

## SPORTS WEEK

B SECTION

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## Blast From the Past

Kimberly Park Tennis Club brings back Christmas dance

BY T. KEVIN WALKER  
THE CHRONICLE

For those people who aren't looking forward to spending their Christmas night watching "It's a Wonderful Life" for the 100th time or clearing away colorful wrapping paper, the Kimberly Park Tennis Club is providing a festive alternative.

The club will hold a Christmas dance Dec. 25 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. The club has experience at hosting Christmas bashes. In 1978, the club made a big splash with its first Christmas dance.

"We set up for 300 people, but it was standing room only," James Berry, the president of the Kimberly Park Tennis Club, said, recalling that initial party. The parties proved so successful over the years that the club eventually had to leave the cramped Hilton (now the Hawthorne Inn) and move

into the Benton Convention Center. At the height of its

**The dance will feature live music, a disc jockey and light hors d'oeuvres. It will be held from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Dec. 25. To purchase tickets, call Arnice Wall at 759-2306. The \$20 tickets can also be bought at the door.**

popularity in the early 1990s, the annual dances drew more than 1,200 people.

But then they stopped.

Some members of the club — which was formed back in 1968 to get more African-Americans, especially African-American young people, interested in tennis — broke away and started holding a dance of their own. At one point the two groups were holding dances at the same time and at the same site.

"We just did not feel it was worthwhile for us because both groups were having the dances," said Mike McCoy, vice president of the club.

Eventually the other group stopped having the dances as well, and the city, in the opinions of the members of the Kimberly Park Tennis Club, was left with a big void on Christmas night.

Fittingly, the theme of this year's dance is "Let's Do It Again." And members of the



Members of the Kimberly Park Tennis Club include: first row, from left — Elaine Pitt, Irene Phillips, Arnice Wall; back row — Mike McCoy, James Berry and Ron Snow.

See Dance on B3



Evander Holyfield, right, battles Lennox Lewis in 1999.

## Holyfield out of titles, out of time

BY TIM DAHLBERG  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Evander Holyfield has run out of heavyweight titles to give away. He still refuses to admit he's also running out of time.

Chris Byrd became the latest to benefit from Holyfield's charitable ways, winning the IBF version of the heavyweight title Saturday night by exploiting the legs and reflexes of the aging former four-time champion.

The light-hitting Byrd won a title that Lennox Lewis thought so little of he sold it to promoter Don King for \$1 million and a Range Rover. Still, the win plants him firmly on the second tier of heavyweights, just beneath WBC champion Lewis.

For Holyfield, the future is less certain. He's won only two of his last seven fights, and he's a 40-year-old heavyweight who shows the wear and tear of some of the beatings he has taken over the years.

His goal of becoming the undisputed heavyweight champion once again seems almost laughable — to everyone but Holyfield himself.

"I will be back," Holyfield said.

Holyfield was bidding to become the first heavyweight to ever win the title five times. Instead, he earned the dubious distinction of having lost title fights to all three major reigning champions.

"I didn't want to see him fight again after the second fight with Lennox Lewis," said Lewis' trainer, Emanuel Stew-

ard. "What is he going to accomplish? His legacy is solid, his wealth is good, and his mind and body are solid. Why risk all of that?"

Holyfield rationalized his performance by saying he injured his left shoulder in the first round, probably by throwing one of the wild punches that Byrd easily avoided. His manager hinted darkly of some obstacles Holyfield had to overcome but did not elaborate.

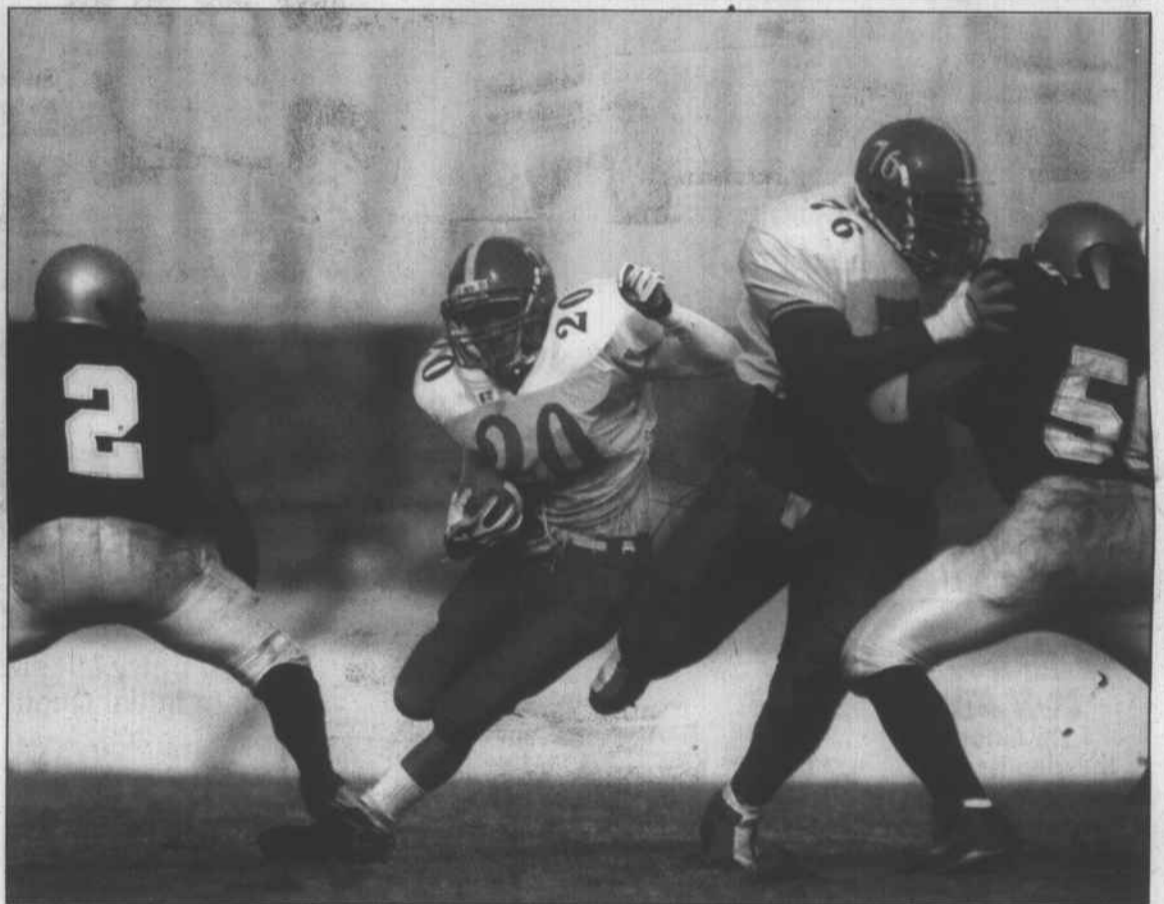
But aging fighters break down more easily than those in their prime, and despite looking as fit as always, Holyfield's body is beginning to let him down.

Holyfield got his best punches in when he pinned Byrd on the ropes, but far more missed than landed, and he threw only about half the punches that Byrd did. Punch stats credited Holyfield with landing only three jabs the entire fight, to 154 from the crafty Byrd.

"He can't fight a full three-minute round anymore," Steward said.

If King has his way, Byrd will fight the winner of the March 1 WBA title fight between John Ruiz and Roy Jones Jr., who is moving up from light heavyweight. But Jones has not agreed to fight again as a heavyweight after that fight.

©Lewis, meanwhile, is still likely to face Vitali Klitschko in April, despite saying earlier Saturday that he would wait until after the Ruiz-Jones fight to decide whom to fight next. Lewis later recanted, saying he planned to fight Klitschko.



Isaiah Thomas (76) clears the way for Derek May during Carver's demolition of Wilson Fike.

Photos by Bruce Chapman

## Champions Once More

Carver has easy time with win over Wilson Fike in state championship

BY SAM DAVIS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

RALEIGH — Carver's physical style of play was too much for Wilson Fike, and the Yellowjackets dominated play up front en route to a 34-0 victory over the Golden Demons at Carter-Finley Stadium to capture the state 3-A football championship.

Carver rolled up more than 350 yards of total offense in the game and held Fike to only 69 in capturing its second state 3-A football title in five seasons. The Yellowjackets captured the 1998 championship with a dramatic 33-28 victory over Kings Mountain.

Compared with that game, the 2002 championship game was anticlimactic. Carver took the opening kickoff and promptly marched 80 yards for a touchdown to take the lead and never looked back in capturing the victory.

Coach Keith Wilkes, who led teams to the semifinals in 1999 and 2000, said his team came into the game focused and wasn't going to be denied.

"The kids did a great job of staying focused throughout the season and in the playoffs," Wilkes said. "I'm very proud of this group because they accomplished something that very few teams have a chance to accomplish."

The Yellowjackets got strong performances on both sides of the football from a number of players. Carver's defensive front, anchored by Steven Jackson and Isaiah Thomas, and linebackers Gemel Smith and Antwon Mitchell, prevented Fike from gaining a first down in the first half. The Golden Demons went to intermission with only 10 yards of total offense and trailing 28-0.

Wilkes went to the bench throughout the second half as play got a little ragged. Fike's players on both lines repeatedly went to the legs of Carver players to keep them from plowing them over as they had in the first half.

"My main focus in the second half was keeping our kids healthy," said Wilkes, whose top two offensive linemen,



Game MVP Jayvon Biddle skips out to receive his award.

See Carver on B3