Bonavena - Middleton go pits slugger vs. boxer

LANDOVER, Md. — Oscar Bonavena, who has more knockouts than any active heavyweight in the world, will take on Baltimore's Larry Middleton in a 12-round battle of ranked heavyweight contenders Tuesday night at Capital Centre.

Bonavena is ranked seventh in the latest (May) Ring Magazine world ratings, while Middleton is ranked eighth.

Middleton's name reappeared in the rankings following his impressive showing against former World Boxing Association champion Jimmy Ellis in the March 4 boxing premiere in the same ring at Capital Centre. The bout was declared a draw, but many thought Middleton had clearly taken control of the fight by its 10th-round completion.

* * *

Middleton is astute in the art of boxing. His style will offer an interesting contrast with that of Bonavena, the free-swinger sometimes called the second "Wild Bull of the Pampas."

The 31-year-old Argentine is a battler, a slugger. His 39 knockouts surpass the record of any other active heavyweight. Only George Foreman, the current world champion, is close, with 37, and Muhammad Ali is the only other heavyweight with more than 30 knockouts.

Bonavena's victims include George Chuvalo, Gregorio Peralta, Zora Folley, Karl Mildenberger, Manuel Ramos and Al "Blue" Lewis.

* * *

Perhaps Bonavena's most impressive outings came in three fights he lost. Twice he went the distance with slugger Joe Frazier. Only three others have ever lasted that long with Frazier.

In their first fight, Bonavena flooored Frazier twice; only Foreman has matched that. Muhammad Ali is the only man ever to knock out Bonavena and the former champ needed 15 rounds to do so.

After their first fight in 1966, Frazier admitted that "one more round and he might have had me. Oscar's the strongest man I ever fought."

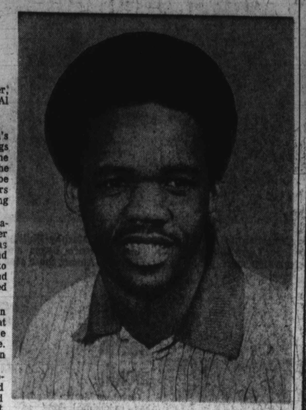
Bonavena boasts a powerful left hook and straight right hand and these have helped account for his 39 knockouts and a career record of 50-9-1.

* * *

The 32-year-old Middleton has a 21-4-2 record and Bonavena is the third ranked contender he has fought in the last eight months. A loss to fourth-ranked Ron Lyle preceded his good showing against Ellis.

When Ellis left the Capital Centre ring he was a battered fighter, his left eye puffed and bleeding.

Middleton is a patient, careful fighter and will be an elusive target for the aggressive Argentine.



SOPHOMORE LEE CARTER tied for fifth place in the Thunderbid Intercollegiate golf tournament at Scottsdale, Ariz., last week. The young Tidewater (Va.) native, one of the few blacks in college on a golf scholarship, was at 218 for the 54-hole event, nine strokes off winner Mark Sollenberger of Arizona State. Carter shot the best score for his University of New Mexico team.

L.A. Mayor sure of '80 Olympics

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Mayor Tom Bradley said Wednesday he was certain Los Angeles would be awarded the 1980 Summer Olympic Games.

"We are aware of the severe competition," Bradley told a group of businessmen and sports officials, including members of the U.S. Olympic Committee, "but we are confident we will win the games."

Bradley also said it "won't cost a dime of city money" to host the games.

Los Angeles and Moscow are the only bidders for the summer games. The 1976 Summer Olympics are to be held in Montreal.

* * *

A poll of residents is to be conducted this summer to prevent a repeat of Denver's experience after it won its bid for the 1976 winter games, but voters turned down the games and the event had to be moved to Innsbruck, Austria.

What's Preakness

A New Jersey creek and hamlet near Paterson, a nearby farm owned by Milton Sanford, another Sanford farm in Lexington, Kentucky, and the horse that won the Dinner Party Stakes at Pimlico's inaugural meeting in 1870 all bore the name Preakness before it was adopted by the Maryland Jockey Club for the 3-year-old stakes event, which will have its 99th running tomorrow (Saturday).

Spelled Preckiness by General George Washington who once slept in the vicinity it had earlier been a Minisi Indian word meaning Quail Woods.

SUPER SHOOTER KEITH Tate of 1011 Otis Place, N. W., Washington, accepts trophy from Bullets basketball star Phil Chenier after winning second place in the boys' 10-11 year old group a the Gino's Super Shooter Contest grand finals at Disney World, Fla. Keith's mother, Mrs. Genola Tate, accompanied her son to the shoot-off.

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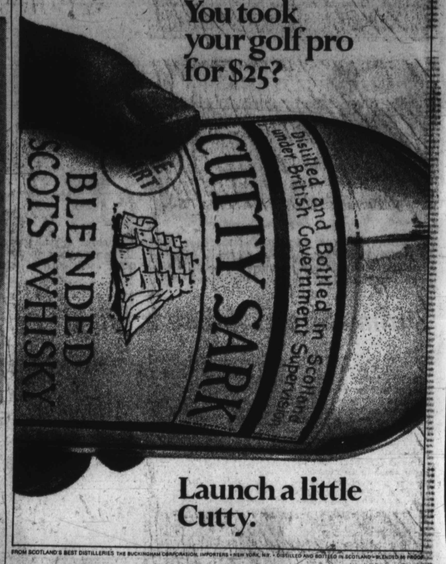

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AFRO Sports

Orioles' junior program to be launched Tuesday

The Oriole Advocates have announced a new ticket plan offering members of the 1974 Junior Oriole Program a $17.50 ticket value as part of a $1.75 membership fee.

The non-profit organization, composed of volunteer businessmen and women, was formed fourteen years ago to promote and stimulate interest in baseball, especially among youngsters.

Under the new plan, an individual receives with his membership kit seven coupons which may be exchanged for an upper reserved seat (regular price $2.50) to any seven of 12 designated Oriole games.

To make the exchange, one must simply take his game coupon to the Orioles' advance sale window at Memorial Stadium, or to the Orioles' ticket booth at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

Members outside the Baltimore area may exchange their coupons in advance by mailing the coupon to the Orioles' ticket office.

It is important for members to allow enough time for the complete exchange. In order to take advantage of the opportunity, a coupon must be exchanged at least 24 hours before the game one wishes to attend.

The program, now in its eleventh consecutive year, is for boys and girls 16 years of age and younger. In addition to the ticket plan, members receive numerous items as souvenirs.

The Junior Orioles' 12-game plan begins Tuesday night with the game against the Indians.

Other dates and games are: June 7 (Texas), June 9 (Texas), June 18 (Minnesota), June 25 (Detroit); July 21 (California), July 28 (Milwaukee), July 31 (Cleveland);

August 13 (Chicago), August 15 (Chicago), August 18 (K.C.), and August 20 (Texas).

Yorng Darnell McMillan signs as Junior Oriole Birds' Elrod Hendricks (1); Advocate Don Blum and Don Baylor

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ABA Nets romp over Stars as wives gamble with stork

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (UPI) — Julius "Dr. J" Erving said he felt "sky high" when the New York Nets were closing in for the kill against the Utah Stars for their first American Basketball Association championship, but his wife, Turquoise, said she was even more excited watching at courtside.

Luckily, Turk, as Dr. J. calls her held her composure while Erving and his teammates broke open the game with 11 straight points in the final minutes to win 111-100.

"Mrs. J," as some of the fans call her, was worrying Willie Sojourner's wife. Both girls are pregnant and Jean Sojourner said, "I'm due in July but she's expecting any minute. She was getting so excited I was afraid she was going to give birth that night."

But Willie was never worried. He was concentrating on the game. "I knew we were going to win," he said. "I saw it in Doc's eyes and Kenon's eyes. They had it under control. I wasn't even thinking about the babies. The ladies will take care of that."

Erving, 23, and the other young Nets, like 22-year-old Larry Kenon, 21-year-old John Williamson and 20-year-old Brian Taylor, are the real young Turks of the ABA.

Barring serious injuries, if the Nets remain together no matter where they play they undoubtedly are going to be a tremendous force in pro basketball for a long time.

The Nets are the youngest and least experienced team in the pros yet they were poised enough to beat Utah, the most experienced team in the ABA, in the stretch in three of the four victories.

"In the second game we were just blown out," said Utah coach Joe Muilaney. "But in the first game, the overtime of the third game and last game they beat us in the stretch. That's when experience is supposed to make a difference. But they don't play like youngsters or rookies."

Erving, MVP in the series and regular season, produced measured performances in almost every game. He concentrated on scoring in the first game when his teammates were cold and came up with 47 points.

He turned his attention to rebounding in the last game and led both teams with 16 rebounds. He took only 19 shots in scoring 20 points in the series-clincher as the Nets emphasized a balanced attack.

Braves pledge job for Hank

ATLANTA (UPI) — The Atlanta Braves have announced that Hank Aaron will join the front office staff at the end of this season.

Bill Bartholomay, chairman of the board for the Braves, said Aaron's specific responsibilities will be outlined after the end of the season.

Aaron, who has hit 720 home runs, more than any other player in baseball history, is now in his 21st season at 40-years of age.

DR. HARVEY WEBB Jr., executive director of Provident Comprehensive Neighborhoods Health Center, was awarded a distinguished alumnus award from Howard University's College of Dentistry May 10.

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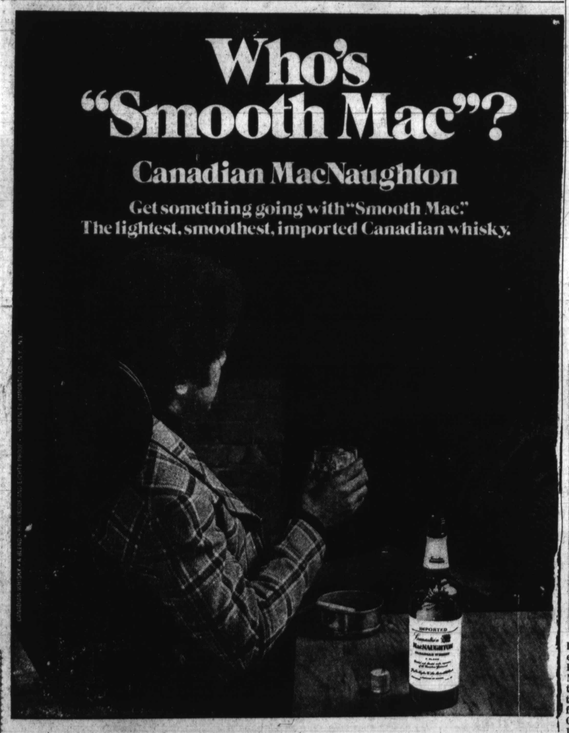

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