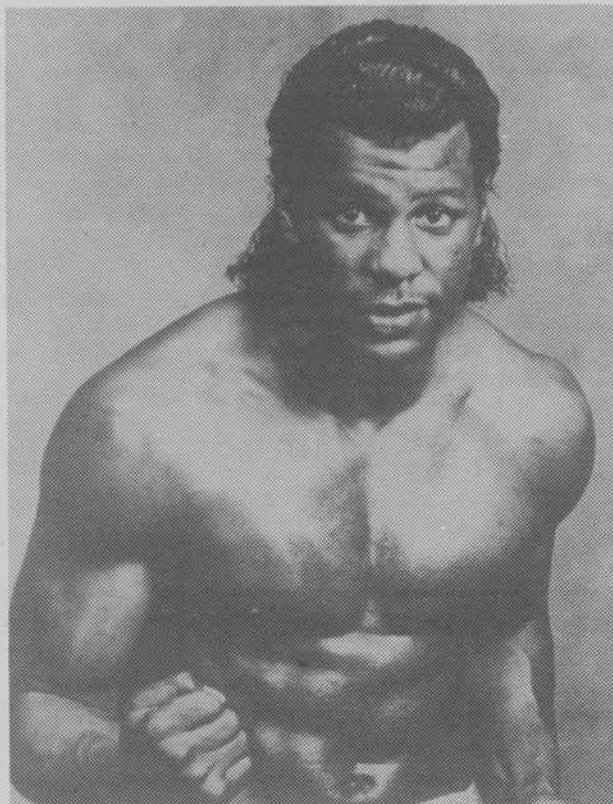


TUCKER FACING LONG ODDS VS. TYSON SATURDAY, AUG. 1, BUT HISTORY DICTATES UPSET

Tony Tucker may be confronting long odds when he faces World Boxing Association and World Boxing Council champion Mike Tyson for the undisputed heavyweight title Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Las Vegas Hilton, but history indicates the International Boxing Federation champ has a good chance to win.

The undefeated Tucker is a 10½-to-1 underdog, the most one-sided odds in the history of heavyweight world championship fights. But in the five title fights which have the next longest odds, the underdog won every time.

In 1935 in New York James Braddock, a 10-to-1 underdog, upset Max Baer. In 1978 at the Las Vegas Hilton Leon Spinks, an 8-to-1 underdog, shocked Muhammad Ali. In 1964 in Miami Cassius Clay, a 7-to-1 underdog, stunned Sonny Liston. In 1986 in Las Vegas Trevor Berbick, a 6½-to-1 underdog, surprised Pinklon Thomas. And also last year in New York James "Bone-crusher" Smith, a 6-to-1



Tony Tucker

underdog, upset Tim Wither-
spoon.

Tyson, who is fighting at the Las Vegas Hilton for the

fifth time, opened as a 7¾-to-1 favorite when the fight was announced in early June, and the number has increased steadily since then. But Tucker has been training hard in Houston and the number should drop when the muscular, 6-foot-5-inch boxer-puncher arrives at the Las Vegas Hilton to begin final preparations.

The 28-year-old Tucker, who has a 10½-inch reach advantage, has a record of 35-0 with 30 knockouts. Tyson, 21, has a record of 30-0 with 27 knockouts. The winner will become the first undisputed world champion in the heavyweight division since Spinks shocked Ali in February 1978 at the Las Vegas Hilton.

The card, promoted by Don King Productions in association with the Las Vegas Hilton, begins at 4 p.m. with doors to the Las Vegas Hilton Center opening at 3:30. The Tyson-Tucker main events is scheduled to begin at approximately 7.

Tickets, priced from \$50,

DON KING TO CROWN UNDISPUTED HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMP — GALA AFTER FIGHT CORONATION PLANNED

Amid an atmosphere of pomp and pageantry — unprecedented in boxing history — promoter extraordinaire Don King has designed a coronation ceremony and celebration to follow the August 1 heavyweight championship unification bout at the Las Vegas Hilton that is sure to rival those usually reserved for the world's monarchs.

with 27 KOs) and his IBF counterpart Tony Tucker (35-0 with 30 KOs), when it's all over — barring a draw, of course — there are two things we will know for sure: the world will recognize its first undisputed heavyweight champion since Leon Spinks who upset Muhammad Ali on February 15, 1978, and the post-fight coronation ceremony planned

Roundtable, will act as host in the presentation of the awards to those who helped make this mission possible. The celebrities will participate by introducing and awarding special trophies to the honorees.

And then, after all attendant introductions, proclamations and presentations — the big moment: Father George H. Clement will proceed with the anointing and blessing. He will then place upon the head of the victor the crown, the tangible sign of his achievement, and the full commemoration of the culmination of the 18-month-long tournament which has been staged by Don King Productions, in association with the Las Vegas Hilton and HBO.

The coronation ceremony will make for magical memories, but the evening celebration does not end there. Following the ceremony, there will be musical performances by such stars as Melba Moore, Freddie Jackson, Reverend Al Green and Billy Preston (directing the Billy Preston Band) to highlight the ongoing revelry.

There will be a large group of participating illuminaries including the Presidents of all three world boxing ruling bodies: Bob Lee (IBF), Gilberto Mendoza (WBA), and Jose Sulaiman (WBC), many celebrities and a number of "surprise" guests as well.



Don King

No matter who wins the fight between WBA-WBC champion Mike Tyson (30-0



are on sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week at the Hilton Special Events Ticket Office in the Las Vegas Hilton Race and Sports SuperBook and can be reserved by calling (702) 732-5320 or 1-800-222-5361 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.

The Tyson-Tucker bout is the culmination of the 18-month tournament designed to determine one heavyweight world champion and also is the 10th world title fight held at the Las Vegas Hilton since December 1985, more than at any site in the world during this 20-month period.

by King will be a spectacle ... fit for a king.

The Las Vegas Hilton Pavillion will be fully decked out with flags from all nations of the world which the new champion will represent. There will be a king-sized throne at center stage. The royal procession spotlighting officials and celebrities — the beginning of which will be signalled by a group of heralding trumpeters — will embark along a trail of red carpet. At the head of the procession the audience will be able to view the \$250,000 chinchilla royal robe (courtesy of Lenobel Furriers of Las Vegas), and a jeweled scepter (from Felix the Jeweler of Las Vegas).

Once assembled on stage, Don King, Knight of the

Milton "Soul Joe" Miller
Owner, Soul Auto Body & Paint Shop

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