



Eleven inducted into Sports Hall

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Winston-Salem Journal sportswriter.

Graham, Michael Cowan, Carl Eller, Hildred "Spunky" Hill, Harold "Happy" Hairston and Drew Buie.

Also inducted in 1983 were official Wilburn Clary, administrator Claude "Pop" Joyner and former athletes Daniel Bowen, Harrison Davis, Kenny Duckett, Conrad

WXII-TV Sports Director Cameron Kent served as master of ceremonies for the event.

Another Big One

Boxing's legendary trainer Eddie Futch, right, with current IBF heavyweight champion Larry Holmes. Futch predicts a Holmes victory over South Africa's Gerri Coetzee June 8 at Caesar's Palace.

PEPSI PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem salutes Hamp Kenan of Reynolds Senior High School: He's The Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Kenan cracked a home run that gave the Demons a 6-5 victory over North Forsyth this week...and put the Reynolds baseball team in first place in the Central Piedmont Conference.

In honor of Hamp Kenan as The Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week, the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem will make a cash contribution to the Reynolds Senior High School athletic program. Congratulations to baseball standout Hamp Kenan...The Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week.

Listen each Wednesday at 8 p.m. on WSJS for Gene Overby TALKS SPORTS where he highlights Pepsi's Prep Athlete of the Week.

An unassuming legend quietly plies his trade

By LYNNE E. FARRELL
Special To The Chronicle

As the Larry Holmes-Gerrie Coetzee press conference in Los Angeles wound down, an elderly gentleman clad neatly in a three-piece suit, white flecks in his charcoal hair, stood off to the side.

Spotting him, a youth extended his hand. "It's nice to meet a living legend," he said. The gentleman just smiled.

In the world of boxing, Eddie Futch is legendary. His collaborations with fighters Don Jordan, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton -- and now Larry Holmes-- have yielded champion after champion, success after success.

Futch is one of the most revered trainers in the fight game today. A keen sense

of perception and low-key demeanor also keep him popular.

"He is one of the most well-loved men in the profession," says former Muhammad Ali trainer Angelo Dundee.

Born in Mississippi, Futch grew up in Detroit and began his amateur boxing career at the Detroit Athletic Association.

"There were a lot of good fighters there," Futch recalled. "Joe Louis, Holman Williams. I had always been on the top of my sport, basketball, but here I was low man on the totem pole, so I trained religiously."

Futch sparred with Louis frequently. "Joe liked to use me for speed," Futch remembers. "But I knew his moves. That's how I

managed to escape with my life."

After winning several local amateur titles, Futch took a non-paying coaching position in 1939. Making his way through the amateur ranks as a coach and trainer, Futch eventually turned his sights to the pro ranks. In 1958, he saw Eddie Jordan -- one of his fighters -- win the world welterweight title. Since then, Futch's good judgment and experience have aided 13 champions.

Besides Holmes and Frazier, Futch has worked with Harold Johnson, Michael Spinks, Marvin Camel, Hedgemon Lewis, Antonio Gomez, Bobby Chacon, Mando Ramos and Alexis Arguello.

"I usually become emotionally involved with the

fighters I work with," Futch said, adding that he is just as proud of two amateurs he trained who did not become professional fighters. One is a dentist, the other a surgeon.

"I feel it's a trainer's job to encourage," Futch said. "But, sometimes, it's his job to discourage. I've told many amateurs that the pro game is not for them."

"He's one of the greatest trainers of all time," says International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion Larry Holmes.

And Holmes should know.

For the past three years, Futch, 72, has been instrumental in Holmes' continued success in the ring.

"He's added a lot to my corner since Day One," Holmes says. "He instills

inspiration. He talks confidence."

But mostly, Futch stays to himself. While always cooperative with reporters, he never seeks attention. Yet, he remains patient and enthusiastic in all he does.

When found on the outskirts of the Holmes-Coetzee press conference, Futch said he and Coetzee trainer Jackie McCoy go back a long way and have

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