

## Johnny Tapia Retains USBA Superflyweight Championship with TKO Over Jose Montiel

By Bob Rodgers

Johnny Tapia (19-0-1, 12 KO's), fighting at Bally's, had to use some of the old tricks of the trade to retain his USBA Superflyweight Championship.

He fought aggressively for the entire fight, which ended in a 9th round TKO, while keeping his challenger Jose Montiel on the run.

The hard-punching Tapia is still hoping for a fight against Michael Carbajal, and he is trying to show Top Rank that he is ready and deserves a chance.

In other bouts: Vincent "Cool" Phillips

(15-0) showed a lot of confidence in winning his last fight. The bout lasted 6 rounds and it is rumored that Phillips may become a main eventer in September.

"Fast" Eddie Cook (7-0), known for his quick knockouts, had to fight a little longer than usual in his bout with John Ramirez, but it was over by the beginning of the 3rd.

Kelcie Banks (13-1) easily disposed of Juan Nunez (15-6).

Robert Wangila (12-1) became a TKO victim of Erie Hernandez (14-3). It was Wangila's first loss.



Johnny Tapia

## Mo-Soul Beats Top 3 Teams To Win Doolittle Tournament

By Bob Rodgers

The Doolittle Recreation Center 6'-2" and Under Summer League came to a close with a sleeper winning the playoff tournament.

Mo-Soul (11-11 for the season), beat the Runnin' Smurfs (15-7), the Destroyers (18-4), and the Dog Catchers (18-4), to take the championship.

With the all around play and 13 pts. from MVP, Mike Slocum and teammates Willie Smith (17 pts.), C. McFarland (11 pts.), Greg Joley

(6 pts.), R. Watson and R. Cobb, Mo-Soul took control from the half to the finish, while the Dog Catchers could only get within 3 pts.

The final score was 55-48. League directors Elgin Williams and Phillip Thompson named the All Tournament team, which was led by MVP Mike Slocum, Willie Smith, Wayne Richey, Versa Anderson, Henry Thorns, Bradley Butler, Mike Fleming, LaMax Dragons, Karl James and Willie Edwards.

## Court Case Helped Hype Fight

NEW YORK — For two ugly weeks, boxing's dirty laundry filled a federal courtroom; promoters discussing their lies, lawyers flinging charges and countercharges, the heavyweight champion of the world reduced to mere verbal sparring.

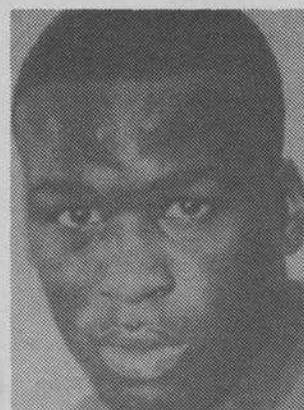
When it ended this week with a negotiated peace, Las Vegas hotel-casino owner Steve Wynn stepped into the sunshine of a downtown sidewalk and proclaimed the whole exercise beneficial to business.

"I hope so, I hope so," Wynn replied when asked if the legal shenanigans would help hype the upcoming Buster Douglas-Evander Holyfield fight, which may itself visit the courtroom before it reaches the ring.

This will be the biggest betting fight since Hagler-Leonard," said Wynn, cutting quickly to the one thing that turns boxing's bitterest enemies into fast friends: money.

As Don King, an expert on boxing's scheming and scamming, has said again and again and again, "Only in America."

Buster hates Don. Buster's manager hates Don. Don is afraid of Steve. Buster thinks Don's a liar. Don thinks Buster's breaking a contract. Which means, of course, that all four are now partners in



James "Buster" Douglas

promoting Buster's next fight after Holyfield.

Wynn's elation was over an agreement which could pit Douglas against Holyfield on Oct. 25 in the first heavyweight title fight since Feb. 10 - eight months of lawyers instead of lefts, juries instead of jabs.

Douglas has spent more time on the witness stand - 40 minutes - than he has in the ring - none - since his upset knockout of Mike Tyson.

It's a horrible shame that Buster Douglas' reign is characterized by repeated lawsuits," said the likely target of the next one, Kathy Duva of Main Event-Monitor Promotions. "This whole thing has been a sin."

Duva's company handles Holyfield, and they intend to hold Douglas to a Sept. 21 fight date which both sides

## Tark Blames Story for Players' Indecision

Coach Jerry Tarkanian — was the reason two top

said Tuesday that a Los Angeles Times story alleging major violations within the UNLV basketball program — high school prospects were wavering in their decision to honor oral commitments to the school.



## All-Star Memories

The recent All-Star game brought back a lot of memories about how great it was to be part of an All-Star team.

Every now and then a player not selected will claim that he would rather have the day off. He's not fooling anyone. I played in 23 All-Star games, and the last one was as much of a thrill as the first one.

I really got a kick out of meeting the other players, and getting the opportunity to play against the stars from the other league—in my case, the American League. Except for a few spring training games, players never get to see the stars of the other league in person. I always enjoyed the chance to meet and observe the American-League All-Stars. It's just a tremendous honor for any player, no matter how many times he's chosen.

Some people think the All-Star game is just a popularity contest, but I think it's more than that, especially in recent years. There was a time when perhaps you had more of the main players, even if they weren't having the best season. In fact, I remember when Cincinnati stuffed the ballot boxes, and the commissioner had to intervene, putting Willie Mays and myself on the team.

But I think recently that it's the player having a great season that gets chosen. For example, you have somebody like Greg Olson from the Atlanta Braves who was a free agent back in November make the All-Star team. He's having a decent season and because of that he was chosen, even though he's not as well-known as many other players.

I think it's been handled pretty fairly overall. Years ago, the players controlled the vote. I believe the fans are doing as good or better a job with their ballots. After all, the All-Star game is a fan's game, and it makes sense for them to make the selections.

Of course, the managers select the pitchers and backups, and they can run into some serious trouble with that. No matter who they pick, they're going to have to leave somebody off. You've got many players having great seasons, but people have to remember that the All-Star game is basically the same as a regular-season game. The managers have to keep this in mind when making their selections. They pick starting pitchers, but they also have to include short relievers. You can't put all starters on a team.

I think the system works, and most of the guys who deserve to play get chosen. And whether it's once or many times, it's always a great feeling to be recognized for playing good ball.

One personal memory that stands out happened way back in 1955 when I was playing for the Milwaukee Braves. We had rallied to tie the game 5 to 5 and sent it into extra innings. Mickey Mantle had hit a home run for the American League. I'll never forget Stan Musial hitting a homer in the 12th inning to win the game for the National League. I was just a substitute for that game, but watching Musial hit that home run was almost as exciting as playing myself. lol

Hank Aaron is the top home-run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank is senior vice president of the Atlanta Braves. ©1990, PM Editorial Services

agreed to before the Douglas-King legal battle. Only a court order will change their minds, she said.

This follows the U.S. District Court Trial in a suit brought by King against Douglas. Lowlights of the case included:

— King's description of the heavyweight champion as a hot dog and beer fighter: "When he came on, people went to the refreshment stand."

— King and fellow promoter Bob Arum's bizarre excuses for their mendacious behavior. According to Don, "I wouldn't call it lying. That's just my style."

— Arum boasted that his description of WBC President

Jose Sulaiman and WBA President Gilberto Mendoza as "two little Noriegas" was "one of my better lines."

— Arum also told the jury what constituted peace in the boxing world: just a single lawsuit pending between himself and King.

Things were so strange in the courtroom that U.S. District Court Judge Robert W. Sweet, who presided over the trial, told attorneys for both sides, "I wouldn't want to be a juror in this case for anything."

But all the problems were worked out, as they always are, so that everybody can make a buck. Forgive and forget — until next time.

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