

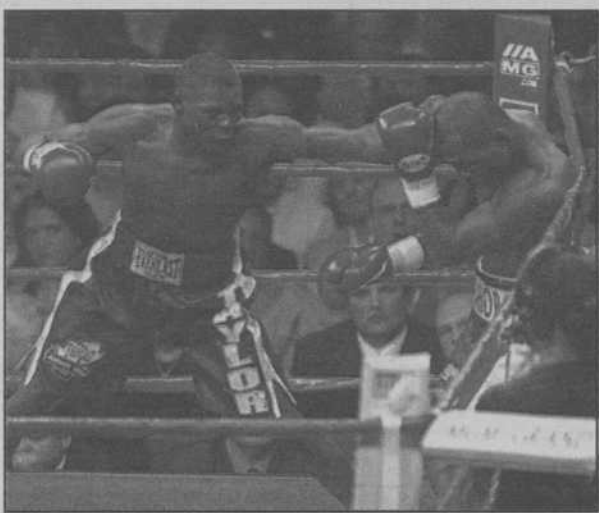
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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"



Sentinel-Voice photo by C.J. Cansler

Jermaine Taylor, left, lifted the undisputed middleweight title from Bernard Hopkins in a disputed split decision Saturday night at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Controversial bout could spark rivalry

By Huel Washington
Special to Sentinel-Voice

With the announcement of the "New Middleweight Champion," at the MGM Grand Arena Saturday, Bernard Hopkins' unsuccessful defense of his title against Jermaine Taylor once again proved that sometimes the best laid plans oft times go astray.

Having gone undefeated since 1993 in his other 20 defenses, the 40-year-old Philadelphia fighter had always outstrategized his opponent so well that usually the final outcome wasn't in doubt.

And even with hearing that the fight was a split decision, Hopkins, who leaped onto the top rope after the final bell rang, while Taylor walked slowly back to his corner with his head down, knew he had performed a remarkable come-from-behind victory over the pride of Little Rock, Arkansas.

"I even went over to their corner (Taylor's team) and congratulated them on his outstanding performance while we waited to hear the announcement," he said at the post fight press conference. "When I got back, I began to think: 'Uh, oh, they are taking too long.'"

The scoring given by Michael Buffer had Judge Jerry Roth giving 116-112 to Hopkins and Judge Paul Smith giving Taylor 115-113. Judge Duane Ford had Taylor with 115-113, so Taylor was the new middleweight champion.

Hopkins plan was to wear his 26-year-old opponent down early in the fight and to do most of his attacking in the late rounds. On two of the judges' cards, Hopkins won the last four rounds.

But for some reason, Ford awarded the 12th round to Taylor which made his score, 115-113, instead of 114-114, which would have made the fight a draw and allowed Hopkins to keep his five belts.

Now, until the two fighters meet again in their already scheduled October rematch, Taylor will have possession of the WBA, WBC, IBF, WBO, and the Ring belts that Hopkins had plus his own WBC Continental Americas championship belt.

Only Taylor and Ford thought Taylor won the final round, but certainly, none of the 11, 992 boxing fans nor the media agreed. Hopkins, when told what happened, said Ford's 9-10 score against him was unbelievable. "I won that round."

(See Fight, Page 16)

Interim change of guard

Urban League, EOB hope to get permanent brass soon

By Parker Philpot
Sentinel-Voice

Two local community service organizations are apparently functioning well despite being in a sort of interim leadership limbo pending hiring permanent heads for their agencies. The Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League and the Economic Opportunity Board Community Action Partnership are both under the attentive guidance of temporary appointees as their respective boards search to hire permanent executive leaders.

There are similarities and contrasts in the organizations and the circumstances surrounding the current vacancies at the top necessitating interim positions at both.

In comparison, each is currently under the direction

of an African-American woman with more than 25 years of experience in the type of organization she leads. Jean Childs was appointed earlier this month as interim director at EOB, and Wilma Bunny Gaines was recently appointed interim director of the local Urban League chapter. Both are also successors to an interim director. Both Gaines and Childs have demonstrated their long-time commitment to community service work.

In contrast, a local Urban League chapter of the near-century old organization focused on "economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights" is new to Las Vegas and opened its doors here one year ago. EOB, a locally-based tradition for over 38 years, is considered the larg-

est and one of the oldest community service agencies in the state. EOB has many divisions and service categories, including senior care programs, transportation for the elderly and disabled, KCEP-FM 88.1, the community radio station it owns, operates and uses as a broadcasting apprenticeship training program for local residents and its flagship Head Start program.

Both organizations are regarded as key service providers in the Las Vegas area and have a focus and mission to provide help to thousands in the African-American community among other constituents.

The EOB has endured a very public battle to regain its balance from several years of problems that started with al-

legations of funds misappropriations and mismanagement which resulted in findings by the federal regulatory agencies that took over management temporarily.

Being at the helm as the second interim director — replacing Mary Twitty after her contract expiration — is both rewarding and challenging according to Jean Childs, who returned to her former agency, EOB, where she ran the Head Start Program from 1972 to 1997.

"We have a mission, and the mission hasn't gone away because we had some issues we had to deal with," Childs said. "We are paying attention... I know we have some things we have to get through," she acknowledged.

"We (the management (See Interim, Page 6)

Is state of Black Los Angeles dismal?

By Kevin Herrera
Special to Sentinel-Voice

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) - The lives of most African-Americans here are dismal and have not changed much since the 1965 Watts riots, according to a study released by the local chapters of the Urban League and the United Way.

Black Angelenos are at the bottom of the barrel in almost every aspect of life, suffering from a lack of affordable health care and housing, poor graduation rates and high levels of unemployment that threaten the survival of the family structure, the report said.

The report, "The State of Black Los Angeles," which is available online at www.unitedwayla.org, found that African-Americans participate in the electoral process and the military more than any other ethnic group studied — the lone positive note — but are still far behind Whites, Asians and Latinos in terms of their quality of life.

"The state of Black Los Angeles does not look good

and it's getting worse," said David Horne, a political science professor and the former director of Pan-African Studies at Cal State Northridge. "I just don't think we get it. We think we've overcome or that

we've won something, but the reality is, it is a very frightening time for Black folk not just in Los Angeles, but in all urban communities across the nation. We have become complacent in the struggle, with our greatest

danger seeming to be ourselves."

Elected officials, including Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, along with business leaders and LAPD Chief William Bratton, pledged (See Los Angeles, Page 13)



BIRTHDAY BOY

Former South African President Nelson Mandela blows candles as he celebrates his 87th birthday during the Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture in Johannesburg, South Africa, Tuesday. Mandela has become a leading advocate for Africa and for peace.