

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

July 6, 1989

Oh, No!! Not Again...

Leonard vs Hearn No. 3 At Caesars Palace Nov. 2(?)

By Michael Katz
Knight-Ridder News Service

Sugar Ray Leonard finally got the word to Thomas Hearn: "Let's do it one more time."

Hearn's manager, Emanuel Steward, said OK, but it had better be the last time for both faded great fighters.

"The last one they called 'The War,' this one better be 'The Final War' for both of them," Steward said Saturday. "I want to see both of them retire after this one. The rhythm and the two styles make them like Ali and Frazier, and that means fights that take a lot out of both of them."

The war to end all wars, penciled in by promoter Bob Arum for Nov. 2 at Caesars Palace, was given the go-ahead by Leonard on "The Arsenio Hall Show" on Friday night.

Asking the TV cameras to focus on his face, Leonard

said, "Tommy, OK, because of the controversy, let's do it one more time."

In a rematch June 12 of their classic 1981 welterweight battle (won by Leonard in the 14th round), the 3-1 underdog Hearn knocked down his old nemesis twice, but was given only a draw by the officials.

Leonard said immediately after the June 12 fight he would have to judge for himself whether he just had a bad night or, at the age of 33, was ripe for retirement.

Steward immediately predicted:

"Ray will have to fight Tommy again or be as haunted as Tommy was after the first one."

Mike Trainer, Leonard's lawyer, said earlier last week that the decision to fight again would have to be based on whether Leonard could get juiced up.

He said Leonard's poor performance was based far more on mental than physical problems.

Steward said, "I knew he had to fight Tommy. The man could never lie with himself, with other people telling him he ain't nothing or that Tommy kicked his butt."

Leonard said on the talk show:

"The guy who fought Tommy Hearn in Las Vegas was not me. I saw Tommy Hearn. I didn't see Sugar Ray Leonard. It was a good fight for Tommy, but again, I want to do it again."

Arum said Leonard-Hearn III would be even bigger than II, which netted \$30 million from about a \$60 million gross -- of which about \$14 million went to Leonard, \$12 million to Hearn, \$1.5 million to expenses and \$2.5 million to Arum's Top Rank company.

Torres Believes Tyson's Psyche Has Suffered 'Dangerous' Wounds That Could Bring An End To His Boxing Career

"Champions come and go," commented former light-heavyweight champion Jose Torres, who believes that the emotional turmoil experienced recently by heavyweight champion Mike Tyson has left "dangerous" wounds that could mean the end of his career.

"I'm not saying you should quit, Mike, not by any means," Torres wrote in an open letter to Tyson, which will be published this Sunday in Parade magazine. "But you've got to guard against those small wounds."

Torres, who has known Tyson since he was 12 years old, asserted, "I believe the ballyhoo surrounding your betrothal to Robin Givens, the marriage and the divorce, your troubles with and break from the people who helped you from the start, and your new relationship with Don King, the promoter, have all left small wounds in your

psyche. And those wounds are dangerous."

Emphasizing that Tyson should concentrate on his craft and not let himself be controlled by his promoter, Torres advised him to get a good lawyer. "Let King be your promoter," he declared, "and you stick to boxing, but get a lawyer to make sure you don't get taken."

Torres, who recently released a book about the champion created a sensation, said it has become difficult for the two to speak. "I wish we could sit down somewhere and have some lunch and talk about the past and, especially, the future...I know you're smart enough to get back on the track, and I believe you will."

GOLF PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Nevada Technology Center is holding its first Annual Triple Shotgun, Four Person Scramble Golf Tournament at the Tropicana Golf Course on Sunday, July 9, 1989. The Nevada Technology Center provides computer training and technology assistance to children and adults with disabilities. The Center helps individuals become more independent and obtain meaningful employment. All proceeds directly benefit children and adults with disabilities. Call the Center at 382-3358 for sign up.

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ALTHEA CELEBRATES! Former Wimbledon and U.S. Open Tennis champion Althea Gibson celebrates the return of the National Paddle Tennis Championship to New York City. With Ms. Gibson are Lou Belcher, supervisor, pro sports marketing, Miller Brewing Company, sponsor of the tournament, left, and Steve Farhood, co-director of the tournament, center. Ms. Gibson's tennis career was launched when she was discovered playing paddle tennis in Harlem more than 30 years ago. The Miller Lite National Paddle Tennis Championship was recently held at the Stuyvesant Town courts.

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