

S P O R T S

Bowe begins training for big comeback

SHAWNEE, Okla. (AP)—Riddick Bowe doesn't know for sure who he'll be fighting in two weeks. Still, he's ready to get going.

Bowe, the former undisputed heavyweight champion, began training in Oklahoma on Friday for his first fight after a seven-year retirement.

Bowe is scheduled to fight Marcus Rhode on Sept. 25 at FireLake Casino. Fight organizers have gone through at least four other potential opponents since Bowe announced his comeback last month.

Bowe (40-1, 32 KOs) plans to fight 15 times over the next 18 months in preparation for a run at the heavyweight title. It doesn't matter to him that his opponent is still a mystery.

"A fighter's a fighter whether he's Mike Tyson or Joe Blow," Bowe said. "You've still got to prepare the same way."

Trainer Janks Morton said the identity and style of Bowe's opponent won't matter until he gets to the championship level.

"You just concentrate on what Riddick Bowe has to

do," Morton said. "It's not about what the opponent's going to do to Riddick. It's what Riddick's going to do to the opponent."

Bowe, who has been spending the equivalent of 20 to 25 rounds training in the ring each day, ran about three miles Friday morning at Oklahoma Baptist University, Morton said.

Right now, Bowe is between 265 and 268 pounds, Morton said. The heaviest Bowe fought at was 252 pounds in December 1996 against Andrew Golota. Bowe was losing that fight when Golota was disqualified for low blows.

"The weight doesn't bother him at this point in his career," Morton said. "What you have to remember is Riddick Bowe has good charisma and good movement and he's probably the best jabber boxing's had since Larry Holmes."

Bowe said he was excited to get back in the ring and even challenged Lennox Lewis to come out of retirement to fight him. Lewis beat Bowe to win the gold medal in the 1988 Olympics. Bowe later lost the WBC title be-

cause he didn't fight Lewis.

However, Bowe also said he didn't want to rush into fighting top-level boxers too quickly as some other retired boxers had done.

"In my mind, I'm thinking about longevity," Bowe said. "When I get the title, I want to hold onto it until I retire."

Some have expressed concern about Bowe's health af-

ter attorneys used brain damage as a defense for Bowe in a trial on charges related to his abduction of his first wife and their five children. Bowe, who eventually pleaded guilty to interstate domestic violence, has said his lawyers made up the brain damage claim to keep him out of prison.

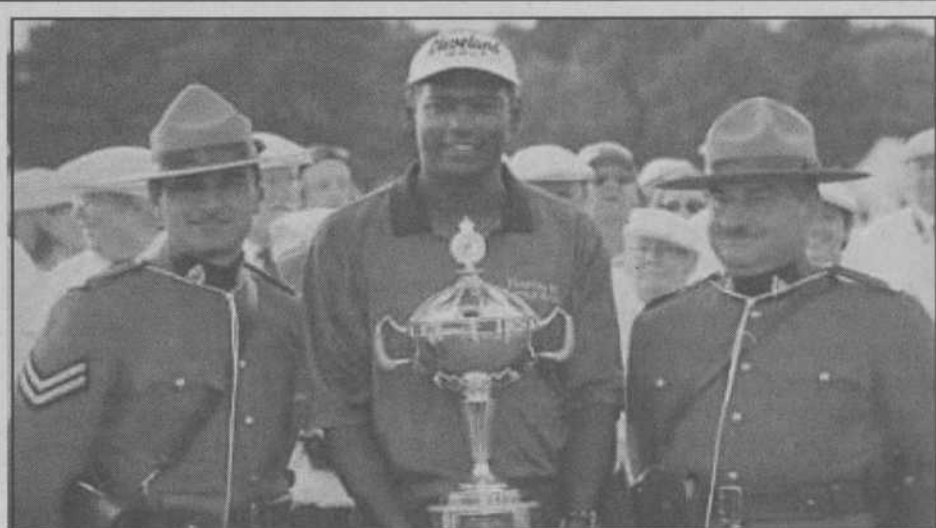
Bowe and his manager, Jimmy Adams, said there was

no medical documentation of any brain injury to Bowe.

"I've never had any medical problems," Bowe said.

Adams said other boxers have expressed interest in fighting Bowe, but a second fight has not yet been arranged.

"We have a lot of fights on the table, but we're just getting through this one," Adams said.



NEW NO. 1

Vijay Singh from Fiji holds his trophy as he is flanked by Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers after winning the Canadian Open in Oakville, Sunday. Singh teed off his reign as the new world number one in style when he won the Canadian Open on its 100th anniversary at the third extra hole of a play-off with home hope Mike Weir.

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE CLARK COUNTY FEDERAL FUNDS FOR HOMELESS PROGRAMS APPLICATION AVAILABILITY PROGRAM YEAR 2005 - 2006

Application forms and program manuals for Clark County Federal Funds to support Homeless Programs serving the community's homeless and at-risk individuals will be available beginning Monday, September 20, 2004, at the Clark County Community Resources Management Division, 5th Floor, Clark County Government Center, 500 So. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106. Applications will also be available via Clark County Internet under Finance at: www.accessclarkcounty.com/finance/crm/CRM_Index.htm or by diskette in Word 2002 format, upon request.

Clark County's Emergency Shelter Grant and Community Development Block Grant-Public Services Program funds are available for this competition. The ESG and CDBG Programs are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). ESG funds are intended to help improve the quality of existing emergency shelters for the homeless, to help make available additional emergency shelters, to help meet the costs of operating emergency shelters and may also be used to provide certain essential social services to homeless individuals or to restrict the increase of homelessness through the funding of preventive programs and activities. A portion of Clark County's CDBG funds can be used for Public Service projects, including projects that provide for the basic needs of very low-income and homeless residents, particularly for food, health and hygiene and shelter services for the very low-income and homeless. The deadline for submitting completed Homeless Programs applications is FRIDAY, October 15, 2004, AT 3:00 P.M. No exceptions will be made. No extensions will be granted.

A Technical Assistance Workshop to answer any questions related to the CDBG Public Service and ESG Program funds and the application process will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2004 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in ODC Training Room #3 of the Clark County Government Center, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway.

GRANT APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLY BY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES, NOT BY INDIVIDUALS OR BY FOR-PROFIT FIRMS.

For more information on this solicitation for the Homeless Program, please call Ms. Shawna Brody, Management Analyst, at 455-5025. Published: Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — 09/16/04

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Bad officiating makes for unequal playing fields

Athletic competition, or sports if you will, has taken such a huge place in our society that in some areas it has displaced politics, even as a national election approaches that could change the world's perception of the United States.

Starting with the young and proceeding to the older generations, games and matches involving members of both sexes, with expanded access to television, are being viewed every minute of the day.

On Sept. 7, millions of tennis lovers and sports fans got a chance to witness some of the worst officiating ever seen on television in the U.S. Open quarterfinal match between Serena Williams and Jennifer Capriati.

The chair umpire, Mariana Alves of Portugal, overruled the lines officials in favor of Capriati more than once during the match and even failed to call a double fault by her in the final game. And on one ball that was so far beyond the baseline, which there

should not have a question, she called out.

The Williams family at one time lived in Compton, Calif., where they decided to take up the sport when their father, Richard, thought it would be a sure way to make a living for his clan.

They moved to Florida because of the tennis clinics there and Richard Williams felt the youngsters weren't being treated fairly in the West.

As Venus Williams and her little sister, Serena, gained in stature in their chosen sport, they have found out that like any other athletes, especially minorities, not every one is happy with their success.

On the same evening that the first African-American to win the U.S. Open and Wimbledon, Althea Gibson was honored, Serena was literally robbed in broad daylight for all to see.

No one was more disturbed about this grave injustice than Nick Petrocelli, dean

of tennis instructors in this country.

"This can never happen again," he said in an interview following the match.

Serena Williams, in her post-game remarks, admitted she was very disturbed by the incident. She kept her cool probably because she is a Jehovah's Witness.

The match was in Arthur Ashe Stadium. Ironically Ashe became a tennis player following the example of Gibson, who many think should have at least one court named for her instead of Louis Armstrong. The controversy surrounding the tennis incident brings out some of the inadequacies that occur with officiating in other athletic contests.

No sports have come under more scrutiny about the officiating than boxing. Many fans leave matches wonder-

ing just what boutsome of the judges have been watching when scores are announced. Recently in Las Vegas, World

Boxing Organization heavyweight Lamon Brewster was awarded a split decision over Kali Meehan of New Zealand. Many of the fans attending the bout in the Mandalay Bay Events Center thought Meehan won.

Many wonder if in awarding the winner of each round depended on the actual action in the ring or because one fighter was an American and the other a foreigner.

In football games are officials calling penalties because of what really occurred?

Are officials being influenced by the team, town, or even alma mater?

In some incidents, race does enter into the way things are perceived. When Don Zimmer, the former New York Yankees assistant coach, barreled out onto the field and attacked Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez,

almost everyone of the White media castigated Martinez. Zimmer, who was known to have a bad temper as a player and a manager, started the fracas.

Martinez just threw him away — away not down. Zimmer, who was 72 at the time, was coming so fast he couldn't keep his feet.

Venus Williams received a bad call in a tiebreaker in at Wimbledon this year.

The error was obvious but the umpire didn't call it in her favor and she lost the match. She didn't complain.

Was it racial? As each African-American athlete toes the mark, gets down in a three-point stance, gets the ball, the thought of the field being unlevel will always be in the back of his or her mind.

What can they do? Take it from Jesse Jackson and "keep on pushing." There may bumps in the road but don't be discouraged by bad calls. Look at the ones who have made it.



SPORTS PACE

By Huel Washington