

Old Sparring Partners To Go At Each Other

DALLAS, Texas - What is a sparring partner? They are not partners in any sense of the word and the original interpretation has long since been lost in a variety of directions. There are all types of sparring partners. There are those whose sole purpose is to get a man in shape and give a puncher a human replacement for a punching bag. This type is now in the complete minority.

Hiring sparnaves has become a matter of scientific selection. There are those employed for specific skills in resembling opponents about to be fought. There are those hired strictly for speed. And there are a selected few who are in there to teach, as well as learn.

Jimmy Ellis, who became a sparring partner for Muhammad Ali back in 1965, and who is now about to fight his former employer in a most important 12-round bout in the Astrodome Monday, July 26, was a special kind of ring workman with many functions.

Muhammad Ali worked and got aid as a sparring partner for Jimmy Ellis when Ellis was the NBA heavyweight champion and conditioning for his undisputed title fight with Joe Frazier that took place in the Garden on February 16, 1970.

Ellis' function with Muhammad Ali was to help get a man in the best of condition. There were no instructions given to either Ellis or Ali by Angelo Dundee, who trained them both.

They were on their own inside the ring and while they were permitted all leeway short of mayhem, their sessions were earnest and competitive. Ellis was never a punching bag for Ali and it could be that he was just as much teacher as student.

"They learned from each other," said Dundee. "No two fighters knew each other better from the early days of their youth and no two had more respect for each other's abilities, though they may not admit it. Every day in the gym was like a real fight. They were both trying."

There was really no employer, employee relationship. Nor was there any great friendship between them. When the day's work was over, they went their own way - All with his followers, Jimmy home to his family. That is why Jimmy hates to be known as Ali's sparring partner because in every sense of the word, he wasn't that at all. It was a job he got well paid for and he did it beautifully.

"I would create Jimmy with a great deal for Ali's success," said Dundee.

The words sparring partner are not dirty words. Many great names in the history of boxing, at one time or another, started glorious careers working with challengers or champions. Jersey Joe Walcott was one of them. He worked with Joe Louis. He finally fought Louis in the Garden on Dec. 5, 1947, for the

heavyweight title and the split decision was so "fraw" that even Louis thought he had lost and left the ring before it was announced. In a second meeting in 1948, Louis scored an 11th round knockout.

Lamentably, sparring partners are generally not remembered after the lights are dimmed in the stadium. Considering their special qualifications to serve an importance in training camps some of the most durable of their legions have been removed to obscurity. For instance, how many would recall the names of sparring partners who served faithfully to our recent-most champions? The names of George Nockholson in the camp of Joe Louis, Keene Simmons with Rocky Marciano, Elmo Lincoln catching against Floyd Patterson and Fonda Cox stopping the spear-like jabs of Sonny Liston. These battery-mates, regulars though they were, are vague in the memory of the most astute ringster.

However, history has been kind to a select few who diligently played their sparring roles to the limit. Jimmy Ellis is one of them.

Bruce Crampton, 1970 defending champ, will head the list of top pros competing at the Westchester Country Club, July 22-25.



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Trio Of FSU Baseballers Rank High In Final Figures

FAYETTEVILLE - Three Fayetteville State University baseball players were among the outstanding performers in the CIAA baseball this past season.

Ernest Bowden, Earl McNeill and Parnell Miles were the trio of Bronco players who ranked high in the conference final statistics released recently.

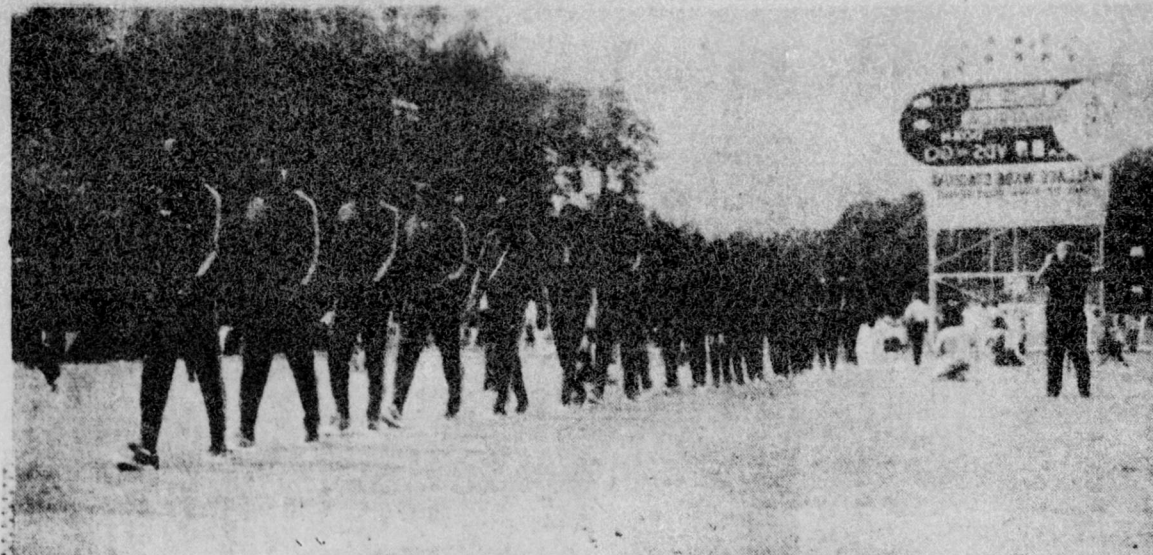
Bowden won the league's batting crown with a .456 average, he collected 26 hits in 57 times at bat.

McNeill was one of the top pitchers in the league, finishing first in number of innings pitched and the most strikeouts.

He was credited with pitching 87 innings to lead the league in that category, and also struck out 88 batters, tope in the circuit. His 1.75 earn run average was third in the league. McNeill boasted a 4-3 won-loss record for the campaign.

Miles, another hurler for the Broncos, was second in the ERA department with a 1.40 average while winning three of five decisions.

Wash windows with a mixture of 1/4 cup cornstarch in a half gallon of warm water. It works!... A wad of aluminum foil dipped in cold water will clean chrome car bumpers



CEREMONIES - The Pan Africa-USA International Track Meet would not have been complete without opening and closing ceremonies. Top photo, the African team, led by captain Kip Keino, began their march to the middle of the field during the opening ceremonies. Keino and his other teammates along with African officials stand at attention while the national anthem is played in center photo. In the bottom photo, the officials for the African and the United States teams began their march around the track in the closing ceremonies climaxing the Meet. (Staff photos by Cureton Johnson)

Cal Irvin Conducts A&T Cage Clinics

GREENSBORO - A series of one-week basketball clinics, conducted at A&T State University by Aggie coach Cal Irvin, are one of the major attractions of the High Point Model Cities summer camp.

According to Irvin, the purpose of the clinics are to "provide group life, recreation, and character building experiences for the kids of the model cities neighborhood."

The program enrolled more than 300 youngsters between the ages of eight and 16. Ervin, his assistant coach Warren Reynolds and eight player assistants are responsible for each 100 boys.

The boys were divided into three groups, with each group spending at least one week at the A&T campus. "This is to get the kid out of his environ and show him there is another world," said Irvin.

The boys live in dormitories, eat in the cafeteria, and have the greater experience of living, working and playing together. Irvin has had as his guests Freddie "Curly" Neal of the Harlem Globetrotters and Gene Latues of the Carolina Cougars.

The sessions also feature movies and discussions on hygiene, drug abuse, sex education, citizenship, police-community relations, and others.

"This is one of the finest youth training programs we have," said Don Forney, director of the Model Cities Program.

Grambling To Play One Of The Most Exciting Grid Schedules

BY COLLIE J. NICHOLSON

GRAMBLING, La. - Coach Eddie Robinson has announced a tough 11-game schedule for Grambling that should enable the nomadic Tigers to amass as much knowledge about U. S. geography as they do about z-out pass patterns and counter-thrusts through the four-hole.

By any reasonable reckoning, the 1971 campaign promises to be the most exciting in Tiger history.

Grambling and Morgan State will open the NCAA national TV schedule on ABC on Sept. 11, the Tigers play in nine different stadiums from New York to

California, and Black Associated Sports Enterprises will rebroadcast all Grambling games on 100 TV stations on a coast-to-coast network.

The far-flung schedule makes other teams look bed-ridden by comparison.

Following the initial contest in New York's Yankee Stadium, the Tigers make stops in Chicago, Little Rock, Ark., Nashville, Tenn., Jackson, Miss., Houston, Norfolk, Va., and Los Angeles, undeniably establishing the school as the nation's most traveled team.

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DISGUSTED - Mirus Ifter shows a sign of disgust following his competition in the 5,000 meters race in the Pan Africa-USA International Track Meet held in Durham last weekend. Ifter began his spring on the next to the last lap of the race thinking that was the last lap. However, as it turned out, there was another lap remaining and Steven Prefontaine went on to win the race. Ifter came back the next day to win the 10,000 meters race. (UPI)

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