Spinks loses first round, but...

LAS VEGAS (UPI) — Disputed heavyweight champion Leon Spinks, battling to win back the full crown he took from Muhammad Ali, Tuesday filed suit against the World Boxing Council to prohibit the WBC from recognizing Ken Norton as its champion.

Spinks' attorney, Ed Bell of Detroit, brought suit in federal court against the WBC, its president Jose Sulaiman and 17 other officers of the WBC, seeking a temporary restraining order, a preliminary injunction, a permanent injunction with damages in excess of $10,000.

U.S. District Judge Roger Foley refused to issue a temporary restraining order against the WBC, clearing the way for the group to formally award its title to Norton in Los Angeles on Wednesday. But the judge set April 17 to hear arguments on whether to issue a preliminary injunction in the case.

"The WBC action is unprecedented in boxing," said Bell. "Never before has the heavyweight champion had his title removed 30 days after he won it."

Spinks wants the court to order the WBC to restore his title, which was stripped from him when he refused to make his first defense against Norton. Spinks is still designated heavyweight champion by the rival World Boxing Association and the New York State Athletic Commission.

The suit seeks to restrain the WBC from awarding its title to Norton or anyone else and prevent the WBC from sanctioning any other fights as heavyweight championship bouts.

The WBC, meeting in Madrid, sanctioned Spinks' fight against Ali here Feb. 15, with the requirement that the winner defend his title against Norton with no intervening bouts.

When Spinks refused to negotiate with Norton by the WBC's March 17 deadline and said he would fight a rematch with Ali, the WBC stripped his title on March 18.

"The Madrid meetins is illegal," the suit said. "And since Spinks beat Ali he is the world heavyweight champion and is entitled to official WBC recognition."

The suit charged that the WBC illegally named Norton as champion.

"The WBC has evidenced an illegal purpose and conspiracy to control the championship boxing industry in violation of United States statutes," the suit said. "The WBC has capriciously stripped Spinks of the title.".

College baseball

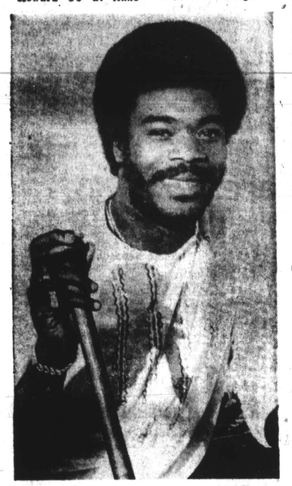
WEEKEND GAMES

Friday
Howard vs. U. Buffalo at Miami
Fla. A and M at Tuskegee
Hope College at Tenn. St.

Saturday
Howard vs. Fla. Int'l at Miami
UMBC at Salisbury (2)
CCB at Catonsville
Md., E. Shore at Delaware St.
Howard CC at Anne Arundel
Fla. A and M at Tuskegee

Sunday
Salisbury at W. Chester
Delaware St. at Univ. of D.C.

Monday
Coppin St. at Delaware St.
Anne Arundel at Frederick
Va. Union at Tenn. St. (2)
Southern at Tuskegee



SLAMBANG BIRD — Eddie Murray, whose brilliance with the Orioles earned American League rookie - of - the - year honors in 1977, is wasting no time in preparing for the season which opens next Thursday at Milwaukee. Murray, who celebrated his 22nd birthday last month, hit four homers in five games last week.

Special Olympics cage play Sunday

Essex Community College will be the site for the 1978 Maryland Special Olympics' basketball on Sunday. Starting time for the first game is 9:30 a.m., and play is expected to continue through late afternoon.

Twenty - two teams representing Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel, Harford, Charles, Frederick, Talbot and lower Eastern Shore counties will be competing for team trophies and individual awards in four divisions.

Participation in team activities such as basketball is an integral part of the total Special Olympics program of athletic and recreational activities for mentally - handicapped citizens.

In addition to building strength, coordination, and overall improved physical condition, team sports provide a framework for social development and improved interpersonal skills.

The tournament is free and open to the public.

New grid coach at Md., E. Shore

Joe Redmond, a four - year quarterback at Fisk University in his undergraduate days, has been named head football coach at Maryland, Eastern Shore.

Redmond, who assumed his duties on Monday, replaces Harold Gray.

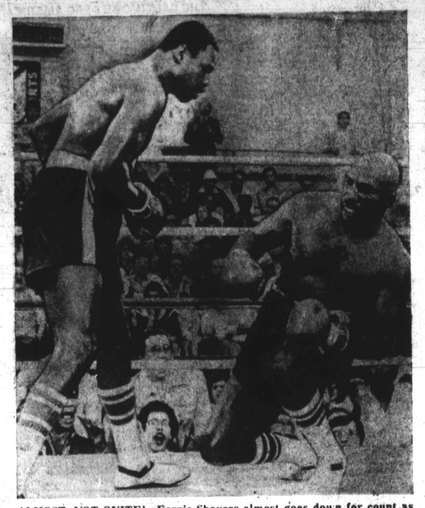
Nubian Baby Book winner

Her Majesty

NIKINA SHENEL SCOTT is the 3-year-old daughter of Lorraine and Ronald Scott. She was born September 12, 1974.

Little lady posed in queenly fashion
Or perhaps she is the princess perched
On her wicker throne. . .
How she welcomes us with her smile
Queen or princess, let's stay awhile.

by Dorothy C. Alves



ALMOST, NOT QUITE!—Earnie Shavers almost goes down for count as Larry Holmes works him over in 12th round of their "title elimination" bout Saturday in Las Vegas. Holmes scored easy decision and now has promoter Don King looking to "title bout" with Ken Norton, recognized by WBC as champion.

Norton crowned 'paper champ' in Los Angeles ceremony

LOS ANGELES (UPI) —Ken Norton, defeated in his two attempts to win the heavyweight title in the ring, Wednesday became the "paper champion" of the world when he received the World Boxing Council's official championship belt.

The 32 - year - old former marine corporal, who lost title bouts to George Foreman in 1974 and to Muhammad Ali in 1976, was presented the WBC's belt at ceremonies at the Police Department's Hollenbeck Youth Gym in the neighborhood where he lives.

Norton shares the heavyweight title with Leon Spinks, who upset Ali for the championship in Las Vegas last Feb. 15. Spinks is still recognized as champion by the rival World Boxing Association and New York State, as well as most boxing fans.

The WBC stripped Spinks of its version of the crown on March 18 and awarded it to Norton, the No. 1 contender, when Spinks refused to live up to an alleged agreement to make his first title defense against Norton. Spinks chose to go instead for a $5 million rematch with Ali.

There was no announcement at the crowning ceremony of who Norton's first opponent would be, but the WBC champ said he hoped to defend his title in May or June against Larry Holmes, who won a 12-round decision from Earnie Shavers in Las Vegas, Nev., last Saturday.

Asked by a reporter how he felt about getting a "paper title," rather than winning it in the ring, Norton responded:

"It was the only way I could get it. They wouldn't give me a fight. I couldn't get it any other way, right?

"Everybody knows I accepted a fight with Spinks. First we had an offer from Spinks. After he gave me the offer, I accepted the offer. Then he rejected the offer after I accepted it. So what can I say?"

STAYING AT IT—Although nobody wants to fight him for undisputed heavyweight title, Ken Norton continues workouts to keep fit for whomever, whenever.

NFL challenged to quit stalling on TV blackout

F.A.N.S., Ralph Nader's self - described representative of sports fans, says the NFL should announce its policy for blackouts of next season's football games.

Peter Gruenstein, the executive director of F.A.N.S., said it has been more than three months since expiration of a voluntary agreement between the league and Congress that a professional sporting event sold out 72 hours in advance could not be blacked out in the local area.

F.A.N.S. has proposed that the blackout rule be modified to require a blackout be lifted if 95 percent of the seats are sold 48 hours in advance.

In a letter to NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle, Gruenstein said, "It is time for the NFL to stop playing a stalling game with Congress. It is time to stop trying to let the clock run down. Call the signals and run the play."

Rozelle has said he opposes the F.A.N.S. proposal, but he has not indicated whether the 72 - hour rule will continue. Congressional committees have said they want to hear Rozelle's position before considering any blackout bills.

NAIROBI, Kenya — A Pan African news agency embracing 49 black African and Arab countries may begin work before the end of the year, Kenyan Assistant Information Minister Elisha Godana said last week.

NFL Giants eye Morgan's Brown

The New York football Giants have forwarded a questionnaire to Morgan State reserve tailback Leroy Brown.

Brown is a 200 - pound, plus speedball from St. Albans, N.Y.

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Moore named Carver coach

Athletic director Art Williams announced Wednesday that Charlie Moore has been promoted to head basketball coach at Carver High School.

Moore replaces Stan Pyzik, under whom the Cubs played to a 7-12 record this season. Pyzik, however, had enjoyed winning seasons in each of the past four years he headed the Carver program.

Stan was advised by Milburn on Wednesday morning prior to the afternoon announcement of the change.

Moore, who starred at Dunbar and Morgan in his undergraduate years, had been serving as JV soccer and track coach at Carver.

His basketball background includes assistant coaching jobs at Lake Clifton High and Coppin State College.

He was aide to Woody Williams when Lake Clifton broke the Dunbar string as city champion in the 1974-76 period and assisted John Bates at Coppin when the Eagles won the NAIA title in 1976.

Response brightens 'Walk-on' picture

According to co - promoters Joe Quinones and Joan Seligman, response to their proposed "World Walk - on" heavyweight boxing tournament has become "most encouraging." The event is scheduled April 28 - May 13 at the Civic Center.

The "Walk - On," which seeks to attract 1,000 "street heavyweights" with absolutely no professional experience, has raised the interest and sporting blood of former football, basketball and hockey players and a host of others who include bouncers and bartenders, lawyers and loggers, businessmen and bus drivers, and students and the military.

Initial interest was heaviest from the Boston and Philadelphia areas, but in recent weeks, applications have flooded the "Walk - On" offices from the South, midwest, Canada and California.

The Los Angeles area alone responded with more than 200 applicants from potential "Rocky" who hope to compete for $100,000 in prize monies with national television coverage on NBC's Sportsworld for three successive Sundays (April 30, May 7 and May 14).

Youth Games pin tryouts to begin

Qualifying trials for the U.S. Youth Games bowling team begin next week at various local alleys.

Tryouts will be held throughout April at all Fairlanes Bowl America and Brunswick centers, including Walbrook, Lafayette, Greenway East and Odenton lanes.

Young hopefuls may pick up entry forms at any bowling or recreation center. Competition is open to boys and girls residing in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Howard counties, whose ages are between 10-15 yrs. by August 31, 1978.

The winners and runners - up in each age group will compete in the Metropolitan Finals on June 3 at 1 p.m. at Fairlanes Woodlawn. Metro winners will represent Baltimore City in the 12th annual United States Youth Games in Detroit, August 2-6.

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N.Y. Knicks at New Orleans
Cleveland at Washington
Detroit at Chicago
Seattle at Denver
Golden State at Indiana
Portland at Los Angeles
Kansas City at Phoenix

Saturday
Chicago at Buffalo
Detroit at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Houston

Sunday
Indiana at Boston
Nets at Atlanta
Philadelphia at San Antonio
N.Y. Knicks at Washington
Houston at Denver
Milwaukee at Detroit
Kansas City at Los Angeles
Golden State at Phoenix
Portland at Seattle

Dick Allen fired by A's

MESA, Ariz. (UPI) — Slugger Dick Allen was given an unconditional release from the Oakland A's Tuesday after sitting on the bench for the entire spring training season.

Allen, 36, who has hit 351 career home runs, was suspended in mid - June of last year by Charles O. Finney for showering early in a game. Allen left and never returned to the team.

Although Allen showed up at camp for the exhibition season, he wasn't put in a single game.

Allen was voted the most valuable player in 1972 and is currently the third highest career home run hitter among active players. The 14 - year veteran was signed with Oakland as a free agent and had previously played for Philadelphia, Chicago White Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Schoolboy Sports Schedule

FRIDAY
Baseball
City at Southern (Carroll Pk)
Lake Clifton at Forest Pk (Sloman)
Northern at S. Western
Carver at Douglass
Douglass at Lake Clifton (JV)
City at Southern (JV at Carroll Pk.

Track
Garver Relays at Carver

Lacrosse
Edmondson at Old Mill
Northern at Westminster
Poly at Friends
Wilde Lake at Patterson
City at Havre de Grace
Oakland Mills at S. Western
Old Mill at Edmondson (JV)
Northern at Westminister (JV)
S. Western at Oakland Mills (JV)

Tennis
Gibbons at Patterson

Girls' Track
Northern Relays at Northern
Western at Severna Pk.
Central at Severna Pk.

SATURDAY
Baseball
Patterson at Cambridge

MONDAY
Baseball
S. Western at Southern (Carroll)
Forest Park at St. Joe
Edmondson at Mervo (Herring)
Dunbar at Walbrook
JV Baseball
Poly at McDonogh
Forest Park at St. Joe
Edmondson at Mervo (Herring)
Walbrook at Dunbar (Clifton)

Softball
Northern at Southern (Rash Fld)
Dunbar at Patterson
Eastern at Western
Lake Clifton at Mervo
N. Western at S. Western
Edmondson at Douglass
Forest Park at Carver.

Vermont for Leon

MONTPELIER, Vt. (UPI) — Fifteen members of the Vermont House have come out punching for Leon Spinks, dethroned as heavyweight champion by the World Boxing Council.

The members introduced a resolution in the house Friday praising Spinks and criticizing the WBC for taking away his title "without a little fight."

The resolution urged the House to declare Spinks has "continued recognition as the world heavyweight boxing champion in Vermont.

The WBC recently revoked Spinks' heavyweight title and bestowed it on fighter Ken Norton, claiming Spinks had gone back on a pledge to fight Norton.

Coaches pick All-Americas

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — The National Association of Basketball Coaches has announced its 1978 All - America basketball teams.

Named to the first team were Phil Ford of North Carolina, Butch Lee of Marquette, Larry Bird of Indiana State, David Greenwood of UCLA and Rick Robey of Kentucky.

Named to the second team were Jack Givens of Kentucky, Rod Griffin of Wake Forest, Dave Corzine of DePaul, Earvin Johnson of Michigan State and Freeman Williams of Portland State.

Named to the third team were James Bailey of Rutgers, Jerome Whitehead of Marquette, Mike O'Koren of North Carolina, Sid Moncrief of Arkansas and Winfred Boynes of San Francisco.

Lee Elder 63rd

Experiencing one of his leanest years since 1972, Lee Elder finds himself 63rd in winnings on the PGA money list. The Washington star has picked up $12,224 to date.

HOW LONG, PALS?—When general manager Joe Thomas (left) confirmed that he had acquired star running back O. J. Simpson for the San Francisco 49ers, O. J. said he was "ecstatic." Players on other teams throughout the NFL—notably at Miami, Minnesota and Baltimore—wondered how long ecstacy will prevail from Simpson under Thomas.

Vanderbilt discovers games with S. Africa can be costly

Continued trucking with racism can be an expensive practice, Vanderbilt University officials have learned in the wake of their Davis Cup experience with South Africa.

The March 17 - 19 cup matches between U.S.A. and South African teams at the Nashville school were played in defiance of civil rights demonstrators protesting the appearance of the South Africans in this country.

As a result, dwindling ticket sales cut severly into the revenue and heavily increased security numbers raised expenses tremendously.

Dot Poag, the Vanderbelt Athletic Department's assistant business manager, said 3,812 seats and 100 boxes of four seats each were sold for the matches for gross revenue of $49,578.

University officials had projected that ticket sales would have to total 13,500 for the university to break even.

The U.S. Tennis Association, anticipating financial losses for Vanderbelt, had announced earlier it would not charge the university its normal $50,000 fee. But Vanderbilt will still pay 25 percent of the $49,578 gate receipts to a special Davis cup fund, leaving the university with about $37,183 to meet its other expenses.

The matches drew about 2,000 protestors who staged marches and formed picket lines around the gymnasium where the matches were held to voice opposition to South Africa's participation in the event.

Vanderbilt tennis coach Bill Glaves said the university will spend up to $50,000, including costs of extra security, for the matches. That would leave the university about $13,000 in the red, but Glaves said some of the costs should be offset when concession and parking revenues are figured.

He said $10,000 in losses would be a "good ballpark figure" though "it could be a lot more than that."

UNIFORM CHANGE — But it wasn't a trade that had running back Tommy Reamon shed his Washington Redskins togs. It was for the role Tommy played opposite Jack Klugman in an episode of the "Quincy" TV series.

Duke's Banks played NCAA final under death threat

St. LOUIS (UPI) — Sensational Duke freshman Eugene Banks scored 22 points in a losing cause against Kentucky in Monday night's NCAA championship without knowing that there were at least two threats made on his life prior to the game.

"We were appraised of the threats shortly before the game," said Wayne Duke, the chairman of the NCAA Basketball Committee. "A male caller telephoned the arena and said something to the effect 'If Banks plays tonight, it will be the last time he plays.' KS D-TV in St. Louis received a similar call. We informed the Duke coach and athletic director of the threats."

Duke coach Bill Foster said arena police also handled him a note just prior to the game with another threat. But he chose not to tell his star forward of the development. Banks found out about the threats from an assistant coach at the conclusion of the game, which Kentucky won 94 - 88.

"The only thing I can say is this," said Banks. "If any person wants to do that, let him do it. If it comes, let it be. I'm not going to hide. I'm not afraid of any one person. I believe in God and I have faith in God. As long as I have that faith, I'm not going to worry about it."

Eugene Banks he had faith in God

Banks was Duke's third-leading scorer this year and second-leading rebounder. He scored 22 points in the Blue Devils' semifinal victory against Notre Dame.

"We stayed away from telling Gene to keep things in their proper perspective," said Foster. "I was probably more upset about it than anyone."

"It was basically a prank call," Duke said. "Arena officials indicated they have had similar calls in the past."

Ravens can't escape Richmond domination

The Baltimore Ravens wheelchair basketball team ended its finest season in four years with a 65-41 loss to Richmond in the Eastern Sectional Wheelchair Basketball tournament Sunday in Richmond.

It was only the fourth loss in sixteen outings for Baltimore's only wheelchair squad, and immediately brought to mind the Towson State - University of Baltimore basketball rivalry during the 1976-77 campaign.

In that memorable season, the Tigers and Bees met five times, with Towson victorious in four of the battles. Those four losses were the Bees' only setbacks that year, and the final defeat knocked them from the South Atlantic regionals and brought their season to a sudden halt.

It was the Richmond Chairoteers who acquired a similar domination over the Ravens. This season the two clubs met four times, and the Ravens are still looking for the formula necessary to produce a win.

The Chairoteers were victorious twice at home during the regular season, 58-55 and 66-49, and again at Franklin Senior High School in Baltimore, 53-49, before Sunday's finale.

Lost in the disappointment were some bright spots for the Ravens, however. One highlight was the play of Rodney Allen, Bob Ardinger, and Larry Toler. All were named to the Eastern Sectional All - tournament team for their performances. The previous weekend, the Ravens whipped the Brockton (Mass.) Mustangs, 54-46, before bowing to Richmond.

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