

SENTINEL SPORTS

Lennox Lewis: Morrison Bout Not Among Toughest

NEW YORK - Lennox Lewis is dismissing Tommy Morrison as a significant threat, but not the importance of their heavyweight fight this Saturday.

"I don't think that this is going to be one of my toughest fights," Lewis said at a news conference to promote their scheduled 12-round fight at the Atlantic City Convention Center. "It's just another fight that I need to win to get back my heavyweight title."

Lewis lost his World Boxing Council crown 12 months ago when he was stopped in the

second round by American Oliver McCall. The defeat was the first suffered by the Briton in 28 professional fights.

Lewis feels that a victory over the 45-2-1 Morrison, former holder of the lightly-regarded World Boxing Organization title, should set him up for a showdown with compatriot Frank Bruno.

Bruno outpointed McCall last month to claim the WBC title that Lewis was awarded when Riddick Bowe dumped his belt into a London trash bin rather

than fight the organization's designated opponent.

"I definitely want to get in the ring with Frank Bruno, if he's man enough," Lewis said Monday.

Both Lewis and Morrison pack a powerful punch. Lewis has gone the distance just four times in his 27 wins. Morrison has finished 39 of his 45 wins early.

But Lewis is not loading up for a one-punch knockout win against the American.

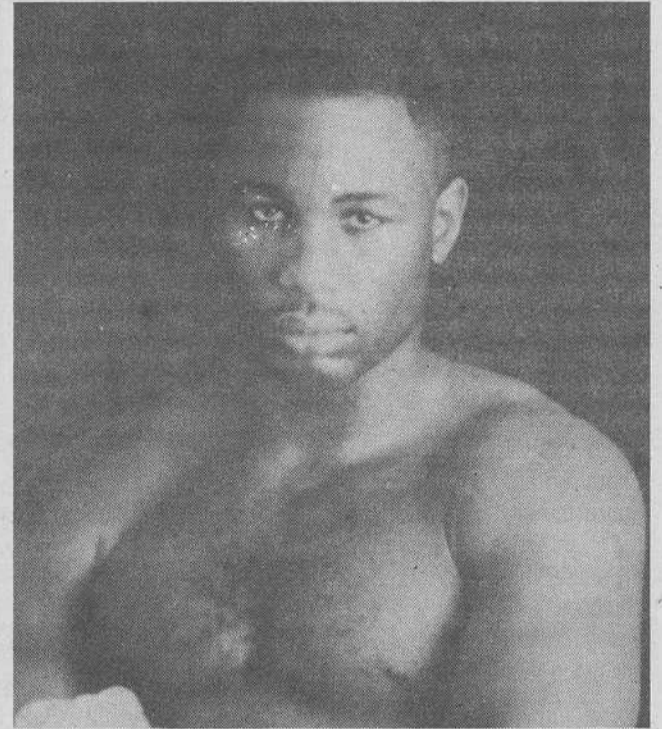
"Everybody here is talking

about bombs, but I believe I have an whole arsenal," Lewis said. "I have all of these weapons, but if one of them doesn't work, then I just go to another."

Lewis says the teachings of veteran trainer Emanuel Steward has been instrumental in adding diversity to his technique.

"It's amazing how much I've learned being with Emanuel," he said.

"This is my third fight with him and I really feel like at this stage all of my abilities are going to shine through."



Lennox Lewis

Bulls Acquire Dennis Rodman From Spurs

The Chicago Bulls today acquired controversial power forward Dennis Rodman, the N-B-A rebounding champion each of the last four years, from the San Antonio Spurs in exchange for reserve center Will Perdue and other considerations.

The acquisition of Rodman, the league's premier rebounder, makes the Bulls the likely Eastern Conference co-favorite with the Orlando Magic. Rodman joins a Bulls team that features All-Stars Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen and fills Chicago's glaring need for a rebounding forward since the departure of Horace Grant.

"He's the best rebounder in this league," Chicago general manager Jerry Krause said. "We certainly had a weakness in our rebounding situation last year. We think he's going to be an outstanding addition to our basketball team. We spent 36

hours with Dennis this weekend. Dennis was in Chicago. We had a lot of conversations with him, we felt good about those conversations."

Along with establishing himself as the league's premier rebounder, Rodman has been named to the N-B-A's All-Defensive Team six times. But the 34-year-old Rodman is probably better known for his ever-changing hair color, his tattoos and his offbeat behavior.

The 6-8, 210-pound Rodman spent a tumultuous two seasons with the Spurs in which he had been suspended numerous times by head coach Bob Hill for missing practices and "conduct detrimental to the team." He averaged 16.8 rebounds and 7.1 points in 49 games for the Spurs last year.

"The Spurs won games before Dennis Rodman came here and we'll win games after

Dennis Rodman, I think our fans know that," said Spurs general manager Gregg Popovich. "Dennis is not the point here. The team is the point."

The last straw for Rodman in San Antonio may have come when he lashed out at team management and teammates in a recent interview with E-S-P-N Radio. Rodman voiced strong opinions about how the Spurs have "not taken care of him for the past two seasons" and also attacked teammate and league Most Valuable Player David Robinson.

"Can David Robinson say 'I deserve eight million (dollars), nine million for not winning the championship,'" said Rodman in the interview. "Is he a good citizen? Yes. Is he a good player? Yes. Can he win the championship? No." "He let my team down. He won M-V-P. If you win it, you have to bust your

ass in the postseason to prove it. I do the dirty work, I take all the flak and take attention away from the team."

Rodman, who was a member of the Detroit Pistons back-to-back championship teams in 1989 and 1990, had also indicated to the Spurs that he wanted his contract renegotiated and was willing to hold out of training camp for a new deal. Rodman claimed that the previous management of the Spurs — current Philadelphia 76ers coach John Lucas and former general manager Bill Bass — were going to renegotiate his contract.

"I'm not respected. I've been lied to two years in a row. Bill Bass and John Lucas were fired and they (new management) said if I came back and played well they would take care of me. I'm being ... screwed around again."

The Bulls today renounced the contracts of Pete Myers and forward Larry Krystkowiak in order to make room under the salary cap for Rodman.

Taiwan To Rule On Magic Johnson

TAIPEI - Taiwan's health authorities are deciding whether to allow basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson onto the island.

Johnson retired in 1991 after contracting HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, although he later returned to basketball.

The American has been invited by an insurance company in Taiwan to take part in two special games at the end of the month. But Taiwan has a law requiring HIV-positive foreigners to leave the country.

"We are studying very carefully Magic Johnson's case from the basis of related regulations," an official at the cabinet's Department of Health said by telephone.

"So far, we have not made any decision," he added.

After his retirement in 1991,

Johnson returned to play in the 1992 NBA All-Star Game and the 1992 Barcelona Olympics as a member of the U.S. "Dream Team" which won the gold medal.

Johnson, now 36, announced his intention to return to the NBA prior to the 1992-93 season but changed his mind when several prominent players expressed reservations about sharing the court with an HIV-positive player.

In July this year, Johnson was reported to be considering making a comeback with the Los Angeles Lakers, who he led to five NBA championships. Johnson is the team's vice-president and part owner.

But two weeks later he said he had realized his future was "in business and not playing in the NBA."

Ivan Neal has put out

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firefighter—

he's a teacher. But to the

kids he's reached, he's a hero.

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National Sports Briefs

Home run champ Albert Belle's bat found to be clean

Cleveland slugger Albert Belle was cleared of any wrongdoing after his bat was confiscated Tuesday night following a game-tying 11th-inning homer during the Indians' 5-4 playoff win over the Boston Red Sox.

American League officials reported that Belle's bat was found to be free of illegal substances or cork.

"It's just a desperate effort to try to throw a monkey wrench into our season," Belle said.

"It's a big mental advantage for us if every time we play someone and they are worried about my bat. You hit 50 home runs and they think you are using

a corked bat, so more power to us."

Auburn, Miss. State postponed to hurricane threat

Auburn University today postponed its scheduled college football game with Mississippi State Thursday night due to Hurricane Opal.

The game has been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday at 2 p.m. EDT. The game was postponed due to the high probability of extreme weather in the Auburn area.

"Certainly, the safety of our players, coaches and fans is our primary concern," said Auburn Athletic Director David Housel. "It was a simple decision based on the information we had in hand."

Marshall Faulk, Terry Allen named NFL Players of Week

Running backs Marshall Faulk of the Indianapolis Colts and Terry Allen of the Washington Redskins today were named National Football League Players of the Week.

Faulk was named American Conference Offensive Player of the Week and Allen took Offensive Player honors in the National Conference.

Chris Doleman of the Atlanta Falcons and Darren Carrington of the Jacksonville Jaguars were named Defensive Players of the Week and Louis Aguiar of the Kansas City Chiefs and Gary Anderson of the Philadelphia Eagles were chosen as Special Teams Players of the Week.