

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

April 7, 1988



SPORTLIGHT

By R.L. Greene

EVANDER HOLYFIELD TO FACE CARLOS DeLEON IN CRUISERWEIGHT UNIFICATION BATTLE

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla.—She was 6 years old when the Chicago Parks Department's summer program offered tennis instructions. For Katrina Adams, it was love at first sight.

"There was no other sport for me," Katrina says now. "The only sport I was interested in after that was tennis. I just kept going."

Both of her parents are with the Chicago Board of Education, while her two brothers, both older, also have college degrees, one being graduated from Southern University and the other from the Ray Vogue College of Design in Chicago. None of the four play tennis.

Katrina received an athletic scholarship to Northwestern University where she majored in communications and was ranked in the top 10 by the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches' Association. In 1986, she won the Rolex/ITCA college tournament crown, and last year she teamed up with Northwestern's Diane Donnolly to win the national women's doubles title. She earned All-American honors in 1986.

But in January she decided to leave school and become a professional, making the move at the Australian Open.

"There is no comparison with being a pro and being an amateur," Katrina said during the Lipton International Players Championships at Key Biscayne. "In college, there really is no pressure on you."

The powerfully built right-hander with the two-handed backhand found out quickly about the pro game. She lost her first-round singles match at the Australian Open, but did earn \$1,300 for being in the 128-player field.

Then came Auckland, New Zealand, and another first-round loss.

"You've got to be on your toes every match," Katrina said about being a professional tennis player.

She was on her toes in her next tournament, in Wellington, New Zealand, defeating

ing Angeliki Kanellopoulou of Greece, American Jamie Golder, Elizabeth Minter of Australia and Americans Terry Phelps and Patty Fendick before losing to Jill Hetherington of Canada in the final. Her first professional tournament final appearance was worth \$4,000, half what the winner took home.

Then came two more first-round losses in singles before she finally advanced to the second round at Key Biscayne, defeating American Lea Antonopolis. But she lost in the second round to Sabrina Goles of Yugoslavia.

In college, she starred in doubles. And her professional career is beginning the same way.

Even before she turned pro, her only tournament titles on the satellite tour came in doubles, capturing two tournament crowns in 1986 and three more in 1987. She was a singles finalist once in 1987.

Her biggest payday to date came in the Virginia Slims of Florida, which was played in Boca Raton the middle of March. She teamed with Zina Garrison, the highest-ranking Black woman player in the world, to win the doubles, upsetting the No. 1 seeded duo of Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany and Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 4-6, 7-5, 6-4. The winners shared \$18,000.

At Key Biscayne, she played doubles with Penny Barg, reaching the third round before being ousted.

"I will play doubles with Penny for the next few tournaments, then play with Zina," said Katrina, who is now being coached by Willis Thomas, also Garrison's coach.

Katrina's rise in tennis has not gone unnoticed. For the last two years she has been a member of the United States Tennis Association's Junior Federation Cup team.

"They (the USTA) gave us an opportunity to play the circuit and not worry about expenses," she said.

In 1985, the big serve-and-volley player also was a

Ring Magazine's 1987 Fighter of the Year, World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation cruiserweight champion Evander Holyfield takes on World Boxing Council 195-pound champ Carlos "Sugar" DeLeon in a battle for cruiserweight supremacy on Saturday evening, April 9, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

The fight is being promoted by Main Events/Monitor Productions and Don King Productions, in association with Caesars Palace and is set for broadcast on SHOWTIME cable television network.

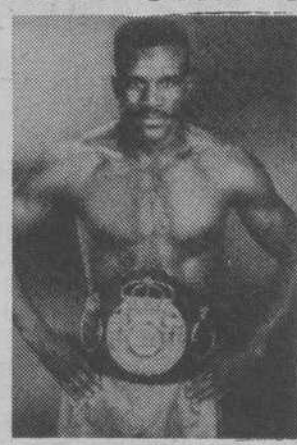
For Holyfield, the April 9 bout is a first step in an ambitious 1988 schedule, which he hopes will lead to a 1989 meeting with undisputed heavyweight champion Mike Tyson.

The 25-year-old Alabama native is unbeaten with 17

member of the USTA's Junior Wightman Cup team.

Katrina wasn't ranked on the Women's International Tennis Association computer at the end of 1985. But she was 383rd in the world in 1986 and ranked 158th in the world by the end of 1987.

But battling her way to the final at Boca Raton, Fla., Katrina moved up to 123rd in the world, giving her direct entry into the world's major tournaments like Wim-



Evander Holyfield

wins and 13 knockouts, since turning pro after the 1984 Olympics. There, he had to settle for a bronze medal after a referee awarded the decision to his opponent in a semi-final round on a controversial call.

Whatever doubts fight fans may have had about Holyfield then have been quickly put to rest. In only his 12th professional fight, he decided heavily favored two-time world champion Dwight Muhammad Qawi to win the

WBA junior heavyweight championship. Last May, at Caesars Palace, he won the vacant IBF cruiserweight crown when the referee stopped his bout with Rickey Parkey in the third. He will fight DeLeon at the WBC-cruiserweight limit of 195 pounds, making the April 9 confrontation his first move up in weight.

In DeLeon, Holyfield faces a determined champion who has proven his ability to get off the floor to win.

RUNNIN' REBEL STATISTICS

1987-88 PLAYER-BY-PLAYER SEASON HIGHS 34 GAMES—FINAL

PLAYER	MOST POINTS	MOST REBOUNDS	MOST ASSISTS
Augmon	*21, Providence	*14, Pacific (A)	*10, Providence
Basnight	*25, Tennessee Tech	*15, Providence	*5, SJS (A)
Bice	*7, Hawaii-Loa (A1)	*3, UC Irvine (H)	*3, Hawaii-Loa (A2)
Cvijanovich	*11, Hawaii-Loa (A2)	*5, UC Irvine (H)	4, Creighton/UCI (H)
Karl James	*26, UC Irvine (A)	*7, LBSU (A)	*8, Wisconsin
Keith James	*23, FSU (H)	*11, LSU	*7, (three times)
Jeter	*2, (five times)	*5, Pacific (H)	*1, twice
Paddio	*34, Iowa	*11, UHLoa(A1)/TennTec	*5, (six times)
Robinson	*10, SW Missouri	*11, Pacific (H&A)	*3, Hawaii-Hilo
Rossum	*18, NMSU (A)	*6, (four times)	*7, Fresno State (H)
Smith	*2, UHLoa(A2)/UCI(H)	*3, Creighton	*1, (seven times)
Todd	*15, Pacific (A)	*10, UC Irvine (H)	*4, Pacific (A)
Willard	2, Utah State (H)	3, NMSU (H), Iowa	0, six times

bledon, the French Open, the U.S. Open, the Australian Open and the Lipton International Players Championships.

And her star, like her ranking, is rapidly rising. Katrina Adams is another young Black athlete making her mark in professional tennis.

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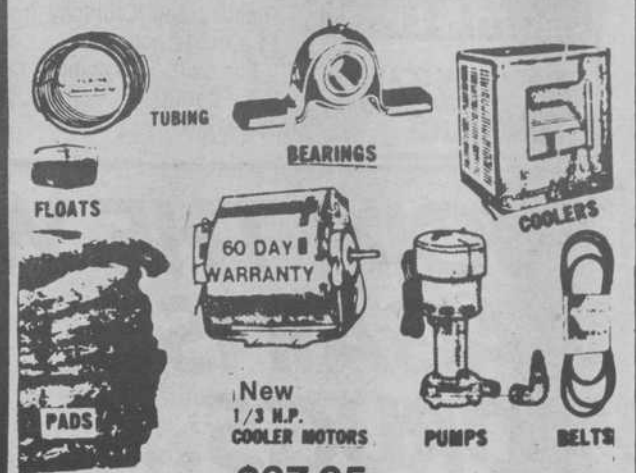
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