A hundred million bucks can't get Ali back, he says

Muhammad Ali, saying he doesn't want to go out lying on his back, has walked away from Duane Bobick, a man many think he could lick with a Christmas mall pouch on his shoulder and one hand in his hip pocket.

Reaffirming his month-old decision to retire, the heavyweight champion declared:

"I love boxing and I don't want to get out, but I'm getting too old to continue. I know I've said I was going to retire before and I didn't, but this time I mean it.

"I don't want to end up like Joe Louis and Ezzard Charles, flat on my back in the ring. I'm too great to hang around too long and end up on my back.

"I've got an offer for $14 million for three fights in the next year, but I'm gonna have to say good-bye to all that money. I'm gonna keep fightin' but it will be as a fighter for Allah.

"I'm gonna tour the world to preach the great religion of Islam. I'll be an evangelist like Billy Graham. One hundred million dollars couldn't get me back in the ring."

All this was Ali's way of saying he has no intention of defending the title against "White Hope" Bobick in February in Madison Square Garden.

It was as though he wanted it thoroughly understood that he and the prizefight ring are finished, done, period.

Garden matchmaker Teddy Brenner, obviously convinced that the champ means what he says, has now signed Bobick to fight Ken Norton "sometime between Feb. 15 and March 2."

Bobick and Norton originally had signed for a bout, but the deal was negated by agreement when the Ali-Bobick match was proposed.

Weekend basketball

COLLEGE SCHEDULE

Men's Games

Friday

C. W. Post at Morgan
Xavier at Va. State
Dillard vs. Norfolk at Petersburg
Knoxville at Morehouse
Albany St. at Tuskegee
Morristown JC at Friendship

Saturday

Fairleigh — Dickinson at Morgan
Coppin at N.C. Central
Howard at Gannon
D. C. Teachers at Bowie St.
Balto. CC at Montgomery CC
Bay College at Hagerstown JC
Dillard at Va. State
Xavier vs. Norfolk St., at Petersburg
W. Salem at A and T
Shaw vs. St. Aug. at Durham
Knoxville at Clark
Voorhees at Mars Hill
Grambling at Long Beach

Monday

Cheyney St. at Morgan
CC of Balto., at Weslev JC
Bay College at Harford JC
Salisbury St. at George Mason
N. Kentucky St., at Tenn. St.
Livingstone at Shaw

WOMEN'S GAMES

Howard at U. of Md.
Federal City at York
UMBC at Salisbury State
Bowie at St. Mary's
U. OF Va. at Va. State

NBA GAMES

Friday

Phoenix at Boston
Portland at Buffalo
Detroit at N.Y. Nets
Chicago at New Orleans
Indiana at Washington
Sun Antonio at Milwaukee
Houston at Los Angeles
Golden State at Seatle
phoenix at N.Y. Knicks
Portland at Philadelphia
Atlanta at Cleveland
Boston at Chicago
New Orleans at San Antonio
N.Y. Nets at Detroit
Buffalo at Indiana
Houston at Golden State

Sunday

Washington vs. N.Y. Knicks (Hall of Fame Game, Springfield, Mass.)
Phoenix at Atlanta
Detroit vs. Kansas City at Omaha
Philadelphia at Milwaukee
Denver at Los Angeles
Houston at Seattle

COLLEGE RESULTS

Coppin St. 82, Elizabeth City 75
Bowie State 87, Md., E. Shore 65
Howard 105, Delaware St. 78
Georgetown 95, N.C. Central 69
Va. Union 98, Shaw 78
Liberty Baptist 90, Bowie St. 85
Lincoln 87, York College 78
Cumberland 77, Wilberforce 61
Norfolk St. 90, Hampton 76
W. Carolina 70, A and T 52
Va. State 105, Livingstone 77
Morris Harvey 80, W. Va State 78
S.C. State 81, W. Salem 76
Central State 84, Wilberforce 66
Morris Brown 93, Benedict 89
Benedict 115, Claflin 85
Voorhees 85, Lander 81 (OT)
Howard Payne 103, Bishop 71
Southern 104, Ark., Little Rock 86
Xavier 92, Miss Industrial 81
Tarleton St. 89, Bishop 69

Flag 'Super Bowl' features 14-year-olds

The Mackall Playground at Edmondson and Braddish Avenues, will be the scene this afternoon of an unique football game.

Doug Jones of the George Nichols Recreation Center, has devised a 14-and-under version of the football "Super Bowl." In it, selected youngsters of the center will compete in what promises to be an exciting flag football contest.

Action commences at 4 p.m.

LARGE COMFORT — Big Willie Stargell, first baseman and longtime friend, comforts Mrs. Kathleen Murtaugh, widow of Pittsburgh Pirate manager Danny Murtaugh. Victim of a storke last weekend, Murtaugh was buried in Springfield, Pa., with Stargell and a number of baseball personalities in attendance.

Jail reprieve granted Barnes

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (UPI) — A Superior Court judge has given attorneys Marvin Barnes until Jan. 15 to present a "specific program" that would serve as an alternative to the one-year prison term faced by the Detroit Pistons forward.

Pistons general manager Oscar Feldman and team captain Bob Lanier personally asked Judge Anthony A. Giannini to allow Barnes to continue playing basketball and work out his debt to society by helping youngsters in either the Detroit inner city or the Providence area.

"I'd like to know precisely what Mr. Barnes intends to do and what services can be given to the people of Detroit or Rhode Island," the judge said.

Ravens appoint new coach, face Chairoteers Saturday

John James, a 48-year-old Baltimore paraplegic, has been named coach of the Baltimore Ravens wheelchair basketball team.

James has played with the Ravens since the team began in 1971. He is a production worker at the Baltimore League for Crippled Children and Adults.

Former coach Mike Naugler will remain as Ravens general manager.

"If we can continue to hustle and use our bench strength like we did when we beat the Capital Smokers on Nov. 20, we have a chance to finish first in the Capital Conference," James said Sunday.

The Raven 2-0 in conference plays face their toughest rival, the Richmond Chairoteers, in Richmond on Saturday. The Virginia team has a season record of 4-0 and is ranked sixth among the 150 U. wheelchair basketball teams.

RI fives to test MSA basketers

Two local quints will be testing the Maryland Scholastic Association's brand of basketball against that played in Providence, R.I., today (Friday) and Saturday.

Dunbar will meet Central High of Providence, at 3 p.m., and Lake Clifton will play Johnston High of that city at 5 o'clock. The doubleheader will be played at Dunbar's gym.

Tomorrow (Saturday) the action moves to the Lake Clifton gymnasium where the Lakers will oppose Central at 9 p.m., after a 7 o'clock tilt between Dunbar and Johnston.

MSA Scoreboard

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Boys Basketball

Southern at Southwestern
Northern at Edmondson
Northwestern at Douglass
Bel Air at Poly
Patterson at Calvert Hall
Lake Clifton at Dunbar
Walbrook at Wilde Lake

Girls Basketball

Mt. De Sales at Western
Carver at Eastern
Douglass at N. Western
Curley at Mervo
Patterson at Lutheran
Patterson, Southwestern, Walbrook at St. Paul
Forest Park at Loyola

Swimming

Patterson, Southern, Poly., Mervo, Forest Park, Douglass, Northern, Northwestern and Southern in Towson State relays.

Wrestling

Douglass at Northern

MONDAY SCHEDULE

Girls Basketball

Lake Clifton at T. Catholic

MSA MEMO

Southern High's BERNADETTE LAY finished first in the 100 yard breaststroke and second in the 50 at the girls' public school swimming championships .... The Western High girls completed a great fall campaign with championships in swimming, tennis and volleyball.

Eastern High's LINDA FRANKLIN, ALESIA CARTER and WANDA PRICE deserve praise for outstanding performances in the volleyball competition .... Eastern also has a pair of promising netters in CASSANDRA BARNETT and ELAINE BUTLER.

Western opens its girls' basketball season against Mt. Desalles High and MARGRET DIETRICH and KAREN LINDSEY are being tapped as reboundders to watch.

Northwestern grad LEROY FELDER (73 starting at safety for the NFL Pittsburgh Steelers .... Ex-Carverite Leroy Powell (74), member of the Essex CC basketball squad .... LLOYD TUCKER showing talent as a freshman cager at Towson State .... he's former Forest Park standout .... and Northern grad JAMIE HICKS (75 playing varsity volleyball at Bryn Mawr.

Northwestern defensive back JETHRO SENIOR reportedly being sought by several major colleges.

Walbrook, sparked by JAMIE MILLER and DERRICK CAMPBELL, already gurning for continuation of its 16 dual-meet record in coming season.

And MIKE SWEET, at Forest Park holding the highest scholastic average today, has been named to the honor roll.

Rap by Steelers, others brings $3 million suit

OAKLAND, Calif. (UPI) — Oakland safety George Atkinson has sued the Pittsburgh NFL club, Steeler coach Chuck Noll and the Oakland Tribune for 3 million for comments about a play in which the Raider hit receiver Lyn Swann.

The slander and libel action, filed in Alameda County Superior Court, sought $1 million from each defendant.

Swann was struck on the back of the head by Atkinson during a Sept. 12 contest won by the Raiders 31-28 in Oakland. Swann did not turn out to be the intended receiver on the play. The Steelers said Swann suffered a concussion.

The lawsuit resulted from comments made by Noll the day after the incident and a column in the Tribune by reporter Ed Levitt.

Noll made reference to Atkinson as part if a "criminal element," saying he played "with the intent to maim." The Steelers were also named a defendant because the coach was an employe and spokesman for the club.

Levitt said in a Sept. 15 column, "Atkinson could have killed Swann. He could be facing a murder rap."

Atkinson said after the incident that he saw a move on the part of Steeler quarterback Terry Bradshaw and thought Swann was to be the receiver of a pass.

george Atkinson claims libel, slander

18-year-olds can bet at state race tracks

(UPI) — The Maryland Racing Commission has decided if 18-year-olds are old enough to vote and drink, they are old enough to bet.

The Commission decided to lower the betting age at the eight parimutuel tracks operating under its jurisdiction from 21 years to 18 Tuesday.

James A. Callahan, commission secretary, said the action follows trends in recent years to lower the age barrier for voting and drinking.

He also noted that the age requirement for licensed trainers was lowered from 21 to 18 a few years ago, a situation preventing trainers who are not yet 21 from legally betting on their own horses.

Although the rule-changing process generally takes about three months, the new age limit is expected to go into effect immediately.

There have been few problems resulting from persons between 18 years and 21 years betting. Presently mutuel clerks allow persons who appear to be near 21 to bet.

Restrictions limiting tracks to nine races daily also were changed. The Commission can now grant a track an additional 10th race without going through the 90 day rule changing process. However, racing commissioners expressed opposition to 10-race cards at this time.

Harness tracks have been allowed to run up to 10 races on weekends and the change was an attempt to make rules more uniform.

Ex-Bear signed by NFL Giants

Former Morgan State running back Bob Hammond was signed Tuesday by the New Work Giants of the National Football League. . . .

Nammond, who also returns kicks, tried out for the giants two summers back but was released and was cut at training camp this season by the New Orleans Saints.

He starred as a tailback at Morgan from 1970-74.

Baltimore can look to Dec. 19

One of sportsdom's oldest warnings is that which shies past one opponent to look at the future. And that has been the case here this week as the Colts and their fans await Sunday's regular season finale with the Buffalo Bills.

They know they should beware of the temptation to look lightly at the Bills while awaiting the playoffs which begin next Sunday (19th)

Buffalo may be troublesome, especially since the team is going nowhere. But Baltimore has too much at stake to play the kind of inept ball that frittered away last Saturday's game at St. Louis.

Coach Ted Marchibroda and his bosses are certain to look at their choices:

(1) Beat Buffalo and play the Pittsburgh Steelers at home next Sunday, or (2 lose to Buffalo and be forced to battle the Raiders at Oakland.

Since the preference is obvious, local fans may feel safe in looking forward to "Pittsburgh at Baltimore, Dec. 19."

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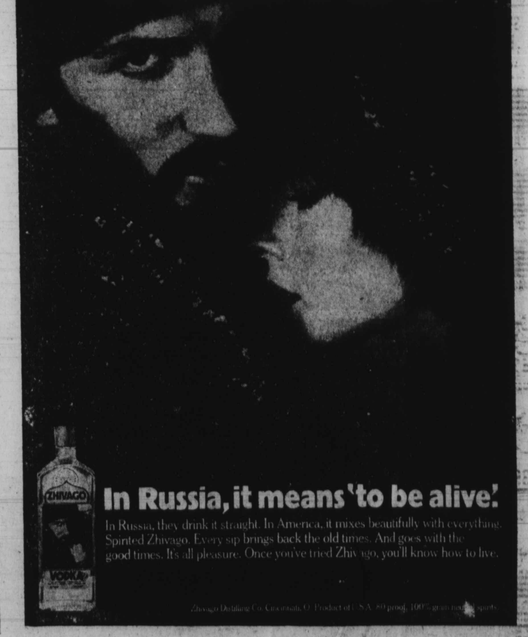

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BLAIR HOUSE across the street from the White House is locked and under Executive Protection Service even though President-elect Carter and his family may not return until after Christmas. After they arrive at any time, the guard will be increased.

(AFRO staff photo by Roman Hankewycz)

Colts announce playoff tix data

If the Baltimore Colts host a first-round playoff game on either December 18 or 19, tickets will go on sale Dec. 13 at noon at the Colts' Memorial Stadium ticket windows and all regional Ticketron outlets.

No mail orders will be accepted for playoff tickets.

The windows will remain open Dec. 13 until 8 p.m. Hours for the remainder of the week will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 14; noon to 8 p.m., Dec. 15; 9 a.m to 5 pm., Dec. 16; and noon to 8 p.m., Dec. 17. The ticket winoow will open at 9 a.m. Saturda, Dec. 18.

Ticket windows at gates E-2 and W-2 will be open during the above operating hours.

Ticket prices, established by the National Football League, are $8 and $12.

LOST $125 IN LODGE FUNDS

Col. Watkins' mother has purse snatched Wed. eve.

The 78-year-old mother of Lt. Col. James [illegible] of the Police Dept., was robbed of $125 by two thugs Wednesday evening after she disembarked from an auto with two friends in the 1200 block Myrtle Ave.

Mrs. Rebecca Cornelia Watkins, 2100 block McCulloh St., told police, reports show, that about 8 p.m. she and two other ladies, Mrs. Mable Perry and Mrs. Amy Hill, were about to enter the Mt. Olive Benefical Association, 1221 Myrtle Ave.

They were approached, they told police by two teens, one of whom wore a plaid jacket.

One of thugs began a scuffle with Mrs. Watkins as he attempted to loosen her black purse from her tight grip. After pushing and pulling, the youth succeeded. Mrs. Watkins fell to the ground after the strap broke on the purse.

Mrs. Watkins' fall inflicted a contusion to her left forehand, police say.

The three women went inside the building and called police. Reporting officers say due to the dark conditions of the street and the speed with which the women were attacked, they could not offer police a further descripion of their attackers.

The youth ran north on Myrtle Ave., Mrs. Watkins said.

A search of the area for the purse produced negative results.

At Marvland General Hospital, where she was taken for treatment, Mrs. Watkins told police that inside her purse was a savings account passbook from the Savings Bank of Baltimore in the name of the "Mt. Olive Beneficial Association."

Mrs. Watkins is on the Finance Committee of the association and the bulk of the money taken in the robbery, $113, was the association's property, but in her custody.

She was treated at Maryland General and released.

Shavers set

Earnie Shavers, the third ranked heavyweight in the world, takes on Philadelphia's Roy Williams in a scheduled 10-round bout at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas Saturday.

Alcorn State staff attends science meet

LORMAN, Miss. — Three scientists from Alcorn State University presented papers at the Bicentennial Research Symposium hel' in Washington. Dr. Walter Washington, president of Alcorn, presided at the symposium banquet.

Dr. Verna Lawson, associate professor of biology at Alcorn; Dr. Eunsook Koh, associate professor of home economics, and Dr. Alfred Stewart, associate professor of agriculture, presented papers on different aspects of research in the natural sciences, home economic and rural development underway at Alcorn.

The meeting was hosted by coordinators of Cooperative State Research Service (CSRS) research at all 1890 land grant institutions and Tuskegee Institute.

Fumble recovery gives Rattlers 'Blossom' win

MIAMI, Fla. (UPI) — Florida A and M recovered a fumble in the closing minute Saturday night to preserve a come-from-behind 26-21 victory over Central State of Wilberforce, Ohio, in the 44th annual Orange Blossom Football Classic.

Central State moved into a 21-20 lead with 5:40 left in the game when Ed Houston passed four yards to Joe Mosely for a touchdown and Bryan Kirby kicked his third extra point.

* * *

The Rattlers came back with the kickoff, driving 62 yards in seven plays with tailback Ralph Kyles taking a pitchout from quarterback Albert Chester six yards around right end for the winning score with 3:41 left. An attempt to run for a two-point conversion failed.

The Marauders were driving again but Florida defensive end Earl Goodman knocked the ball out of Houston's hands and tackle Ephram Hagins recovered for FAMU on the Rattlers' 20. Florida then ran out the remaining 59 seconds on the clock for victory.

Chester passed 19 yards to Cal Burgess and 12 yards to Ike Williams for touchdowns in the first two periods then sneaked over from the one 25 seconds before intermission to give the home team a 20-7 halftime lead.

* * *

Central scored late in the first period on a 16-yard run by Kevin Scott. The Marauders dominated the third period with Scott capping a 68-yard drive with a two-yard plunge for Central State's second touchdown.

* * *

The Marauders' third score by Mosely was set up when Wayne Crockrom blocked a FAMU punt by Harold Neely and recovered for Central State on the FAMU 10. Seven plays later, Mosely scored on fourth down and Kirby's extra point boot gave the Maraudrs a brief lead.

The contest was played as a bowl game but counted as the 11th regular season game for both teams. Florida thus finished season with a 6-3-2 record and Central finished 6-5.

Sayers lauds man who broke mark

CARBONDALE, Ill. (UPI) — Take it from Gale Sayers, "If he stays healthy, he's going to break a lot of other records."

The one-time great Chicago Bears running back said it after Walter Payton broke his decade-old single season rushing mark for the Bears.

Payton rushed for 183 yards last Sunday, giving him 1,341 for the year, as the Bears defeated the Seattle Seahawks 34-7. He broke Sayers' mark of 1,231 set in 1966 with the Bears.

"Walter is a very fine back and I wish him well," said sayers, who is in his first year as athletic director at Southern Illinois. "He broke a record which I thought was a very goog record."

A Famous NFL Halfback Bought Two Grade 4 Suits at T.I. Swartz last week.
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