

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERAČING

July 27, 1989



TENNIS, ANYONE?

by James Pyles

Michael James

**Green Valley Athletic Club
Director of Tennis**

Tennis started for me in the eighth grade. I wandered across the game by accident. I was leaving basketball practice, when I saw some of the kids playing with racquets on the outside basketball court. My love for the game started there.

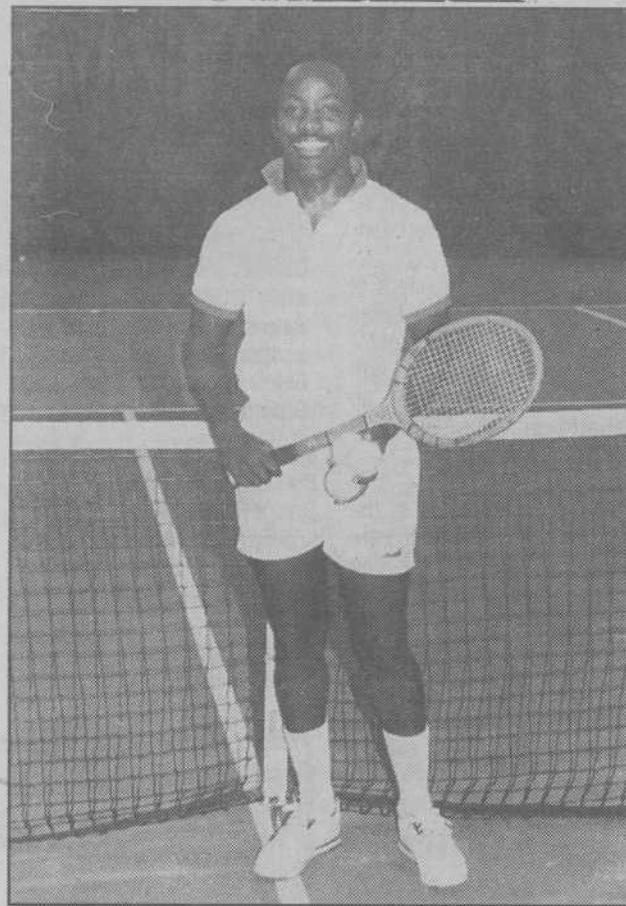
I later signed up for the team when I soon became the number one player. I lost more than 50 percent of my matches, but with every match I would pick up some new techniques from my opponent.

That summer I played for the YMCA's first time ever tennis team. Being the player with the most experience, I became coach. We went undefeated that summer, but were denied the chance to play in the league tournament. We were told it was an oversight that we weren't notified.

The next year the integration took place and we now had to play with the whites, who called us names. At this new school, there wasn't a tennis coach. We practiced on our own after school. There wasn't really a team and no matches to play.

My next three years, I went to Lanier High in Montgomery, Alabama, a white school known for tennis. It was during these years that I had a chance to play real tennis players, kids who had had tennis lessons. I was team captain for two of the three years and this experience, working together with young white people, dissolved the built-in hatred we had learned.

I played my first collegiate year at a black institution, Alabama State University in Montgomery before transferring to Auburn University, where I completed my collegiate play. After my first year at college, I met a young black man, Henry Cobbs, who is responsible for where my tennis is today. He offered financial and moral support and with his assistance, I traveled to Florida where I experienced tournament com-



Michael James

petition on a regular basis. I returned to Montgomery, where I became the first college and black player to win the city championship. I won it for four consecutive years.

At Henry's insistence, I came to Las Vegas to try my hand at playing the Alan King, which I did twice. I won several money tournaments throughout California and dominated tennis in Las Vegas from 1982 until 1987 when I stopped competing.

In conclusion, I had to end my dream of being a world class player because of financial reasons. I have been fortunate to meet good people who helped me stay close to my dream, such as the Mushkin and Singer families, who gave me my first teaching Pro position at the Cambridge Racquet Club, where I was Pro for several years. Many thanks to George McCall at the Sands, who has always supported me in my endeavors and to the community at the Green Valley Athletic Club, where I am presently the director of tennis.

Leonard-Hearns III on hold....

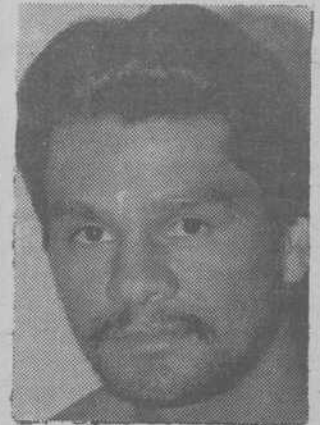
IT'S LEONARD-DURAN III

NEW YORK — A third fight between Roberto Duran and Sugar Ray Leonard, who last met nine years ago, will be announced formally at a news conference this week.

The match reportedly will be held Nov. 2 if it is in Las Vegas, and Nov. 30 if it is in Atlantic City, N.J.

Speculation had been that Leonard's next fight would be against Thomas Hearns, who fought a 12-round draw with Leonard in their long-awaited rematch June 12 at Las Vegas. In their first fight, Leonard stopped Hearns in the 14th round for the undisputed welterweight title Sept. 16, 1981, in Las Vegas.

Duran, 38, and Leonard, 33, twice met for the World Boxing Council welterweight title in 1980. Duran won the title from Leonard on a 15 round unanimous decision June 20 at Montreal. Then Leonard regained the title in the famous "No Mas" fight



Alberto Duran

Nov. 25, when Duran quit in the eighth round in New Orleans.

Leonard will go into the third fight as the WBC super middleweight champion, the fifth title he has held. Duran became a four-time champion when he won the WBC middleweight title on a 12 round split decision over Iran Barkley Feb. 24 in Atlantic City.

Professional Athletes, All Former Addicts, Urge Youngsters To Avoid Drugs

Those Surveyed Agree It's Not Enough To Just Say 'No'; Emphasize Excessive Cost To Both Health And Financial Status

Numerous professional athletes, who were formerly addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, have appealed to the nation's youth to avoid drugs at all cost, warning that to "just say no" is not enough.

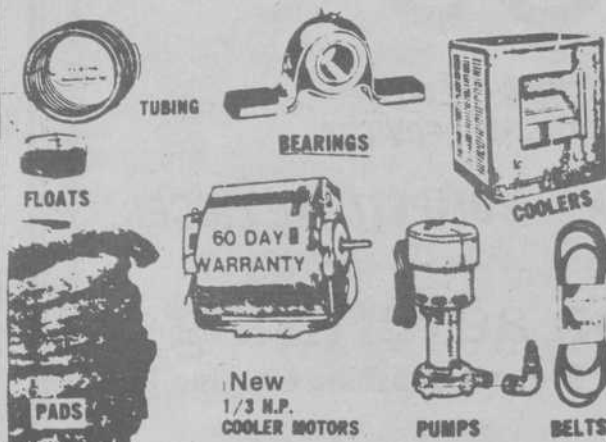
Society has to get rid of its "pill mentality" and its reliance on drugs, according to the athletes, who participated in an informal sur-

vey to be published this Sunday in PARADE magazine. They also agreed that education concerning drug abuse has to begin in kindergarten or before.

"Getting into drugs is a hell of a lot easier -- a way lot easier -- than getting out of them," declared professional basketball star

See ATHLETES, Page

BEAT THE HEAT...BEAT HIGH PRICES!



New 1/3 H.P. COOLER MOTORS

\$37.95

PHIL'S SALVAGE BUILDERS EMPORIUM
1131 So. Main . . . 382-7528

We Can't Spell SUCCESS Without U

Ultimate Pest Control Work Guaranteed

Office Hours 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri

NEW YORK STYLE PEST CONTROL
(Put your pest to rest)

Zyra & Robert Thomas Owners & Operators 649-6868

3424-C E. Lake Mead N. Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

Lic. 2340

WALLY'S Repair-It-Shop

LAWNMOWERS APPLIANCES

Prompt Professional Service

Call 642-8047

300-B EAST LAKE MEAD • N. LAS VEGAS, NV 89030
Wally Walker - Owner