

Sports

Talk of the Spirit

From staff and wire reports

Two head basketball coaches in the Atlantic Coast Conference say an NBA expansion franchise in Charlotte would help the conference with exposure and not hinder the league's attendance and interest.

"I think college basketball has helped pro basketball," UNC coach Dean Smith said, "when players like Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and James Worthy and players like that go into the NBA with so much talent and charisma."

Some people have wondered what would happen if UNC played at Duke on a February night and Larry Bird and his Boston Celtics were in Charlotte to play the Spirit.

Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins says the presence of a pro team — the Atlanta Hawks has helped his program, not

hurt it.

"When I first came, people tried to use that against me in recruiting," Cremins said. "But I've had good relationships with the Hawks' coaches, first Kevin Loughery and now Mike Fratello, and they've both helped me in recruiting. The kids like living in a pro town, being able to see the pro teams play."

Smith agrees. "I'm for the city of Charlotte and I think the NBA would be good for it," Smith said. "I'd enjoy seeing our (former) players come through the area, and I know they'd enjoy it."

The NBA Board of Governors will vote later this month on league expansion, and Charlotte is expected to land a team. Earlier, an NBA expansion committee recommended Charlotte to the board as the No. 1 city for the proposed league expansion.

Sugar Ray: the return of a legend

Langston Wertz

Opinion

The April 6 Superfight between Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvelous Marvin Hagler will surely go down in boxing annals as the fight in which the man who they all said couldn't do it, did.

Sugar Ray, the All-Glitter and Glamour Boy did what he said he would and could do: defeat Hagler. The press and all the experts, save a football commentator and a victim of both the contestants, picked Hagler to reign in the ring. To the disdain of the many who lost house and class ring, the few took the victory. For just as John Madden and Thomas "Hit Man" Hearn predicted, the man who took the 1976 Montreal Summer Games and the world by storm, Ray Charles Leonard, won his fifth championship title in his third different weight division.

For all of those people who felt the fight was fixed and/or Hagler took the fight lightly take heed: Hagler trained for this fight twice as long as usual. He took the man from Potomac, Md., very seriously. Hagler wanted this fight, he had said many times that the only way he would achieve the recognition he so felt he deserved was to knock out a somebody. The somebody obviously was not Hearn, who has turned into a "Hit Man" only as long as he's fighting a has-been.

I hope many Sugar Ray detractors watched HBO's Saturday night retelecast of the "Jungle Rumble." (OK Mr. Ali, maybe it is a play on one of your more famous quotes). Sugar Ray Leonard defeated Hagler. True,

one judge was watching a tape of Hagler beating Hearn for four rounds and Leonard beating former junior middleweight champ Ayube Kalule for the remaining eight, but most boxing experts sitting at ringside were pro-Leonard on the average score of 115-113.

Sure it's hard to believe that a fighter inactive for three years could defeat a seemingly indestructible rock of a champion who had not lost for almost as long as Leonard's son, Ray Jr., had been alive. But consider that Leonard is probably the second greatest fighter inch-for-inch and pound-for-pound to ever grace the ring (in deference to Mr. Ali).

Leonard studied Hagler and his tendencies for 3 years and did not sit around passively and party all the time, either. Leonard, at a svelte 158 pounds looked more muscular and remained as quick as ever. Some thought the fact that the fireworks American flag tearing during pre-fight ceremonies might spell doom for Leonard, the All-America boy who was the sentimental favorite.

From the first round, Leonard took the most marvelous punches Hagler had to give and returned in kind. Hagler landed only 37 percent of his power punches and Leonard 53. In fact, Hagler threw 792 punches and landed only 39 percent, while

Leonard landed 49 percent and provided the elusive target that confused the southpaw.

USA Today reported that Leonard's eye was unscathed by any blow. While that is a bit hard to swallow, it points to the fact that Leonard was hard to hit and the bolo punching taunts, smiles and the I'll-poke-my-head-out-you-try-to-hit-me tactics which caused a fighter from Mexico named Duran to do the unthinkable, retire from a match, confused and frustrated Hagler.

The angry champion did get to the challenger directly following one of the taunts, with a hard left to the Leonard chin which caused the challenger's legs to wobble and wobble but they didn't fall down. Many times the taunts served to send Hagler into a most uncharacteristic wild flurry which sapped some of his vaunted punching power.

Before the start of round 11, Leonard trainer Angelo Dundee said, "Six minutes and you're champ, son. You can do six minutes in your sleep." Leonard did not sleep box the last two rounds, he out-quickened and out-boxed Hagler and won the battle he said he had to partake in. He'd defeated the odds and became the first man to ever come out of retirement into a higher weight class and claim a championship.

As far as the prospects for a rematch go, Leonard did say that he was back for this one fight only many, many times. Hagler knew that. I admit that I predicted a Hagler house-cleaning of a fighter who last had a big time bout when

I was in high school. But as my roommate pointed out to me, Hagler had not fought in nearly two years and that some boxing experts were calling the fight a match between two has-beens.

I don't feel Hagler is over the hill. He can certainly re-clean up his division and claim the IBF, WBC and WBA titles which comprised his dominance over any fighter at or near 160 pounds. For Leonard, risk of the eyes and health should now be enough for him to retire for good. One only hopes Leonard has studied the plight of his idol, Muhammed Ali, as well as he studied his last opponent.

Ali lost to Larry Holmes in 1980 and then fought Trevor Berbick, suffering two of the most telling defeats in his storied career. Today, Ali can barely articulate himself and many feel the reason is his being struck too many times inside the squared circle.

There is nothing left for Leonard, who has won more than 50 million dollars in boxing and is reportedly worth nearly 30 million personally. I hope the hint of a possible fight in six months against Hearn is only, as Leonard said, a joke.

For Hagler, one loss to one great fighter. The fight was close and Hagler is still the class of boxing. If he retires he will go down as a great champion but Hagler will be back to prove he is as his name purveys, Marvelous. A reclamation of a unified middleweight title is just a matter of time.

Congress

from page 1

\$14,000 is all that is left (to allocate), then we'll just have to go from there. I feel like the Student Congress knows what they're doing, and they'll treat us favorably in the fall.

"Student Congress understands that the BSM needs funding to exist," he said. "If they do not fund us, then we'll have to look for alternatives."

Council

from page 1

ment received during the past two years.

At the outset of the meeting, Wallace said, "I believe we can set forth a framework tonight. We need to because when the last 10 days in August hit us, there will be a simultaneous outburst of enthusiasm. We will have 15 parties for 72 hours straight and the police will be running around with a decibel reader going nuts."

Council member R.D. Smith said he disagreed. "I'd have to suffer from decibels of 75. That would be

ridiculous to subject people to that type of noise."

Council member Julie Andresen said the council is becoming aware that the noise ordinance is imperfect, and she commended Bailey and his assistants for their efforts to work with the problem.

Student Body executive assistant Henry Pharr said, "By moving (the decision) to the 29th, it is effectively truncating student support. Whether this was an obvious move or not, it's something that they should have acted on, and they didn't."

Women's tennis takes fourth at ACC tournament

From staff reports

The UNC women's tennis team concluded a fine regular season on a disappointing note Sunday, as it was defeated twice and took fourth place in the ACC Tournament at Raleigh.

The women, top-seeded in the tourney, were knocked off by Wake Forest 5-4 in their first contest of

the day and then lost to Duke 5-1 in the consolation round.

The loss to the Deacons was particularly hard to take. The match was begun on Saturday, and UNC led 4-3 when rains halted the action and deferred tennis until Sunday. The Tar Heels then lost both the No. 2 and No. 3 doubles matches to fall from championship contention.

Wake knotted the score at No. 3, as Jolyn Smith and Susie Broecker combined to knock off Petra Wessels and Valerie Farmer, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. The Deacons then pulled off a miracle finish at No. 2. Angelique Lodewyck and Laura Jackson teamed to knock off Laura Balentine and Landis Cox, 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) and capture the match. The fact that Balentine-Cox led 5-1 in the final set only made the loss harder to take.

On Saturday, UNC's Gina Goblirsch squeaked by Jackie Van Wijk at No. 1, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, in the first of many three-set matches on the day. No. 2 Spencer Barnes lost to Monica Kowalewski, 6-3, 6-1. Lodewyck then knocked off Anne Stephenson, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, a loss avenged by Cox's defeat of Jackson.

5-7, 6-0, 6-4.

At No. 5, Farmer rolled over Broecker, 6-1, 6-0. The final singles match went to UNC as well, as Wessels handled Smith with ease, 6-3, 6-2. The first doubles match set the stage for the final two, though, as No. 1 seeds Van Wijk and Kowalewski knocked off Goblirsch and Barnes, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

In the consolation match, UNC was able to avoid similar woes in doubles, because all of those matches were rained out. In singles, the Tar Heels went quietly into the night, losing four of the matches in straight sets. The exceptions were Goblirsch, who at No. 1 lost to Patti O'Reilly, 7-5, 5-7, 7-5, and Wessels, who at No. 6 defeated Donna Preston, 6-4, 6-3.

Mickey Mantle hospitalized

From staff and wire reports

Baseball Hall of Famer Mickey Mantle was in fair condition Monday after being hospitalized for chest pains, a hospital spokesman said.

Mantle's condition was upgraded from serious to fair early Monday, said Sharon Peters, spokeswoman for Irving Community Hospital. She said Mantle was in the intermediate coronary care unit.

Mantle, who lives in Dallas, was stricken late Sunday on a Delta Airlines flight bound for Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, said

Ramona Bevir, a hospital spokeswoman. Paramedics met the flight. She said doctors confirmed that Mantle did not suffer a heart attack.

Mantle, 55, was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974. He broke in with the Yankees in 1951, replacing Joe DiMaggio in center field. He quickly established himself as the greatest center fielder of his time, exhibiting a marvelous combination of power, speed and average until persistent injuries slowed him.

Mantle was a switch-hitter with devastating power from both sides of the plate and fantastic strike-zone judgment, consistently breaking the 100-walk barrier throughout his career. In 1956, he won the American League Triple Crown with 52 home runs, 130 runs batted in and a .353 batting average. He also won three Most Valuable Player Awards and four American League home run titles.

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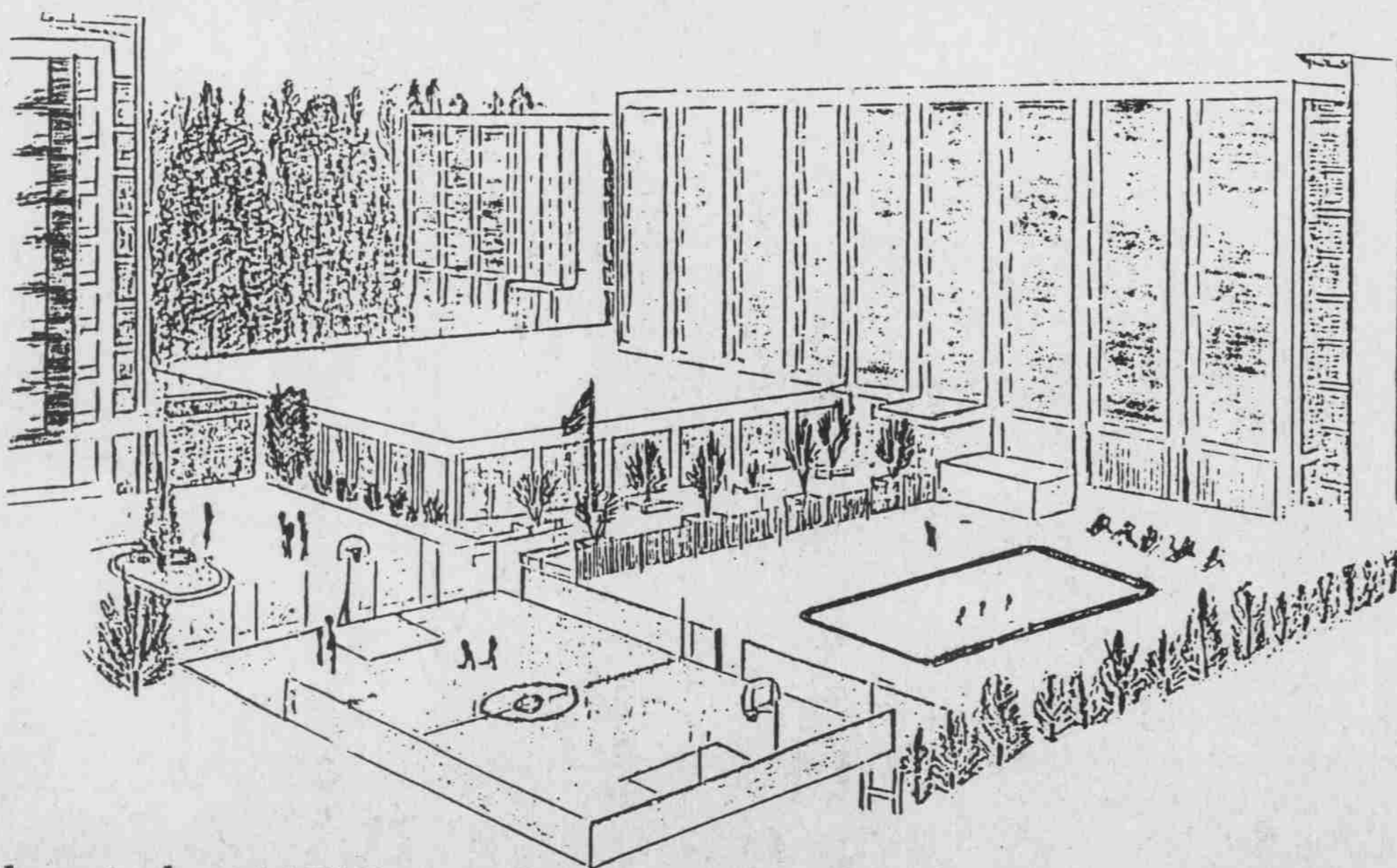
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