Eastern Shore barber enters boxing 'walk-on'

UPI photo

ROGER MORET, Texas Ranger pitcher, became ill prior to the Wednesday game with the Detroit Tigers and was taken to an Arlington, Texas psychiatric hospital. A team doctor said Moret went into a catatonic state in the clubhouse prior to the game.

Not long ago, former Easton High School basketball star Charles DeShields closed up his barbershop on the Eastern Shore, packed some boxing gloves and set up a headquarters training operation in Baltimore's Central Y.

Starting April 29, DeShields, a 5'11" amateur boxer, will be among more than 200 "street heavyweights" competing for the $50,000 top money in promoter Joe Quinones' $103,000 "World Walk - on Heavyweight Boxing Championship at the Baltimore Civic Center.

Some of the action, featuring tough guys who have no professional boxing experience but think they can mix it with anybody, will be broadcast nationally on NBC's Sportsworld Show on April 30, May 7 and May 14.

The tournament runs from April 29 through May 13 and the winner must survive 10 bouts, 8 eliminations, the semi - finals and finals. All bouts will be three two - minute rounds except the final, which will be four two - minute rounds.

All 16 finalists will collect at least $1,000. Two third place finishers get $5,000 each and four 4th place finishers collect $2,500 each.

Any toughie 18 to 35 who weighs at least 175 pounds can enter up to Friday night for the gruelling contest.

The $50,000 top prize and $25,000 for second place will be the biggest purses any of the contestants will have seen — and they also get to show up again on NBC in their next outing after the triumph in Baltimore.

By mid - week more than 200 boxers had registered for the "walk - on."

The unique Quinones promotion is stimulating some interesting contests in areas from which fighters will come.

The Philadelphia Daily News selected an entrant by promoting a run up the Philadelphia Art Museum steps by would - be champs who wanted what could be a once - in - a - life opportunity for riches. It was a take - off on the way movie hero Rocky Balboa got his start in "Rocky."

The final winner in Philly, Pauly Kouch 21, is working out daily with veteran trainer George Benton in former heavyweight champ Joe Frazier's gym.

DeShields, who will have to get past Kouch and other tough guys from around the country, is training daily with former ranked heavyweight Larry Middleton at Operation Champ's gym.

The Eastern Shore's representative is being sponsored by an area sports enthusiast and businessman, Tom Gibbs, who supplies fresh seafood to restaurants.

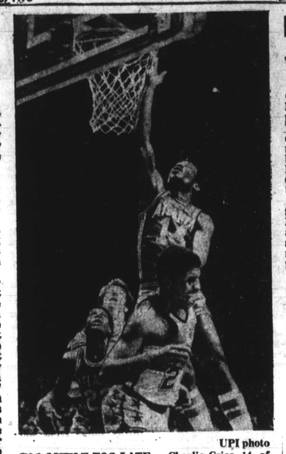
Gibbs picked DeShields from among several watermen and tough characters he thought would have a shot at the top money.

DeShields, who has had a few amateur bouts in the past, thinks he will have a chance against the bigger heavyweights.

Even Gibbs was surprised though when DeShields temporarily closed down his barber business to concentrate of the Walk-on.

"I am glad to find out that Charles is so dedicated. I'm hoping for the best because I'd like to see him turn pro," Gibbs said.

Tickets for the matches are on sale at the Civic Center at $4 for ringside and $2 general admission.



UPI photo

TOO LITTLE TOO LATE — Charlie Criss, 14, of the Atlanta Hawks drives over the Washington Bullets' Phil Walker, 29, for two points in the first period of their NBA Playoff game Wednesday in Landover but Bullets went on to win game.

Bullets can clinch with win tonight

LANDOVER, Md. (UPI) — Small forward Bob Dandridge scored 20 points to lead six Washington players in double figures Wednesday night as the Bullets blasted the Atlanta Hawks, 103-94, to take a 1-0 lead in their best-of-three NBA playoff series.

The Bullets, who finished third in the Eastern Conference, have a chance to wrap up the series at Atlanta Friday night. The series winner plays Central Division champion San Antonio in a best-of-seven duel.

Dandridge had 12 of his points in the second period as the Bullets broke from a 25-25 standoff at the end of the first period to a 56-46 halftime lead. Joining him in double figures were Kevin Grevey with 17 points, Larry Wright with 16, Wes Unseld with 13, Charles Johnson with 11 and Elvin Hayes with 10.

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Birds limp home hoping for win in opener here

Up to 35,000 fans were expected to greet the winless Orioles in Memorial Stadium this afternoon for their home season opener after an 0-5 showing in two on-the-road stands.

Manager Earl Weaver, still unable to figure out a winning combination or determine why the Birds haven't been able to get into the victory column, planned to send Dennis Martinez (0-1) to the mound in an effort to break the loss string before the home crowd.

"It's like a nightmare," Weaver said after the Kansas City Royals came from behind Wednesday night to hand the Birds a second straight loss, 5-2. "I just wish I could wake up."

Milwaukee, the surprisingly hard-hitting team from the bear city, which got the Birds rolling downhill with three straight high-scoring pastings, provides the opposition for the home opener.

Since battering the Orioles, the Milwaukee crew has made early season believers out of others. They gave the New York Yankees a battering, also.

Jim Palmer, the Orioles top hurler over the years, is slated to see action in the second home game on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Unless his arm troubles are behind him and he gets into the groove quickly, the Orioles may face a long, hard run for the division title.

Getting off to their worst start since 1955, the Orioles finished their tough, Wednesday night loss as the only team in the majors still looking for a victory.

Amos Otis, who earlier in the day had been rushed to a hospital when he passed a kidney stone, delivered a three-run, sixth-inning homer Wednesday night, to lift the Royals to their 5-2 victory.

Darrell Porter followed Otis' first homer of the year with an inside-the-park homer as the Royals scored all five of their runs in extending their winning streak to three games.

Hal McRae drew a one-out walk in the sixth, and after Mike Flanagan, 0-2, struck out George Brett, Al Cowens lined an opposite-field single to right and Otis, who was hitting .100 at the time, drilled a 2-1 pitch into the left-field seats for a 3-1 lead.

Porter sent Flanagan's next pitch into the right-field corner for his homer, and Joe Zdeb got Kansas City's fourth straight hit of the inning, a triple into the right-field corner.

Tippy Martinez relieved and induced Clint Hurdle to bounce a grounder to first, but Eddie Murray misplayed the ball, allowing Zdeb to score.

Steve Mingori relieved Dennis Leonard, 1-1, and got the last three outs to earn his first save of the season.

UPI photo

IN TROUBLE? — Pretty soon now the New York Knicks could be saying goodbye to Willis Reed. If the Knicks are eliminated early in the NBA playoffs, there's a strong possibility Reed will be paid off for the remaining two years of his coaching contract. Despite denials, his would-be successor has already been picked. He's Kevin Lughery, coach of the New Jersey Nets.

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Away from home

REPORTED FOR DUTY

Marine Private First Class Jennifer Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Jones of 3819 Park Heights Ave., Baltimore has reported for duty with the 2d Marine Division, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

A 1969 graduate of Southern High School and a 1972 graduate of Community College of Baltimore with an Associates of Art degree, she joined the Marine Corps in January 1978.

Marine LANCE Corporal John L. Pryor, son of Mrs. Lillie M. Pryor of 1818 W. Fairmont Ave., Baltimore, has reported for duty with the 2d Marine Division, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He joined the Marine Corps in May 1976.

U.S. NAVY

COMPLETED TRAINING

Navy Hull Maintenance Technician Third Class John D. Warrender, son of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Warrender Sr. of 408 N. Mariyn Ave., Baltimore, recently returned from an extended deployment in the Mediterranean Sea.

He is serving as a crewmember aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Guadalcanal, homeported in Norfolk, Va. While deployed, his ship operated as a unit of the U.S. Sixth Fleet.

U.S. ARMY

PROMOTED

Bryan L. Marine, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Lewis, 426 Olchester Ave., recenly was promoted to Army private first class while serving as a driver with the 28th Transportation Battalion in Mannheim, Germany. He is a 1977 graduate of City College High School.

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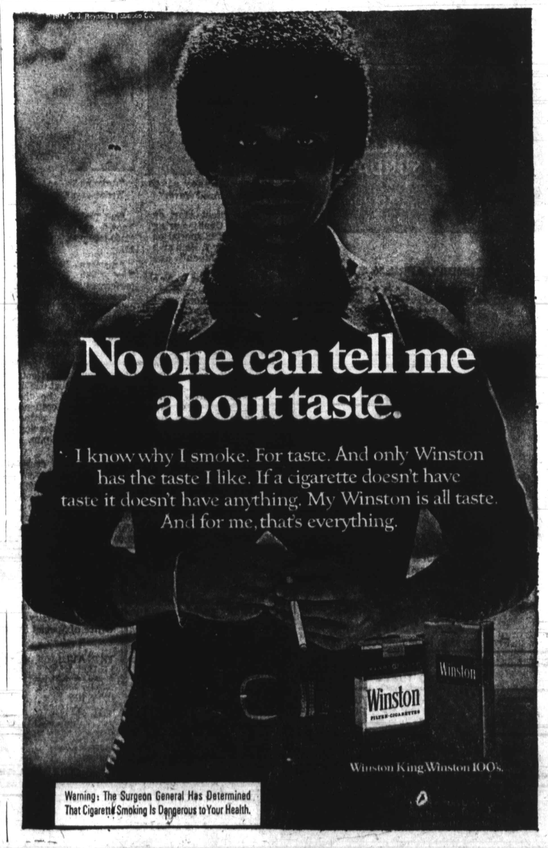

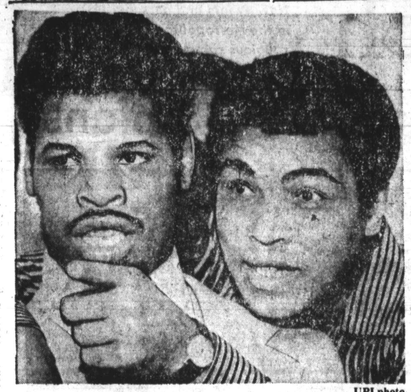

UPI photo

LOOK OUT CHAMP!! — Muhammad Ali kiddingly points to the crowd and tells heavyweight champion Leon Spinks (L) that they are out to get him because he is the champion, during press conference in New Orleans. The fighters were in town to formally announce that their multi-million dollar rematch will be held in the Louisiana Superdome Sept. 15.

Ali, Spinks sign; promoters claim dollar records to fall

By Peter Finney Jr.

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) — Leon Spinks, learning to live the part of heavyweight champion, offered Muhammad Ali his best grin.

Spinks' three-piece beige suit and gold rings and bracelets outclassed Ali's plain black-and-red sportshirt and and bare hands as they met Tuesday to sign for a Sept. 15 rematch in the Louisiana Superdome.

"Man, I don't recognize you," Ali said at a news conference. "You got on a suit and you got some teeth.

"I was going to name him 'The Vampire.' I named (Sonny) Liston 'The Bear,' (Floyd) Paterson 'The Rabbit,' (Joe) Frazier 'The Gorilla,' because he was so ugly. But (Spinks) put his teeth back in so I can't name him 'The Vampire.'"

The fighters, sweating heavily in quarters cramped by more than 200 boxing officials, media representatives and spectators, signed a blank sheet of paper to approve the first championship bout in the Superdome. Terms were not released.

Although the Superdome has seated more than 100,000 for religious events, local promoters say a theater-type configuration will be used for the nationally televised fight. Ticket prices will range from $25 for tickets in the upper reaches of the dome to $200 at ringside.

A sellout would bring a live gate of about $5 million, promoters said. Bob Arum, president of Top Rank Inc., of New York, said last week the New Orleans group had promised the largest live gate guarantee in boxing history, more than $2.5 million.

Arum has said he is asking $7 million for television rights, which are still in the negotiating stage.

Spinks, who beat Ali for the heavyweight crown by split decision Feb. 15 in Las Vegas, made the former champ wait 10 minutes before he waded his way through the crowd at the hotel. Ali crawled beneath a table in mock fear when Spinks entered.

"You crazy! I'm not going to fight you," Ali said.

Spinks, enjoying the exchange, said he would not change styles for the rematch with Ali.

He's the greatest, I'm the latest," Spinks said.

"I'm ready, I just feel I got to be more stronger.

"He's a beautiful man, and I love him with all my heart. But I'm not saying he's going to beat me."

Ali, who admitted underrating Spinks for their first bout when Spinks refused to be rattled.

"I couldn't scare him." Ali said. "In the third round, I came out and told him 'I'm crazy!' He looked at me and said 'I'm crazy, too!' He said, 'We both crazy.'"

3 Operation Champ boxers in AAU's Miss. tournament

Three winners of the recent South Atlantic Association boxing tournament held at Unity Hall, Dundalk will represent Operation Champ of the Urban Services Agency at the National A.A.U. Boxing Tournament in Biloxi, Miss.son April 16 - 22.

In the 139 pound Light Welterweight Class is 17 - year - old Marvin McDowell, who, with 41 wins and 11 losses behind him, is the Open Class Light Welterweight Champ of the South Atlantic A.A.U. for 1978.

McDowell has been boxing for 4 years and is ranked 7th nationally in his class as an amatuer.

Jody Wingfield, 24 has been boxing for 2½ years and with his 24 wins and 7 losses is already ranked 8th in the amatuer standings nationally in the 156 - pound light middleweight class.

He was Open Class winner in the 156 pound class at Dundalk.

In the year and a half that Larry Springgs has been boxing he captured the 165 - pound Open Class title in March with 3 wins and 2 losses to his credit.

Urban Services Agency is sending these three fighters down to represent Baltimore.

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He's the only black on PBA national tour

By Theresa Humphrey
APRO Staff Writer

TOWSON, Md. — Charlie Venable hopes to make $50,000 by the end of the year.

How does he plan to do it?

By bowling.

Venable, 26, of Brooklyn, N.Y. is currently the only black on the national tour of the Professional Bowlers Association.

One of 144 bowlers in the $75,000 Fair Lanes Open, Venable was in 53rd place at AFRO presstime — not a money-making position.

Venable, disappointed in his performance so far in the tournament, said he was still encouraged by his potential.

"I started on the tour in January and made $10,000 in six weeks," he said. "Now it's almost anticlimactic money -wise since I started out so good."

But on the other hand, he said, "I'm encouraged by the experience. My philosophy is, if you can't win, you at least gain something by the experience — all of these adverse conditions will help me later."

Venable, who started bowling at age 13, said that by age 14 he had made up his mind to be a pro bowler. He's doing it so far and he's one of the fortunate few.

Pro bowling is a sport that has few blacks and Venable estimated that out of the 1,600 - 1,700 members of the PBA, only 50 - 75 are black.

This year, he said, there are about 20 blacks bowling professionally in tournaments, but Venable is the only one on the national tour. The others are either regional or resident bowlers.

On the national tour, a pro bowler needs a sponsor who is willing to put up about $15,000. This is the stumbling block for black bowlers.

Venable said, "It's a high - risk investment. It's hard to break even the first year because you have to bowl short of great to give your sponsor his return.

"I think there's enough good black talent out there to be on tour, but wealthy blacks who could be sponsors work hard for their money and from a business standpoint, they want to go with a sure thing for an investment."

Venable's sponsor, Mike Kilgannon, a white New York policeman, is an old friend of his who put up $1,200 to sponsor him. He already has received a return on his investment because of Venable's high earnings from the start.

Venable said he knows of blacks who have gone to whites for sponsorship but "they just don't get them."

Some of those good black bowlers, without sponsors at the tournament, included Larry Brunson and Bobby Hall of Washington, D.C. and Phil Jones of Owings Mills, Md.

At AFRO presstime, Brunson was holding 12th place and Jones was tied in 22nd place — spots that could net them $1,700 and $1,025 respectively.

Hall was tied at the 110th spot — not a money - making position.

Charles Venable

Midshipman gets award from Carter

Tom Harper, a midshipman and assistant football coach at the Naval Academy, has been given the American Cancer Society's Courage Award for recovering from Abdomen cancer so serious he was given 90 days to live.

President Carter presented the award to Harper last week.

With members of Harper's family, society officers and academy representatives looking on, Carter read the awards citation to the midshipman, who goes on active duty in June.

Harper paid tribute to Marcella Bayh, wife of Sen. Birch Bayh, D.-Ind., who also has battled cancer and was present, and the late Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, of Minnesota.

Louis' wife joins Arum as promoter

LAS VEGAS (UPI) — Martha Louis, attorney - wife of former heavyweight boxing king Joe Louis, announced Friday she has reentered the boxing business and teamed up with Bob Arum of Top Rank Inc., and Don King of King Productions.

"Competition is great in any business," she said. "Naturally boxing will be our favorite baby and our aim is to satisfy fight fans all over the world with major league boxing shows."

The former "Brown Bomber" recently underwent open heart surgery in Texas.

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