second SPORTS

A 'big' surprise from Georgetown

Dikembe Matombo, 6-foot-11 native of Zaire, has been the No. 1 attraction of the Kenner Summer College League in Washington.

Matombo will be a sophomore at Georgetown in the fall. Matombo, whose native language is French, sat out last season to learn English so he could pass eligibility tests.

His game lacks offensive polish, but he's an exceptional athlete who is particularly effective defensively and on the boards with his long arms and quickness. He should be a spot player, at the least, on a team loaded with talent.

Matombo's presence may surprise a few casual Big East fans. One list of newcomers that appeared in several publications had a typographical error that listed Matombo at 5-10 rather than 6-10. Actually, he's closer to 7 feet.

While Matombo has caused the curiosity, the best player in the league for the second straight summer has been John Turner, a 6-7 Power forward and also a sophmore at Georgetown. Turner sat out last season after transferring from Allegany, Md., Community College.

Week in Boxing

Aug. 4 at Mexicali, Mexico — c-Calvin Grove vs. Jorge Paez, 15, IBF, featherweight title.

Aug. 5 at Atlantic City, N.J. — John Wesley Meekins vs. Mohamed Kawoya, 10, junior welterweights; Edward "Pee Wee" Parker vs. Johnny Carter, 10, junior lightweights.

Aug. 6 at Las Vegas, Nev. — Mike Johnson vs. Martin Quiroz, 10, junior welterweight Michael Moorer vs. Terrance Walker, 10, light heavyweights.

Aug. 7 at undetermined — c-Jose Sanabria vs. Vincenzo Belicastro, 12, IBF junior featherweight title.

Aug. 19 at Atlantic City, N.J. — c-Doug DeWitt vs. Ray Ray Gray, 12, USBA middleweight.

One-on-one

Detroit Pistons guard Isiah Thomas says he is interested in working part time as a sports or news reporter at WDIV-TV in Detroit. Thomas said he and Bob Warfield, vice president of news at WDIV, have been discussing a job at the television station.

The brother of former light-heavyweight champion Marvin Johnson, Henry Johnson, of Indianapolis, has been chosen as one of two assistant coaches for the U.S. Olympic boxing team.

University of the District of Columbia men's basketball coach Wil Jones, who led UDC to the Division II national championship in 1982, has been reassigned to other projects.

Smith win over Lendl stuns him

STRATTON, VT. (UPI) Unknown Roger Smith, a Bahamian ranked No. 150 in the world, Wednesday scored a 6-2, 6-3 upset over Ivan Lendl in the second round of the Volvo International. Lendl has been No. 1 in tennis since Sept. 9, 1985.

"Smith, whose previous biggest victory was over Marian Vajda in the first round of the U.S. Open, was stunned by his triumph over Lendl, 28.

"You ask what happened, I don't know. I still don't know," he said in wonder. Smith's booming serve proved too much for Lendl, who also had his own serve broken five times.

Smith, 24, struggled with his shots and his emotions when he had the chance to put away the U.S. Open champion.

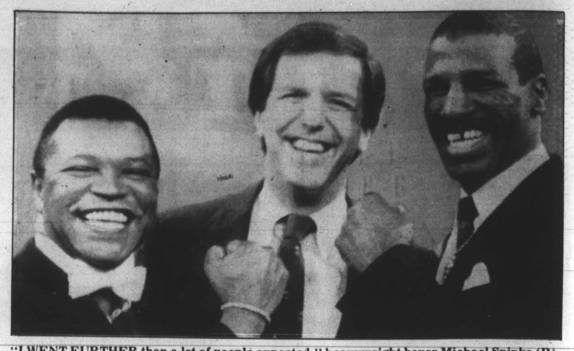
"I was very, very nervous, admitted Smith, whose match-point mistakes included netting an easy overhead. "Use any word but 'choke,' "

Smith, who is coached by England's John Lloyd, spoke with his coach about how to play Lendl and the advice he received was: "Don't miss."

Smith said he won because "I served big and I got a lot of balls back, which maybe he didn't expect."

Smith, a native of Freeport, Bahamas, regards Lendl as "one of the best players, if not the best, that ever lived."

Smith received college scholarship offers to play basketball, but instead chose to play tennis at Ohio State.



"I WENT FURTHER than a lot of people expected," heavyweight boxer Michael Spinks (R), said in announcing his retirement again on ABC's "Good Morning America." At left is his former manager, Butch Lewis, and in center show's host, Charles Gibson. — UPI Photo

Spinks is moving over to other side of boxing

NEW YORK (UPI) — Michael Spinks is moving on to another phase of his career in boxing.

Spinks a 32-year-old former heavyweight and light heavyweight champion, was knocked out in 91 seconds by Mike Tyson June 27 in Atlantic City, N.J.

On Wednesday, he and his friend and a promoter Butch Lewis choked back tears to announce the end of a 12-year career that began after Spinks won a gold medal as a middleweight in the 1976 Olympics.

Spinks retired with a 31-1 record and 21 knockouts. He says he left the decision up to Lewis, but agreed that there is no reason for him to fight on.

"I don't see anything else for me to do (in boxing)," Spinks said. "I'm not fighting just to be fighting."

Still, Spinks felt a bit awkward saying goodbye to boxing.

"I never retired from anything but selling newspapers. I guess I've come a long way from that," he said. "Twelve years is quite a while to be getting swung at and having to duck so many punches.

"I always thought when the time came I didn't want to retire, I just wanted to quit and let everyone ask 'Where is Michael, what happened to Spinks?' Then I wouldn't have to practice a speech.

"I thank all of you who love me and even those who don't. I thank you for disliking me. I'll miss it. I'll even miss conjuring up the fear to get in the ring. I'll probably miss that most of all."

Spinks earned $13.5 million against Tyson and $25 million for his career, according to Lewis. Lewis said Spinks will join him at Butch Lewis Productions, helping represent boxers and other professional athletes.

Spinks said he will be the rare boxer who stays retired.

"I can't convince the public (he won't come back), but they'll be in for a surprise if they expect to see me fight again," he said. "I'll tell them, 'don't wait on it.' "

Since the Tyson fight, Spinks and Lewis spoke several times of Spinks' future. Logic dictated retirement from boxing.

"Since the Tyson fight I thought of basically nothing else," Lewis said. "I just thought it was that time."

Lewis said Spinks, a St. Louis native who lives in Greenville, Del., will also work as a correspondent for the USA Today television show, reporting from Seoul on the Olympic boxing team.

Spinks said he is not worried that his accomplishments will be overshadowed by his loss to Tyson in one of the richest fights ever. Spinks, known as a boxer, uncharacteristically tried to slug with Tyson and was decked twice.

"Any loss I don't feel too great about," Spinks said. "I hadn't lost in a long time. I didn't have any tantrums — I lost fair and square. I was in with one heck of a puncher.

"I never expected to get stopped. But I had to die like a true boxer. I had to go like a true gladiator, and I got caught in the act.

"If I could do it again. I'd do it differently."

Spinks said he wants to be recommended as "one who did what he could with what he had to work with."

Spinks became the first reigning light heavyweight champ to win the heavy weight title when he upset Larry Holmes Sept. 21, 1985. He and Leon Spinks became the first brothers to win Olympic gold medals in 1976 and later became the first brothers to win the heavyweight title. Leon Spinks held the heavyweight title for six months after an upset victory over Muhammad Ali in February, 1978.

His biggest victories as a light heavyweight were decisions over World Boxing Association champion Edie Mustafa Muhammad and World Boxing Council champion Dwight Braxton. His last victory was a fifth-round knockout of Gerry Cooney June 15, 1987.

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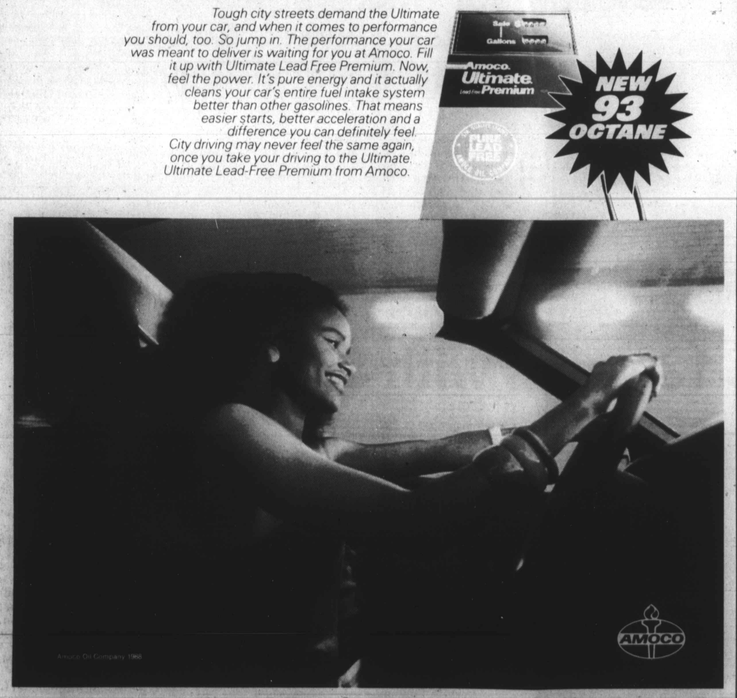


NFL players score pension victory

A federal judge has sided with the NFL Players Association and ordered the league's 28 teams to pay more than $19 million in disputed money to the players' pension fund.

U.S. District Court Judge Herbert Murray, Jr., in a ruling reached last week in Baltimore, agreed with the NFLPA that team owners violated language in the 1982 Collective Bargaining Agreement and the player pension plan by withholding a portion of the money that was supposed to be funneled into the pension fund, a pool of money set aside for players' retirement.

The NFLPA argued that the wording of the contract required the league to add $12.5 million a year to the fund. The NFL Management Council, the league's labor's relations arm, contended it was not obligated to add the full amount to the fund in years when the fund had a surplus and the contribution was not tax deductible for that year.

The suit was initially filed in March, 1987 by the NFL owners, asking that they not be required to pay the disputed amount.

NFL Management Council had not decided whether to appeal.

"We have effectively secured the money again for the players," said Doug Allen, the NFLPA's assistant executive director.

Allen said the pension plan stands at about $210 million, without the disputed money.

The decision was unrelated to the massive anti-trust suit filed by the players in Minneapolis last Oct. 15, the day they ended their strike. That suit is expected to be heard next year.

$6-million man likes new team

CARLISLE, PA. — the Washington Redskins' $6 million man, linebacker Wilber Marshall, took the training-camp practice field last week for the first time, saying he was happy to be free from the turmoil of the Chicago Bears and eager to adapt to a new team.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Winnie Mandela's home gutted by arsonists

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A mob of black teenagers stoned and set fire to the Soweto township home of Winnie Mandela, gutting the house, officials said.

Mandela, the wife of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, her daughter, Zindzi and Zindzi's two children were not at home during the unexplained attack.

The fire was the second such attack against Ms. Mandela in three years. In 1985, arsonists torched her home in the town of Brandfort where she lived during an eight-year banishment.

The home is a modest four-room house in the Orlando West section of Soweto, a segregated satellite city of some 2 million blacks on Johannesburg's southwest fringe.

"A group of black students from a secondary school in Soweto went to the home of Mrs. Winnie Mandela at about noon today," a police spokesman said. "The house was stoned and windows were broken.

"Petrol was poured into the house and set alight and the inside of the house was gutted. No one was in the house at the time and when the police arrived at the scene the scholars fled," the spokesman said.

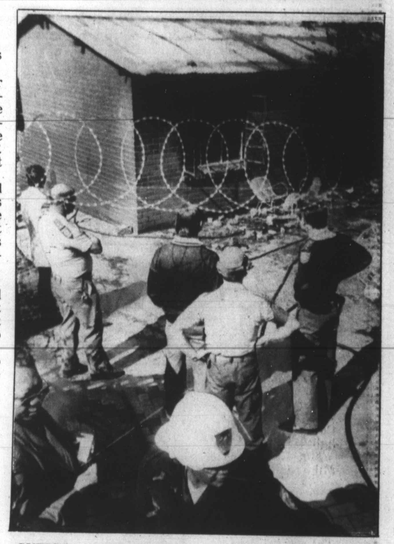
Family lawyer Akbar Ayob said: "The only information I have is that the house was set alight by someone. I'm not sure of the cause of the fire. Mrs. Mandela was not at home at the time."

Witnesses said police and three truckloads of soldiers patrolled the block as two fire trucks fought the fire that left charred furniture, curtains and clothing smouldering inside the blackened house.

Mrs. Mandela, an internationally known anti-apartheid activist, arrived by car about an hour later but did not get out and declined to speak to reporters.

Nelson Mandela, who turned 70 on July 18 in Cape Town's Pollsmoor prison, was sentenced in 1964 to life imprisonment for his role in a planned armed revolution against the white minority government.

On Aug. 13, 1985, unidentified arsonists set fire to Mrs. Mandela's home in the remote farming town of Brandfort, 220 southwest of Johannesburg, where she was banished for eight years until Dec. 21, 1985, when the order was lifted and she was allowed to return to Soweto. — (UPI)



GUTTED — South African police and firemen survey the gutted ruins of Winnie Mandela's bungalow in the black township of Soweto. Police and neighbors said the fire broke out after fighting between youths loyal to Mandela and a gang from a nearby school.

'Magic charms' for a price

NAIROBI, Kenya — A Kenyan soccer witch doctor has offered a little "magic charm" in the form of potions and roots to the English and West German national teams in the run-up to the 1990 World Cup.

Abubakar Sheriff Omar, Kenya's leading soccer wizard, pointed out in letters he said he sent to team managers Bobby Robson and Franz Beckenbauer that neither side was in very good form and might benefit from a little "help."

"Dear Mr. Robson, Your team has fared disastrously in international football since winning the 1966 World Cup. You may not know the reason, but it is because they lack the magic charm that over the years helped other teams to succeed," Omar wrote to the manager in London.

"I am renewing my offer so that I can help the team, using my spell, to regain its lost glory," said Omar, who was snubbed by former England manager Sir Alf Ramsey following an earlier proposal.

Omar told the legendary Beckenbauer, whose team most recently failed to get to the finals of the European Championships, that his offer was a sure thing.

"Should you accept this suggestion, we shall discuss terms and agree on payments. On my part, I shall guarantee to ensure victory for West Germany using my magic charm," the magician wrote.

Omar, reputedly paid large sums by top Kenyan teams to put the evil eye on the opposition and smooth the path to victory, operates from a house in a Nairobi suburb where he mixes heady "charm" cocktails of potions, roots and herbs.

He said he fixes games for the really big clubs by envisaging the play in his head before invoking the spirits. But he added he usually listens to his games live on radio or watches on television so that he can intervene and guide the ball away from his side's goal just in case his juju flops.

Asked Friday how he would deal with a possibly unethical clash of professional interest if both European sides accepted a deal, Omar was frank.

"I'll take the highest bidder," he said.

SOCCER-DOCTOR — Known as the soccer witch doctor of Nairobi, Kenya, Abubaker Shariff Omar prepares to cast a spell. Omar's specialty is forecasting and "doctoring" soccer matches with the aid of the Koran, African drums, and an assortment of roots, beads and slimy liquids.

Egyptian peace talks possible

CAIRO, Egypt — President Hosi Mubarak said in a recent interview a senior U.S. official will visit the Middle East in the near future to explore possible direct U.S.-Palestinian peace talks that would include PLO representatives.

Mubarak, in an interview in the Al Mussawar magazine, said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy has proposed meeting with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo or the Jordanian capital of Amman.

"It seems the Americans wish to explore our views about the possibility of a meeting between them and some of the Palestinians inside and outside (the Israeli-occupied territories)," Mubarak said.

U.S. government officials were not immediately available for comment on Mubarak's claim. Murphy is scheduled to tour the Middle East next month.

"If Amman agrees to host the meeting, fine," Mubarak said. "But if King Hussein finds that there are reasons that prevent the meeting from taking place in Jordan, we will be ready to host the meeting in Cairo."

Asked by the magazine to whom he referred in the phrase "Palestinians inside and outside" the occupied lands, Mubarak responded: "Those are members of the PLO, but they do not live inside the occupied territories."

The United States does not formally recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization, which is led by Yasser Arafat, and has not had any acknowledged official contacts with its representatives.

"I think the Americans are ready now to sit with some Palestinian personalities who are not prominent members of the PLO," Mubarak said in the interview.

The United States has set PLO acceptance of U.N. Security Council resolutions recognizing Israel's right to exist as a condition for direct talks.

Secretary of State George Shultz and other U.S. officials have met with some prominent Palestinian expatriates who maintain connections with Arafat's group, but Palestinians in the occupied territories refused to meet with Shultz during his travels in the Middle East earlier this year, and the PLO demanded direct contacts.

Mubarak also said in the interview that he is prepared to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, but only if Shamir drops his objections to an international conference on the Middle East — the cornerstone of the peace package promoted by Shultz in his shuttle diplomacy.

Mubarak and Shamir have not met since the Egyptian president succeeded Anwar Sadat, who was assassinated in October, 1981.

"I will be prepared to meet Shamir, if he takes a positive step in the direction of convening an international conference without setting preconditions," Mubarak said.

Shultz'a proposal for an international conference has split the Israeli government, with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres backing the plan.

Two Americans held, suspected in coup plot

MONROVIA, Liberia — Two Americans admitted being involved in an attempt to invade Liberia last month and overthrow President Samuel Doe, the Daily Observer newspaper reported.

The newspaper, quoting Liberian security forces, identified the two as Sgt. James Bush, Jr., 40, a Vietnam veteran, and William Curtis, 43, a printer. The report gave no other details on the men.

In Washington, State Department spokesman, Charles Redman confirmed two American men who he would not identify were being held in Monrovia but said no charges had been filed. He said consular officials had seen them.

S.A. suspends tight media control

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The government, under fire from newspaper editors and business leaders, has suspended a decree that tightened state control over the media by requiring registration of freelance journalists and domestic news agencies.

Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha said in a statement the decree setting this Sunday as the deadline for registration, had been temporarily suspended "pending further investigation of the matter."

The suspension came two days after the U.S. State Department described the new press restrictions as "unwarranted" and called for their withdrawal. The International Press Institute also condemned the recent decree in a cable to President Pieter Botha.

Some journalists and domestic news agencies had publicly vowed to defy the registration order, risking fines of $10,000 or up to 10 years in jail.

Publishers and lawyers, citing vague and confusing wording that could affect major newspapers, last week urged Botha to scrap the decree, issued June 10 under state-of-emergency powers.

Chambers of industry and commerce have criticized the registration measure in a joint protest to Botha.

Publishers, journalist groups and opponents of censorship in South Africa and abroad have opposed the measure that would widen already far-reaching curbs on reporting in the racially divided nation.

Botha's decree exempts by name major Western news agencies, among them United Press International, but vaguley targets anyone else conducting "news agency business."

In his statement, Botha said after hearing arguments from publishes and business leaders, "it has been decided to temporarily suspend (the order) pending further investigation of the matter."

"The principle of the problem ... remains a matter of grave concern to the government," he said.

LAY THE BLAME — Leslie Manigat (R), deposed president of Haiti, spoke at a press confab during which he blamed the U.S. government for not giving him financial and political help to avoid the military coup of June 20. On his left is Hilarian Cardozo, Sec'y General of the Venezuelan Demochristian Organization.

POSTERS (such as the one shown here) condemning alleged Israeli human rights violations against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories went up in more than 200 subway cars in the nation's capital and its suburbs.