

Wepner stands by Frank-Holmes championship bout

By ED SCHUYLER JR.
AP Sports Writer

When Scott Frank no longer signed for a title bid against Larry Holmes, the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, the outcry began.

"Mismatch," some screamed.

"Shouldn't be allowed," others wrote.

"Most people who say that don't know what they're talking about," says Chuck Wepner, who heard the jokes and the cries of protest eight years ago when he was given a title match against Muhammad Ali.

"Chuck Who," some called Wepner, a wisecracker outside the ring who kept himself in

stitches inside the ring. He had required more than 200 of them in his face for cuts suffered in fights leading up to his title bid and was popularly known in the boxing press as "The Bayonne Bleeder."

One writer called Wepner, "Chopped Chuck."

Wepner was stopped by Ali in the 15th round after having scored a controversial knockdown over the champion. Ali contended he went down because Wepner stepped on his foot. Wepner says he didn't step on anybody's foot and adds: "It was ruled a legal knockdown by referee Tony Perez."

Regardless, the fight was one-sided, and the

Frank-Holmes fight figures to be one-sided, too.

Larry Holmes is the premier heavyweight in the world — unbeaten in 43 fights, 15 of them defenses. The conqueror of Ken Norton, Earnie Shavers, Gerry Cooney.

Scott Frank is the heavyweight champion of New Jersey, a title he won in 1978 on a 12-round decision over Chuck Wepner.

The 25-year-old Frank's victory over Wepner came in his 11th pro fight, and he's won all of his fights since, except for a 10-round draw last year against the inconsistent Renato Snipes, and has a 20-0-1 record, with 14 knockouts.

Frank also is ranked No. 10 by the WBC, but

with the exception of Snipes, his opponents have been club fighters, and that seems to be the correct label for Frank — club fighter.

But who has the right to tell him he shouldn't take \$350,000 and a shot at the heavyweight championship?

"You start out with the thought of fighting for the title in your mind from your first fight," says Wepner.

"Scott can punch, and he can take a real good punch," says Wepner. It seems here that it is the duty of those who run boxing and those who care about it to make sure that Frank doesn't take too many of Holmes' punches. In other words, if it becomes apparent that Frank is in over his head, throw him a

life line — stop the fight.

"Holmes looks like his age is catching up to him," says Wepner, voicing a hope that Frank certainly holds. It's a hope many challengers for titles hold, and it's a wish that came true for Leon Spinks when he fought Ali.

"But even if Scott Frank loses as expected, he will have realized a fighter's dream.

"Yeah, sure it does something for you," says Wepner of fighting for the championship, "especially fighting Ali."

"Stallone did a movie about me," Wepner reportedly was Sylvester Stallone's inspiration for Rocky Balboa, the fictional club fighter who won the heavyweight title in the movies.

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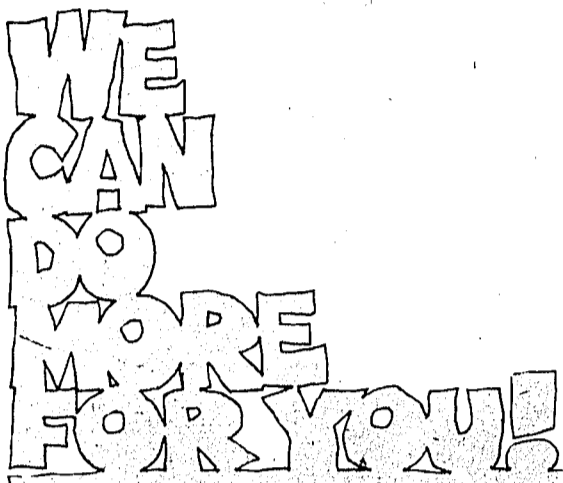
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Helsinki test shows no drug use by athletes

By GEOFFREY MILLER
AP Sports Writer

LONDON — Not one of 200 athletes tested at the World Track and Field Championships at Helsinki, including all the medal winners, showed any traces of illegal substances, the International Amateur Athletic Federation reported Monday.

The tests, according to one expert, were the same ones in use at the Pan American Games in Caracas, where 16 athletes were discovered with illegal substances in their blood — 12 of whom had anabolic steroids, a muscle building substance. In addition, 11 United States track and field athletes went home without competing after hearing of the new, stringent standards.

"The Medical Committee representatives have reported to the IAAF that all results had proved negative," John Holt, general secretary of the IAAF said in a final report on the games. He said all medal winners at Helsinki were tested.

The IAAF has been building up an elaborate drug-testing system in Europe, so that athletes know what to expect when they compete

in a major international meets. Tests for anabolic steroids have been carried out in 23 countries this year, an IAAF spokesman said.

Dr. Manfred Donike, the West German who headed the drug testing operation at the Pan Am games, said at a news conference last week in Caracas that the same tests in use in Helsinki were used there. Donike, a professor at the West German High School of Sports in Cologne, was one of the developers of the new, stringent procedures in use there.

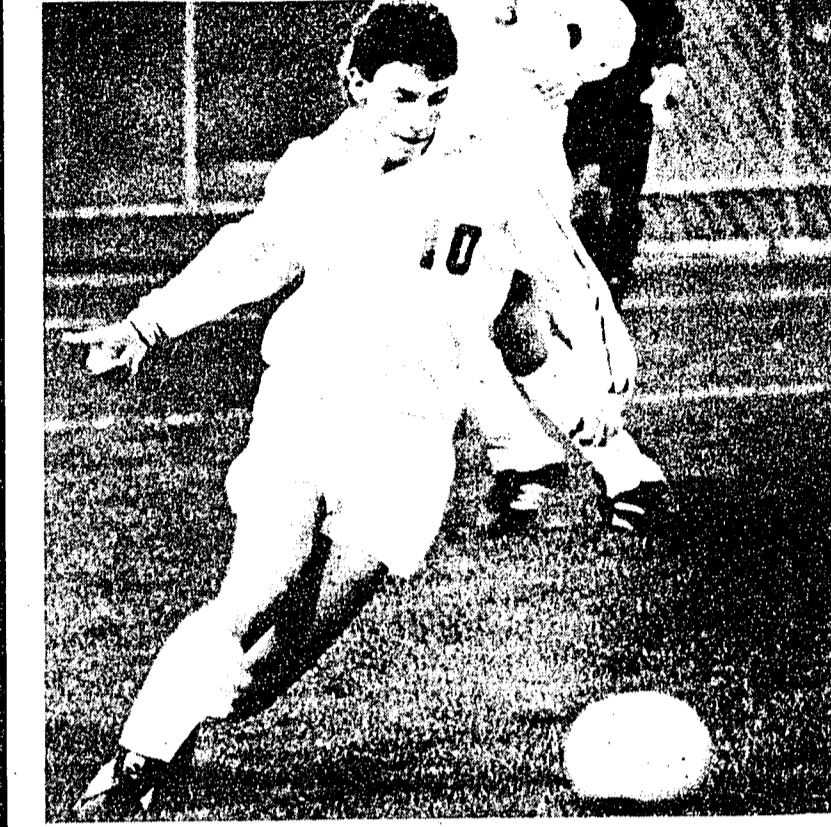
Donike said, drug testing procedures were lax in the Western Hemisphere. That was the reason, he said, why there were 16 positive tests in Caracas and none in Helsinki.

A number of American athletes who won medals were among those tested in Helsinki, although there were no U.S. medalists in weight-throwing events, the principle ones in which steroids are used. In fact, Donike used U.S. 400-meter hurdler Edwin Moses, who won at Helsinki, as the example of an athlete who succeeds without recourse to drugs.

Lion booters look to veterans for leadership

By MATT MICHAEL
Collegian Sports Writer

It is only natural in college athletics for a team to look to its seniors to provide leadership. In most cases, the seniors have been involved with



Penn State's George Megaloudis (10) moves toward the ball during soccer action last season.

the program longer than the other players and, as a result, know "the system" very well.

Thus, after losing seven starters to graduation following last season, Penn State Head Soccer Coach Walter Bahr didn't have to tell the returning seniors what to do.

Bahr has named senior forwards Jeff Maierhofer and Pete Jobling as co-captains for 1983. They are the only seniors who will return to the starting lineup this season.

"I have noticed a change in Jeff and Peter," Bahr said. "They have accepted senior responsibility."

Bahr said both players earned the honor of being named co-captain because they lead the squad by action, and not by words.

"They have assumed leadership by example," Bahr said. "We don't talk about it, they just go out and do it."

And there is no doubt both players were out and "did it" in 1982. Maierhofer was Penn State's third leading scorer with 24 points (10 goals and four assists) while Jobling placed sixth on the scoring chart with 11 points (four goals and three assists). Jobling, who started all 23 games last season, feels the Lions can improve on last year's 16-5-2 record despite the loss of seven starters.

"There is a new spirit here this year, you can feel it at practice," Jobling said. "Everybody seems comfortable with each other."

Junior goalie Greg Kenney is another returning starter who has noticed a "new spirit" present at

practice this season.

"There is a different feeling about them this year," he said. "There are a lot of new faces and they have made the other guys work extra hard."

Kenney also started all 23 games last year and sparked in the nets with a 1.06 goals-against-average and nine shutouts. As the goalie and a two-year letterman, he is a natural leader on the Lions.

"After you play for two years or so you are expected to provide more leadership," said Kenney. "Especially in my case since there are new guys in the backfield this year."

The Lions will have an entirely new defense in '83 due to the loss of the seniors, but two of the three midfield positions may be patrolled by experienced players. Bahr said he may move Larry Miller and Kevin Jennings from their more familiar forward positions to give Penn State more balance at midfield.

"Larry Miller broke into the starting lineup in the middle of last season and was one of our leading scorers," Bahr said. "I didn't think of him as a freshman but rather as just another player who belonged in the starting lineup."

Miller, who led the Lions with 12 goals last year, is another player who leads by example. Bahr said the Lion sophomore had no complaints when he was informed of the possible move to midfield and he continues to practice hard at his new position.

Jennings started 13 games for forward in 1982.

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