

Boxing will hit Joel Coliseum

UBA world title on the line

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Fight Night will take place at the Joel Coliseum Annex, a new venue for Ring of Dreams, on Aug. 13. The doors will open at 7 p.m. Five bouts have already been confirmed - with one title on the line.

Undefeated heavyweight Moultrie Witherspoon (10-0) of South Carolina will bump heads with Ron Bellamy (14-2) of North Carolina for the vacant UBA world heavyweight championship title.

The action-packed card will also include two female bouts. One fight will feature Carlette "The Truth" Ewell. The second female bout will be Ijeoma Egbunine from South Africa and Alexandria Malloy of Florida for the vacant WBE middleweight title.

Also on the card will be well-known local male boxers Earl "Chocolate Drop" Ladson and Derek "The Black Lion" Edwards (16-0). Ladson will fight Eric Starr, while Edwards will entertain Robert Marsh.



Local boxer Carlette "The Truth" Ewell is scheduled to fight on Aug. 13.

Mitch Green is also scheduled to fight at the Joel.

The opening bout will start at 8 p.m.

Reserved seats are \$25. General admission is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For tickets and arrangements, contact Ring of Dreams at 201-0081 or Ticketmaster at 722-6400. Fans can also

get tickets at the Coliseum Box Office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Ticketmaster centers are located in Hecht's and FYE.

VIP tables are also available for the fight. Tables are \$500 and seat up to eight people. The tables include a complimentary food tray and personal cocktail service.

One-on-One

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sure?

Will: No, I don't think that it brings pressure. You just have to take what you've got and run with it. We know who we are. We know what happened last year. We showed a lot of pride in the way we played the second half of the season. Realistically, there's no pressure on us. We know we have to play at a certain level. We also know that we've got to go out and do our jobs at 110 percent.

Anthony: OK. Now, you're a Florida boy. You're from Panama City. How much have you enjoyed living in North Carolina?

Will: It's good. This is a nice place, and Charlotte is a nice city. I met my wife there, and I have my little girl there. So it's been good. It's a nice family atmosphere.

Anthony: Now, I know you're from Panama City. What high school did you go to?

Will: Rutherford High School.

Anthony: Rutherford High School. (Smiles.) Black and gold.

Will: Yes, sir.

Anthony: I used to play against your school when I was in high school. I played at Enterprise High.

Will: Yeah, we used to kill y'all.

Anthony: Whatever.

Will: We used to do some damage down there. From '94-'98, I know we didn't lose to Enterprise.

Anthony: I'll let you talk junk now. (Both laugh.) Hey, do you miss those days?

Will: You know you've got to miss the high school days. Those were just the straight-up, clowning days. It's a little more business like now. You have to take a more manly approach to the game now. It was all about fun back in high school.

Anthony: What other sports did you play before you got to college?

Will: Track, weightlifting, baseball, rugby and soccer. (Giggles.) I played some of everything.

Anthony: Since you've played baseball, tell me your thoughts about Rafael Palmeiro getting suspended for testing positive for a banned substance in the major leagues.

Will: Yeah, that's kind of strange, especially after his testimony in front of Congress. I was like, "Wow." I can't believe a guy like him would come up on a test like that. Well, what can you say? It is what it is. Sure, it messed up his image, but how do you

determine whether he did it in the past or not? It's the same way with us. We could pop up on a test for taking some simple Sudafed.

Anthony: Right.

Will: It could've been something that simple that really got him. Things are so strict that if I get a cold in the middle of the night I've got to call our trainer and let him know that I'm taking Sudafed, because if I fail a test, they've got to know that I took Sudafed prior to that. If I'm on a certain medication, then they've got to know that.

Anthony: OK. Now, I know you're in camp right now, but just kind of tell me what some of the things are you doing during the night. Is it basically just go to sleep and get ready for the next day?

Will: We get a little bit of time. We kind of get out of meetings at 9:30 or 9:45 (p.m.). We get a little bit of time to kind of sit back in our rooms and chill a little bit. You can watch a little TV and flip through the play book to tune up on some things you

may have learned that morning. But other than that, it is just go to sleep and do it again the next day.

Anthony: What about the PlayStation 2 action? I know you guys get on the "NCAA 2006."

Will: Nope, I don't play it. Football is my job, man. Come on.

Anthony: (Laughs.) What do you do?

Will: I'm more of an RPG kind of guy. I've got to play a game that I've got to think my way through like "Resident Evil" or something. I like figuring out little puzzles.

Anthony: That's what's up. So what's new?

Will: Well, Dan Morgan and I are big animal fans, so we're actually getting ready to open up a doggy day care in Charlotte. I'm kind of into a bunch of things. I model (miniature) cars. I'm also looking at modeling a plane next year. I kind of dabble and dabble in a number of things. (Smiles.) I have every power tool known to man. I can build your house if you really need me to.

Anthony: That's cool, but I refuse to play someone that makes so much more than me.

Will: We know. (Both giggle.) That's OK. We'd just probably do it as a project.

Anthony: Let me ask you: Is there one player that you really dread playing, like, say, Michael Vick?

Will: Nah, I don't really dread playing anybody. This is a sport that you really can't dread anybody. You have to want that challenge. You have

to face every challenge head on and take it at 110 percent. I'm going to do whatever I've got to do.

Anthony: OK. Then, who presents you with the most challenge?

Will: I don't know, and I really don't want to say because I haven't seen everyone yet and every year brings a different challenge.

Anthony: How are your Bulldogs gonna do this year?

Will: I think we'll be all right. There are a lot of guys waiting in the wings down there. D.J. Shockley is going to do some good things for us. He's been on the field a lot more than people realize. He's going to present a different challenge to teams than David Greene did. We'll be fine.

Anthony: We're both SEC guys. Somebody told me that the SEC wasn't as tough as it used to be. What do you have to say about that?

Will: You're crazy.

Anthony: I feel that. **Will:** It's definitely one of the toughest conferences ever. It doesn't matter who you face every week. It's up and down in the SEC. You can be good one week and lose the next week.

Anthony: Let's stay on the SEC for a moment. Um, which team did you hate playing the most?

Will: I'd have to say Florida, definitely. They were my nemesis in college. That's the only team that I've never beaten. And I've never played against Alabama.

Anthony: You'd better be glad. (Both giggle.) You don't want to see Alabama. (Smiles.) If you weren't playing football, what would you be doing?

Will: I went to the school of landscape and architecture, so I'd probably be sitting out here doing some city planning for somebody. Who knows?

Anthony: Cool. I know you've got to go and get your rest. Let's close out with free association.

Will: (Smiles.) Oh boy. OK.

Anthony: Stephen A. Smith.

Will: Hmmm. Peanut butter.

Anthony: Charlotte Bobcats.

Will: Basketball.

Anthony: Bob Johnson (owner of Bobcats and Sting).

Will: Big money.

Anthony: Mike Minter.

Will: Old school.

Anthony: Will Witherspoon.

Will: Bad man.

Anthony: Coach Mark Richt (Georgia head coach).

Will: Nice guy.

Anthony: Hey, I appreciate the time, dawg. I'll get with you later on.

Will: Perfect. I'll talk to you later.

Late Nite

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They've struggled a little bit, and they've won a lot of close games. If they get it all together, then they are a team that could win it all. They definitely have the potential to win it, so anything could happen during the next few games."

First things first, though. The opening rounds of the playoffs were full of action, with the Talaban defeating Arliss. Jump Off taking down the Syndicate, G-Unit smashing past Dem Heels, The Edge taking down Da Cuse, and One and Done slipping by T-Life earlier this week.

One of the most exciting games of the first round took place during the matchup between a talented and scrappy Strictly Da Bottom squad and

Main Event. The Main Event squad played tough, but big Kevin Blackburn wouldn't let his Strictly Da Bottom squad falter. He constantly banged his way through the paint to help his squad take a 56-43 victory over the Main Event. The entire Strictly Da Bottom squad really played like a team that had something to prove.

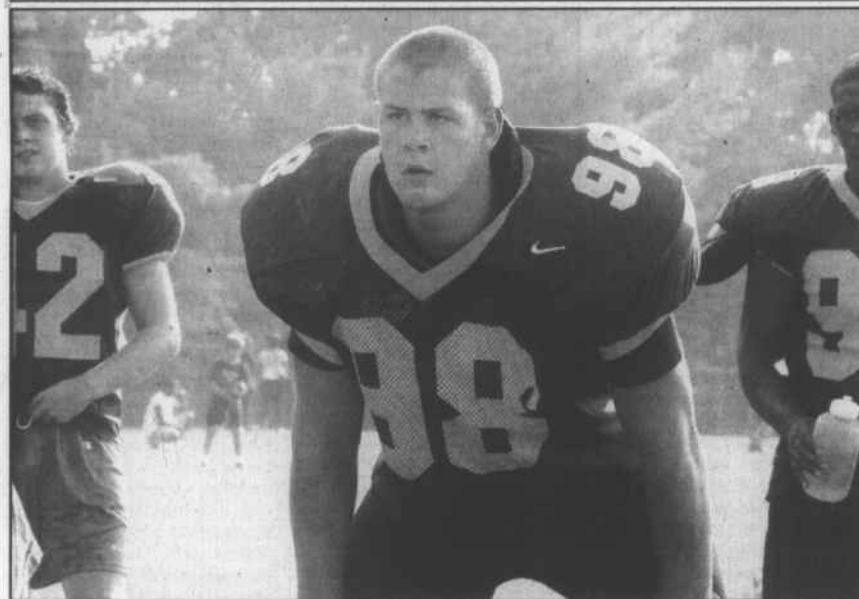
With the victory, Strictly Da Bottom will face a feisty Jump Off team tonight at 9. The Jump Off advanced to the second round with a great 48-39 victory over the Syndicate on Tuesday night. Shelton Davis put the Jump Off squad on his back en route to 19 points, eight rebounds and four steals. Davis also did a good job of bringing the ball down court after countless steals.

The Syndicate team did everything it could do to keep

the game close. The Syndicate was only down 35-30 with 5:35 to go in the game. But the athleticism and youth of the Jump Off squad was too much. Andy Snow and Flagge Stanfield could do only so much for the Syndicate before the Jump Off officially took home the victory and the pass to the next round of the playoffs.

"I did what I could," Stanfield said after the game. "I don't know if I'm going to be back. I need to have surgery. My knees are about to give out. I can barely bend this one (left knee). Maybe I'll come back as a coach. But when you love the game like I do, it's hard to not be out there playing."

The Talaban also won on Tuesday night, defeating Arliss 38-30. Talaban will play the Hot Boy'z tonight at 8.



Mt. Tabor's Tripp Russell doesn't feel any pressure to replace Derrick Nicholson. He's focused on overall team success.

Mt. Tabor

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Russell. Russell played defensive end last season but has moved to middle linebacker to fill the void left by Florida State freshman Derrick Nicholson.

"A lot of people tell me that I've got to fill the shoes of Derrick," Russell said. "He's worked with me quite a bit, and coach Burke has me feeling pretty good right now. I think we're going to be strong again. I'm definitely up for the challenge."

The Spartans will also hit opponents with a look they used quite a few times last season where some of the players were flip-flopped from offense to defense and vice versa. O.C. Wardlow, D.J. Blackwell and Joe "Jockey" Brown are some of the offensive standouts that might be called on to play some defense, while Russell and a few other players might be expected to play some offense.

"O.C. played some defense for us last year," Sapp said. "We also had Jockey playing some defense. We also had some defensive guys that played offense for us. We're going to put the best people on the field during certain situations and be effective as we can."

Wardlow added: "I'm prepared for anything. I don't mind playing defense. I actually like playing defense. I'm in some of the best shape that I've been in, and I know that I should be able to help the team if they need me on defense. I'm trying to do what

Mt. Tabor 2005 Football Schedule (All games begin at 7:30 p.m.)

Aug. 12	Glenn @ Mt. Tabor (Scrimmage at 6:30 p.m.)
Aug. 19	New Bern (Endowment Game)
Aug. 26	Reagan
Sept. 2	North Forsyth
Sept. 9	at Parkland
Sept. 16	at East Forsyth
Sept. 23	North Davidson
Sept. 30	Davie County
Oct. 7	at West Forsyth
Oct. 14	Bye
Oct. 21	East Rowan (Homecoming)
Oct. 28	at Reynolds
Nov. 4	at South Rowan

I can't help us win a championship this year. This is my senior year and I'm trying to go all out. I'm very motivated this year."

Some of the players also use the hope of a state championship to motivate them as well during these sweltering days of August. And none of the players want to feel the burn of another 35-28 loss (to Richmond County) to keep them out of the championship game this year.

Or any other loss, for that matter.

"I'm not trying to lose one game this year," said Spartan wide out Ryan Taylor, who's already committed to play for UNC. "And I can't be more ready for a season as I am this one. I'm pretty excited about my senior season, period. I feel like we've got a pretty good chance

to do some things this year. I don't want to sound too cocky, but I think we have a good chance this year. But we want to take things one game at a time."

That seems to be the consensus at Spartan camp. All the players want to win a state title, but they all seem focused on taking things one game at a time.

"We have a scrimmage game against Glenn next week, and we're gonna take it from there," said Wardlow, who's one of the top rated high school recruits in the state.

Russell added: "We're just working to get better every day. Right now, we're just doing what we need to do to put the ingredients together for a state championship. By the time the season gets here, we're going to be ready to rock and roll."



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