

By LIONEL MARTIN
Special to The New York Times

HAVANA—The city's largest hotel, the 25-story Havana Libre (formerly the Havana Hilton) has been turned over to the Cuban Boxing Federation as an "olympic village" during the first amateur boxing world championships being held here.

Cuba, which "won" the championships last September in Montreal after a heated debate between opposing proponents of selection of a host nation on a "national" or "continental" basis, is spending approximately \$2-

million as host of the event.

The championships, with teams from 50 nations competing, are under the auspices of the Amateur International Boxing Association and will be held every four years. The decision to hold the event was made at a meeting of the A.I.B.A. in Munich following the 1972 Olympic Games, following many years of discussion. Until now, the winners of Olympic boxing titles have been considered to be the world amateur champions.

The Havana Libre is one of the three focal points for the event which runs through

Aug. 30. The other two are the training center, with 17 independent gymnasiums, and the 16,000-seat Coliseum where all bouts will be held. An air-conditioning system has been installed especially for the championships, a virtual necessity in Cuba's humid summer.

There will be two series of three-round matches daily until Aug. 28, the first beginning at 3:30 P.M. and the second at 8:30 P.M. Admission, as is the custom with all sports events in Cuba, is free to the public. In order to insure opportunity to a maximum number of fans to

attend the matches, spectators will be required to vacate the Coliseum after the first series of bouts each day.

The Cuban Boxing Commission (there is no professional boxing in Cuba) is paying expenses for all visiting teams. A team consists of 11 boxers and three non-boxing officials, usually a manager, trainer and second. Those in excess of the 14 will pay \$19 per day. This covers the cost of room and meals at the Havana Libre and transportation.

Cuba is a nation of boxing fanatics and all matches will be televised nationally. The American Broadcasting Company also has its crew on hand to film the main events for later showing in the United States. Films of the bouts will be telecast to Europe by the Soviet Union's communications satellite system.

The original plan approved at Munich was to organize the championships on a "continental basis" with one team from each of the five continents plus an extra team each for Europe, the American continent and the host country—eight teams in all. Japan offered to host the first amateur world boxing championship but later withdrew. The United States then stepped in on short notice and offered to be host.

An extraordinary congress of the A.I.B.A. was held in Montreal last September to officially choose the host nation. Advocates of the "national" basis plan argued that the Olympics themselves were organized in that way and that the continental basis would exclude boxers from many nations of the world.

The United States Amateur Boxing Federation favored the "continental" basis, and when the "nationals" triumphed the U.S. withdrew its offer to host the championships. Cuba then was unanimously approved.

A meeting of the A.I.B.A. to discuss the next championships will be held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, next month. Yugoslavia has already offered to play host to the second championships in 1978.

British Football

By Reuters
ENGLISH LEAGUE
First Division

Birmingham City 0, Middlesbrough 3.
Burnley 1, Wolverhampton Wanderers 2.
Chelsea 0, Carlisle United 2.
Everton 0, Derby County 0.
Leicester City 0, Arsenal 1.
Luton Town 1, Liverpool 2.
Manchester City 4, West Ham United 0.
Newcastle United 3, Coventry City 2.
Sheffield United 1, Queens Park Rangers 1.
Skeke City 3, Leeds United 0.
Tottenham Hotspur 0, Ipswich Town 1.

Second Division

Bolton Wanderers 3, Portsmouth 0.
Bristol Rovers 0, Notts County 0.
Cardiff City 1, Oxford United 1.
Millwall 1, Sunderland 4.
Norwich City 2, Blackpool 1.
Nottigham Forest 0, Bristol City 0.
Oldham Athletic 2, Sheffield Wednesday 1.
Orient 0, Manchester United 2.
Southampton 3, Hull City 3.
West Bromwich Albion 0, Fulham 1.
York City 1, Aston Villa 1.

Third Division

Brighton and Hove Albion 1, Crystal Palace 0.
Colchester United 1, Watford 1.
Gillingham 2, Walsall 2.
Grimsby Town 1, Blackburn Rovers 2.
Hullfax Town 2, Charlton Athletic 2.
Hereford United 2, Aldershot 0.
Huddersfield Town 1, Peterborough United 2.
Preston North End 1, Plymouth Argyle 0.
Southend 2, Chester 1.
Swindon Town 0, Burnley 2.
Tranmere Rovers 0, Bournemouth 1.
Wrexham 2, Port Vale 2.

Fourth Division

Barnsley 1, Exeter City 0.
Bradford City 1, Crewe Alexander 2.
Brenford 1, Northampton Town 0.
Darlington 3, Swansea City 2.
Doncaster Rovers 2, Stockport County 1.
Hartlepool United 2, Newport County 0.
Lincoln City 2, Chester 1.
Mansfield Town 2, Southport 1.
Reading 2, Cambridge United 0.
Shrewsbury Town 1, Rochdale 1.
Torquay United 0, Rotherham United 3.
Wokington 1, Scunthorpe United 1.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP

Airdrieonians 0, St. Mirren 1.
Alloa 0, Falkirk 1.
Ayr 0, Motherwell 3.
Barnick Rangers 0, Queen of the South 0.
Brechin City 1, Forfar Athletic 1.
Celtic 1, Dundee United 0.
Clydebank 3, Stirling Albion 1.
Dundee 0, Rangers 2.
Dunfermline Athletic 1, Aberdeen 1.
East Fife 2, Cowdenbeath 1.
East Stirling 1, Albion Rovers 2.
Hamilton Academicals 1, Raith Rovers 0.
Hibernian 4, St. Johnstone 0.
Morris 0, Hearts 3.
Partick Thistle 0, Dumbarton 2.
Queen of the South 0, Kilmarnock 2.
Rangers 0, Dundee 1.
Stirling Albion 1, Partick Thistle 1.

Sports News Briefs

Soccer Season Starts With Rampage

LONDON, Aug. 17 (AP)—Manchester United fans went on a rampage here today, smashing subway trains and fighting in the stands, as the new soccer season started.

Police said at least 16 fans were arrested in central London and more than 200 were thrown out of Brisbane Road Stadium. Thousands of Manchester fans arrived in London by special train to see United's first game. The police said fans smashed windows and light bulbs aboard subways, rampaged along the roadways leading up to the stadium and ignored pleas for calm by Manchester officials inside the park.

Miss Fox Wins Grass-Court Net Title

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 17—Rayni Fox of North Miami Beach, Fla., won the 57th United States girls' 18 years and under grass-court tennis championship today by defeating Barbara Hallquist of Arcadia, Calif., 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, at the Philadelphia Cricket Club.

The match ended after 1 hour and 33 minutes when Miss Hallquist served a double fault. It was the third game in the third set lost by the aggressive hitting of Miss Hallquist with a double fault.

Lauda Captures Pole Position

ZELTWEG, Austria, Aug. 17 (AP)—Nikki Lauda of Austria wheeled his red Ferrari around the Oesterreichring circuit at 139 miles an hour today to capture the pole position for tomorrow's Austrian Grand Prix. Twenty-five cars will be competing in the 200-mile event.

Lauda covered the 2½ miles in 1 minute 35.40 seconds to win his eighth pole position in a Formula One race this season. Carlos Reutemann of Argentina won the second spot in a Brabham, followed by Emerson Fittipaldi of Brazil in a McClaren, Carlos Pace of Brazil in a Brabham and Jody Scheckter of South Africa in a Tyrrell.

U.S. Women Win Softball Title

STRATFORD, Conn., Aug. 17 (UPI)—Joan Joyce pitched her Stratford team to the first world women's softball championship ever won by a United States team yesterday. She shut out the defending champion Japanese team and hit 15 batters as the Raybestos Brakettes won, 3-0.

Roze... kettes' runs with a

A Tale of Two World Series: Amateurs Cry Foul

By LIONEL MARTIN

Special to The New York Times

HAVANA, Dec. 8—While the so-called world series of amateur baseball is being played here, a similar international series is under way in Managua, Nicaragua, and the International Olympic Committee has been called upon to restore the divided factions.

Juan Isa of Curacao, head of the International Federation of Amateur Baseball (F.I.B.A.), says he would welcome an Olympic investigation into the division created in the sport from what he called the breakaway by the World Amateur Federation (F.E.M.B.A.).

Isa's organization will complete its 20th world series Monday.

Said Isa:

"Ours is the only legitimate event. The tournament being staged in Nicaragua is a rump affair with lots of money behind it and smelling of politics."

He said that his group was approved by the I.O.C. for the first time on May 9, 1954, in Athens, and that it was the only international baseball federation listed in the 1973 directory published by the I.O.C.

Jose Beracasa, president of the Pan American Sports Organization and a member of the I.O.C., warned National Committees that if baseball federations in their countries sent teams to the Nicaraguan series, they would not be eligible to participate later in the Pan-American Games.

Despite this warning, Isa declared, many federations

sent teams to Nicaragua and boycotted the Havana series. Isa said that the Olympics committees of these nations would be asked why they permitted the national baseball federations to defy the warning.

Isa said that in some cases the Winnipeg charter of 1967 was violated by the baseball federations that sent teams to Nicaragua. This charter stipulates that when two national federations schedule games, they must receive approval from the Olympic committees of both the visiting and host country.

In the cases of Mexico, Puerto Rico and Italy, the Olympic committees did forbid their national amateur baseball federations from participating in the Nicaraguan series.

U.S. Among Defiant

Those federations that have sent teams to Managua are: United States, Canada, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Colombia, the German Federal Republic, San Marino, Sweden, France, Spain, Belgium and Taiwan.

Those represented in Havana are: Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Panama, Dominican Republic, Mexico, the Dutch Antilles and the Netherlands.

Isa believes that if the breakaway group turns out to be a money-making proposition (he calls its main leaders "businessmen"), then each member will go its way despite rulings by national Olympic committees or the I.O.C.

The president of F.I.B.A. says that F.E.M.B.A. was organized following the meeting of the F.I.B.A. executive committee in Curacao last May, at which Carlos Garcia of Nicaragua was suspended for one year.

The principal reason for Garcia's suspension was, according to Isa, his refusal to pay 5 per cent of the gate receipts, as stipulated by F.I.B.A. regulations, for the 20th world series, held in Managua in November of 1972.

Earthquake Is Alibi

Isa says that when the series had finished, Garcia had paid for only three of the 15 days. When Garcia continued to resist, Isa turned the affair over to an auditing firm in Managua to investigate the gate receipts and to recommend action.

Almost a month after the 1972 Managua series, the Nicaraguan earthquake struck. Isa says that Garcia contended that all accounts of the series had been destroyed in the disaster. Isa claims, however, to have a written report from the auditor proving that the ticket stubs and other records had survived the earthquake, but were later destroyed.

At the F.I.B.A. congress in Managua during the 1972 world series, both Nicaragua and Cuba sought to be host nations for the 1973 event.

Dutch Fehring of the United States declared that if Cuba was chosen, he would not allow his team to compete. This was in keeping with Fehring's attitude of refusing United States

baseball teams permission to compete in Cuba.

After a heated debate, Nicaragua was chosen as the host nation for the second year in a row, and Cuba wound up as substitute nation.

Payment Falls Short

As the meeting of the F.I.B.A. executive committee approached last May, it was rumored that Garcia would be sanctioned for his violation of F.I.B.A. regulations.

Isa says that in early May, unknown to F.I.B.A. Garcia sent a check to the F.I.B.A. account in a Panama bank as payment for the 1972 series. The amount paid by Garcia was \$14,740. Isa says that informed estimates calculate the correct amount due F.I.B.A. to be in the neighborhood of \$30,000.

Shortly before the May meeting, Garcia and Fehring invited the representatives of some national baseball federations to a meeting in Miami, "with all expenses paid," according to Isa.

From there, Garcia and others went to Curacao. When they arrived, they found that Garcia already had been suspended by F.I.B.A.

In view of the sanction and the general attitude of the Nicaraguan Federation of Amateur Baseball, F.I.B.A. decided to move the 21st world series to Havana.

In subsequent months, F.E.M.B.A. was organized. It decided to hold its international series in Managua.

Hints of Politics

Isa asserts that F.E.M.B.A.

has big financial backing. It is rumored, he says, that General Samozá's Nicaraguan Government is helping to underwrite the organization.

Isa says that he has proof that F.E.M.B.A. had given \$12,000 to the Columbia federation, although fares for the entire team should not have cost more than half that amount. (Under F.I.B.A. rules, the host nation pays only 10 fares for the visiting team and provides housing facilities and food.)

Isa says that the breakaway is in part politically inspired by the enemies of Cuba and that Gen. Samozá is a strong enemy of the Cuban revolution.

Isa points out that, while Fehring has blacklisted Cuba, he has welcomed South Africa as a member of F.E.M.B.A. despite the blacklist imposed on it for its racial discrimination by the I.O.C.

Lionel Martin is a Canadian broadcasting correspondent stationed in Havana.

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Mike Robertson

Cuba Bid On Series Withdrawn

By Lionel Martin

Washington Post Staff Writer

HAVANA, March 12—A high Cuban sports official, Fabio Ruiz, said today the invitation to the New York Yankees to play a series of baseball games in Cuba this spring against a Cuban all-star team has been withdrawn.

Ruiz said baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn was responsible for Cuba withdrawing its invitation. Kuhn was agreeable to permitting an all-star team to play, but not the Yankees.

The Cubans, however, wanted to play the New Yankees not an all-star team. Groundwork for talks regarding "baseball diplomacy" between the two countries was begun two years ago.

According to Cuban officials, the offer to the Yankees, which came through New York lawyer David LeFevre, was accepted. But major league baseball sources insist the commitment always involved a U.S. all-star team and no single club.

Last week, Kuhn said, "An all-star team is the only team we're interested

See CUBA, D2, Col. 4

W. Post

March

12,
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sports

Cuba Cancels Baseball Bid

CUBA, From D1

in sending." He added, "It is going to be difficult to send a team this spring."

According to Ruiz, the Yankees originally wanted to play a series in Cuba last year. But it wasn't until this year that permission was granted by the State Department for a U.S. team to play here.

The Cubans were going to postpone their own playoffs, currently underway, to assemble an all-star team to face the Yanks. Officials here do not understand why Kuhn intervened after the series apparently had been set.

Reports circulating here suggest Kuhn thought that if the Yankees played the series, they would gain an inside track to sign Cuban ballplayers, many of whom have big-league skills. However, Ruiz said the Cuban amateur baseball federation has no plans to allow any of its players to play professionally in the U.S.

LeFevre, who left Havana today to deliver Ruiz's message of withdrawal to Kuhn, has been trying for the last two years to start a series between teams of the two countries.

Despite Kuhn's present stand, Ruiz said the commissioner was welcome to visit Cuba to discuss future plans for a series.

There are approximately 1,200 baseball teams in Cuba and Cuban officials say all of their players are amateurs.

U.S. Baseball Politics Leads To Cancellation of Cuba Trip

International Herald Tribune March 14
By Lionel Martin 1977

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Cuban Knows Pain

WIKI
SPORTS

By Lionel Martin
New York Times

Havana

Silvio Leonard, the Cuban sprinter, is one of the eight persons in the world and the only non-American to have run the 100-meter dash in 9.9 seconds. He did it in June, 1975, during competitions at Ostrava, Czechoslovakia.

The 20-year-old, 5-8 Leonard hopes to win a gold medal at the Montreal Olympics. He predicts that the winner of the 100-meter event will hit the 9.9 mark and possibly 9.8.

If Leonard wins at Montreal, it will be a tribute to good surgeons and his own iron will. Leonard has a foot-long scar down his spine where surgeons operated to relieve pressure on a nerve that has caused excruciating pain in his right leg. He had first felt the pain during a race in Potsdam, West Germany, only days after his 9.9 feat. The pain recurred whenever Leonard forced



San Francisco Chronicle

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1976

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himself to his limits.

During the 100-meter finals at the Pan-American games in Mexico City last October, the agonizing pain shot through his leg 25 meters from the finish line. He won the race, but as he crossed the line, his leg collapsed under him, sending him reeling down an embankment, an accident which caused him a badly sprained ankle.

A one-hour operation on his vertebra was performed in November. For the next 45 days Leonard remained in the hospital and received physical therapy. On January 12 he went out to the Pedro Marrero Track in Havana for the first time since his operation. His exercises, including running, built up in intensity over subsequent months. The pain has not recurred

although Leonard still receives special massage and treatment for his right leg before each training session.

By May, Leonard had essentially regained his old form. Irolan Echeverria, his trainer, seemed optimistic about Leonard's chances at the Olympics.

It has been an uphill battle for Leonard. The Cuban sprinter is an intense young man in matters of track and he not only had to regain his physical form but also the psychological drive that marks a world champion.

Sometimes, after his formal training sessions in Havana, he goes off to some far corner of the track, bats some pebbles around with a stick, walks back and forth in deep thought as if in his own kind of transcendental meditation and then, full of determination, breaks into a 200-meter practice sprint.

Juantorena Set For U.S. Meet

By Lionel Martin

Special to The Washington Post

HAVANA, May 2—Alberto Juantorena, Cuban double gold medal winner of the 1976 Montreal Olympics, will compete in the United States for the first time Sunday in Los Angeles.

He says he is out to break his own world 800-meter record this track season.

The runner, renowned for his graceful, gazelle-like style, was interviewed during one of his daily three-hour training stints here.

Juantorena broke his own world record in 1977. It stands at 1:43:44 and he hopes to lower it to 1:43. Asked if Los Angeles might be the place, he answered, "I don't think so. It's not the time. It will be my first competition of the season.

"I'm happy to be on the first Cuban track and field team that is going to the United States since 1959. What is most important is that I can expect some good competition and, besides, it will be good for relations between the people of Cuba and the United States."

Juantorena is 28, married, with a 4-year-old daughter and a 1-year-old son. His wife is a physical education teacher and he recently decided to follow her footsteps, although he is a third-year economics student at the University of Havana. Both are members of Cuba's Young Communist League.

Juantorena trains by running on sand, on hills and on the track. He says he feels in excellent condition for the heavy schedule of the international track campaign which includes the Pan American Games in Puerto Rico in July.

"The key to running the 800 in 1:43 flat," he said, "is to have good competition and also to be favored by the wind."

Juantorena expects to run both the 400 and 800 meters this season. He won gold medals in both events in Montreal but his 400-meter time is well off the world mark. He will run the two distances in the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, he says, and then switch to 1,500 meters to round out his running career.

Alejandro Casanas, the Cuban Olympic hurdles champion, who until recently held the 110-meter hurdles world record, also will run in Los Angeles.

His mark was broken by Maryland's Renaldo Nehemiah in San Jose, Calif. last month. Casanas says that the fact that Nehemiah broke his record so early in the season means that, "I will have tremendous incentive to win my record back."

File: Cuba Boxers

Cuba does not go to The
Seoul Olympics, Impact on
Cuban Boxers

Time Magazine - June 9, 1988 (reply to Telex)

WR 100

At this late date it is virtually impossible that the Cubans change their mind about going to the Olympics in Seoul.

From the first, Cuban president Fidel Castro presented the decision as based on solidarity with the North Koreans. He indicated that if N. Korea's demands to share the Olympics more equitably were fulfilled, Cuba would attend them.

But several months ago, in reaffirming the decision not to go, Castro touched on another point of contention. He declared that Seoul was the worse possible spot for an Olympics because of the great popular unrest and the repressive policies of the government.

The Cubans press has been echoing Castro reservations. Yesterday, on June 8, a major Havana newspaper charged that the U.S. and South Korea agreed to join forces before and during the Olympics to discourage and put down any potential violence. It predicted that tens of thousands of South Korean students would be thrown into jail before the Olympics begins.

The idea of staying away from Seoul is disappointing to Cubans who love their sports and are proud when their athletes win international competitions. But Cubans athletes, in public statements, have supported the government's decision on political grounds.

The Cubans stayed away from the Los Angeles games in solidarity with the Soviet Union. Now they say they will not go to Seoul as a show of solidarity with North Korea, one of their allies.

The Cuban absence is definitely the Olympics loss. The Cubans have always been tops in boxing, and have been contenders in women's volleyball, some track and field events, fencing and gymnastics. And when baseball becomes an Olympic sport, the Cubans are sure to be the team to beat.

The Olympics will miss such proven boxers as world amateur champion Juan Torres Odelin in the 48 kg division; Adelberto Regaldo in the 51 kg division who won gold at the last Panamerican games; Arnold Mesa in the 57 kilogrammes who won the amateur world cup gold, Julio Gonzales in 60 kilogrammes who won the gold in the world cup amateur boxing tourney, Candelario Duvergel in 63.5 kg who won the gold at the Panamerican games, Juan Carlos Lemus in the 67 kg division who won the Panamerican gold and world cup silver, Orestes Solano in 71 kilogrammes who won the gold in Indianapolis Panamericans, 75 kg Angel Espinoza, the amateur world champ, world cup and Panamerican champ; the formidable world amateur champion Pablo Romero in the 81 kilogramme division; Felix Savon, 91 kg, amateur world champ, world cup champ and Panamerican champ/

political
sports

Teofilo Stevenson, one of the great heavyweight amateur boxers of all times, recently retired so won't be able to go after his fourth olympic gold. He could have won the honor in Los Angeles but the Cubans stayed away. They have some promising substitutes for him in the super heavy division, like 18 year old Martinez Fiz. who has recovered from injury received during the US-Cuban tournament.

The Olympics will also miss greco-roman world and pan american champ pedro roque in the 52 kilogramme division, Luis Mariano Delis in the discus, *Roberto Hernandez, a revelation who ran the 400 m in 44.29 in Mexico City last month*

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Deep

1987

WISDOCCER-MARADONA

SOCCER'S "GOLDEN BOY", MARADONA ARRIVES IN CUBA

BY LIONEL MARTIN

HAVANA, JULY 23. REUTER - THE "GOLDEN BOY" (PISE DE ORO) OF WORLD SOCCER, THE ARGENTINIAN, DIEGO ARMANDO MARADONA, SAID ON HIS ARRIVAL TODAY HERE THAT "AFTER MY NAPLES CONTRACT ENDS I WANT TO PLAY IN ENGLAND, THEN IN SPAIN AGAIN, THEN IN BRAZIL AND END MY CAREER BY PLAYING IN ARGENTINA ON THE SAME TEAM AS MY TWO BROTHERS."

THE ARGENTINIAN SUPERSTAR WHO LED HIS TEAM TO VICTORY IN THE WORLD SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP IN MEXICO CITY LAST YEAR ARRIVED IN HAVANA TO RECEIVE THE AGENCIA LATINA NEWS AGENCY'S AWARD AS LAST YEAR'S BEST LATIN AMERICAN ATHLETE.

MARADONA IS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND SMALL CHILD. HE SAID HE WAS TIRED AND WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS TRIP TO CUBA TO RELAX AT THE BEACH. CUBAN OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE WORLD RENOWNED SOCCER PLAYER IS SCHEDULED TO SPEND THREE FULL DAYS AT VARADERO BEACH TO THE EAST OF HAVANA.

ASKED ABOUT HIS FUTURE MARADONA SAID THAT "I WILL RESPECT MY CONTRACT WITH NAPLES AND AFTERWARDS WE WILL SEE." HE ADDED: "SOMETHING NEW IS PROPOSED EVERY WEEK, FROM ENGLAND, FROM SPAIN AND FROM ELSEWHERE."

LAST WEEK THE BUSINESS MANAGER OF ENGLAND'S LEEDS UNITED, BILL FOTHERBY, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HIS TEAM WAS TALKING TO MARADONA ABOUT JOINING THE TEAM. HE SAID THAT IN VIEW OF THE LARGE SUM OF MONEY MARADONA DEMANDS, A CONSORTIUM OF ENTERPRISES MIGHT HAVE TO BE FORMED TO UNDERWRITE THE CONTRACT.

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WISDOCCER-MARADONA ZHAYANA

CUBAN SPORTS' OFFICIALS HOPE THAT MARADONA'S VISIT TO THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND WILL HELP TO ENCOURAGE INTEREST IN SOCCER. LIKE THE UNITED STATES, CUBAN YOUTH HAVE PREFERRED BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL AND IT IS ONLY IN RECENT YEARS THAT THE CUBAN NATIONAL SPORTS' INSTITUTE HAS UNDERTAKEN A CAMPAIGN TO MAKE SOCCER A MAJOR SPORT.

SHORTLY BEFORE LEAVING THE ISLAND NEXT WEDNESDAY, MARADONA IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH A LARGE GROUP OF CUBAN YOUNG PEOPLE. MARADONA'S NAME BECAME KNOWN TO MILLIONS OF CUBANS WHEN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SOCCER MATCHES WERE TELEVISIED IN CUBA LAST YEAR.

THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT MARADONA WILL BE INVITED TO MEET AND CONVERSE WITH CUBAN PRESIDENT FIDEL CASTRO DURING HIS STAY.

CASTRO, WHO IN HIS YOUTH WAS AN OUTSTANDING ATHLETE, TAKES A PERSONAL INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING SPORTS IN CUBA.

THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT MARADONA WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND FIDEL CASTRO'S SPEECH ON JULY 26, A MAJOR CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY HOLIDAY. WHEN ASKED BY JOURNALISTS IF HE WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND HE HE ANSWERED: "IF I AM INVITED, WITH GREAT PLEASURE."

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politics / sports

Send the ...

U.S. Baseball Politics Leads To Cancellation of Cuba Trip

International Herald Tribune March 14
By Lionel Martin 1977

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According to Ruiz, the Yankees originally wanted to play a series in Cuba last year. But it wasn't until this year that permission was granted by the U.S. State Department for a team to play here.

The Cubans were going to postpone their own playoffs, currently underway, to assemble an all-star team to face the Yanks. Officials here do not understand why Kuhn intervened after the series apparently had been set.

Reports circulating here suggest Kuhn thought that if the Yankees played the series, they would gain an inside track to sign Cuban ball players, many of whom have big-league skills. However, Ruiz said the Cuban Amateur Baseball Federation has no plans to allow any of its players to go professional in the United States.

Lefevre, who left Havana yesterday to deliver Ruiz's message of withdrawal to Kuhn, has been trying for the last two years to start a series between teams of the two countries.

Despite Kuhn's present stand, Ruiz said the commissioner was welcome to visit Cuba to discuss future plans for a series.

There are approximately 1,200 baseball teams in Cuba and officials say all of their players are amateurs.

WR 183

elaine cheney (time inc)
fm: lionel martin, havana

here is the stephenson piece for time. please add 25 dollars to my pay for two telex messages not sent on credit card (which is ~~not~~ end of month. cheers/

teofilo stephenson
notes for biosketch
by lionel martin (havana)

May 4 1984
WR 297

stephenson is a cuban national hero, a superstar known to every man, woman and child on this island. three time olympic heavyweight champ and two-time world amateur boxing title holder, teofilo stephenson at thirty-three years of age is facing the biggest challenge of his life -- he battle to win his fourth straight olympic gold medal in los angeles.

the +giant from las tunas+ (the town in eastern cuba he was born and raised in), who u.s. amateur boxing czar robert surkin once called +the greatest amateur boxer of all times+ began slipping following his triumph at the moscow olympics in 1980.

cuban sports' writers attribute his downhill spin to a bout with depression following the painful and lingering death by cancer of his jamaican born father in 1981. he went into slump and there were those, cuban among them, who said stephenson was over the hill and should hang up his gloves.

in 1981 he lost to ulli kaden in halle, east germany by disqualification after he hit his opponent below the belt three time. it was the first time stephenson, a clean and accurate puncher, had done such a thing. cuban, who knew teofil whispered that it was a sign of weak preparation and blamed it on his long vigils at his father's bedside and the ensuing depression following his father's death.

the whispers became sotto voce after he lost to italian francesco damiani in the world amateur boxing semi-finals in munich 1982. the criticism became open and sometimes derisive after he lost to craig payne in houston although the cubans thought the 2-3 decision against stephenson was unjust. last year, also, he lost to soviet boxer alexandr krupkin in the local cordova cardin competition. krupkin outclassed stephenson and irreverently broke through stephenson's defensive jabs to punish the champ from close in.

while some suggested that he retire, stephenson himself scoffed at the idea. +you can't win them all,+ he said and then began training with renewed enthusiasm. he is now on the comeback trail and motivated as never before to grab the prize in california. +a gold in los angeles will bring greater meaning to my life because its not the first but the fourth,+ he told a reporter.

he is still overweight and despite recent successes has not shown the speed and dynamite right that made opponents quake in olden days. but those who have watched him closely over past months say he is showing greater aggressiveness and motivation than in many a year.

his competitor's spur him on. In an open letter in the Cuban newspaper newspaper, Juventud Rebelde, said to Stevenson: "to obtain a fourth medal in the heart of Yankee imperialism, to see our flag raised and hear our national anthem played there means a new victory for all our people."

since January, Stevenson has trounced three top international ly known heavyweight amateurs: Piotr Skok in Halle, East Germany, Tyrell Biggs in Reno and Italian Baglio Chianese in Los Angeles in mid April.

Alcides Sagarra, the Cuban trainer who has raised his island's boxing team to the top of the list, believes that the more competition Teofilo has before the Olympics, the better. One of the champs' problems over the past three years has been his too few bouts, many against second rate fighters, and the hard fact that he has no decent sparring partners on the tropical isle. When Cuba's number two heavyweight, Angel Milian, retired in 1981, the last of the local men that could and would exchange blows with Teofilo was gone. Milian was never afraid of Stevenson even when other men feared the Cuban with the put-away wallop. Milian, some believe, might have been one of the greatest in his own right if he had not been unlucky enough to coincide with Stevenson. While the Russian Visotsky beat Stevenson, Milian zapped the Russian three times during his career.

Stevenson trains hard and hopes to be in top form by Olympic time. He jogs as the sun comes up at a training ranch on the outskirts of Havana. Then he put in hours in the gym under the expert direction of Alcides Sagarra. Fighting buffs in Cuba notice a tougher and more aggressive Stevenson.

Even if Stevenson wins the gold at Los Angeles, nobody will offer him a million dollars to turn professional as they did a decade ago. According to a Cuban photographer who was accompanying the Cuban Olympic team in Munich in 1972, Teofilo was offered a million dollars to turn pro in the United States and was taken to a hotel room where an open suitcase lay on a bed filled with high denomination greenbacks.

Stevenson views the offers made to him to leave Cuba as politically motivated although he is aware that lots of money would have been made if he had gotten into the ring with Mohammed Ali. Stevenson's answer to the men who offered him the bundle of bills to turn pro was: "I would never trade nine million Cubans for one million dollars."

While Stevenson's stiff posture, deadpan face and strained public smile give many the impression of certain arrogance, those who know his life style call him the simplest and kindest of men.

When a sports writer visited him at his modest apartment in Havana recently he found the television set on the floor. "Why don't you get a stand for it," the reporter asked him. Stevenson reported: "I see it fine just as it is." The writer says that Stevenson's Soviet made Lada was dirty outside and messy inside. He said Stevenson is not caught up in material things and he is as likely as not ready to literally give you the shirt off his back if you praise it.

stevenson got married for the first time at 31 years of age. his wife is a teacher of gymnastic dance and they have a two month old girl. they have no maid but sometimes use a baby sitter when his grandma is not available. teofilo often does the cooking, something unusual for the typical cuban macho man. his favorite dish is something he learned to make from his mother - "caldosa", made of root vegetables, plantain bananas and chicken-ground up and served as a thick soup.

at 33 boxing is stevenson's only saleable skill, nurtured by close to 300 local and international bouts with only 14 defeats. he is studying towards a university degree at the higher school of physical education in havana and his future will be linked to sports and boxing.

while a lot of people will be rooting for teofil in l.a., there are those who would like to see him lose. in los angeles teofilo will have to win in a convincing manner, the only way to avoid doubtful decision, a cuban sports official said.

stevenson has come a long way since he lost to duane bobick in the 1971 panamerican games in celi. he still pays tribute to bobick who he thinks was his most difficult opponent ever. steven feels he can take on and beat any of the present crop of heavyweights and he will try to prove it in los angeles.

end end end end end lionel martin (havana) end end end end end

rn

correction: read stevenson where i write so stephenson (stephenson was the inventor of the steam railroad)

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elnea elaine are you there????

WR 298

lionel martin (havana) - re: Cuban view olympics
apr 24 -- exclusive interview with manuel gonzalez guerra,
president of cuban olympic committee. guerra says that he
is of the opinion that the russians will go to the olympics
since sports is one thing and politics another. in the end it
is to the benefit of the united states and vital to the success
of the olympics that the soviet union and other socialist bloc
nations attend. +i think that the basic demands of the soviet
olympic committee will be met,+ he said.

asked if cuba would drop out if the soviet union did gonzales
guerra said: +let's not cross that bridge until we get to it.
certainly, if things go that far, we will have a serene discussion
before making any decision. but we don't want to give definite
answers to a conjecture like that because the question is fraught
with pessimism and defeatism.+

gonzales guerra said cuba itself has put forward certain
demands and has not yet received satisfactory answers from the
u.s. olympic committee or from the u.s. government. the first
demand is that cuban planes be permitted to transport cuban
athletes, judges and other personnel to and from los angeles.
he said this was customary - cuba used its own planes to take its
teams to mexico and montreal but that it request for do so
has not yet been rpt but that it has not received an answer
to the present request. he said the use of commercial airlines
is more costly, presents many logistic problems for the cuban.
another official said that security is also a major factor in
wanting to use own planes so the big cuban contingent wont have
to spend time in airports in mexico or canada (he said cuba would
never think of sending its team via miami because of the big
counterrevolutionary population there)

.the other demand made by the cubans, gonzales guerra said was
that of providing protection for the non-athletes from cuba -- the
trainers, judges and cuban newspaperpersons (sportswriters) . he
said in view of the vicious anti-cuban and anti-soviet campaign
by some groups in the united states, these non athletes will also
need protection. he said this was raised publicly in los angeles
in early april by the cuban olympic committee but no reply has been
forthcoming,

meanwhile the cubans have stepped up their training for the
olympics and later this week an international track and field
meet, the +barrientos in memorium+ will take place with the
presence here in havana of u.s. athletes among others.

elene/hope that satisfies everybody. love, lionel

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TIME

to: lairne chena
re: lionel martin (avana)

slug: cuba and the olympics

WR 299

hevans, may 11 -- the soviet announcement cast a pall of uncertainty over the women's basketball pre-olympics which began here may 5 and ends may 16. bulgaria's last game in the elimination round of the tournament (may 9) against czechoslovakia was played hours after the bulgarian olympic committee announced that country's withdrawal from the olympics. the winner of the game, czechoslovakia passed onto the final round of the tournament but its only a matter of time before that nation follows the lead of the soviets.

two other teams went into the final round which, like czechoslovakia are unlikely to go to los angeles even if they win the right: hungary and cuba.

originally the project was to choose the best four national teams out of 19 nations competing in the tournament to go to the summer olympics. the soviet union has automatically won the right to participate there in women's basketball as winners of the 1980 moscow gold medal in the event. but with the soviet withdrawal, it was announced that five teams that are competing here will go to the olympics. and with the prospects of a withdrawal on the part of cuba, hungary and czechoslovakia it might be necessary to choose runner ups to go to los angeles if any of these teams win that right.

boris stanovic, the president of the international amateur basketball federation told reporters +it is a tragedy and it shows that once any kind of politically motivated boycott of the olympics begin, there is no telling where it will stop.

as for the cubans, the soviet, bulgaria and east german statements on the reasons for their withdrawal was given wide coverage and seen on national television here in cuba.

gonzalez guerra, president of the cuban olympic committee said that no decision had as yet been made and many believe that none will be announced for some days (they have until june 2). he said that the united states had not given cuba the right to land its planes in los angeles and complained that neither cuban judges or sports writers had been guaranteed physical protection in los angeles.

the cuban minister of education and sports, jose ramon fernandez, speaking to visiting sports writers, said no decision on the olympics had been made by the cuban olympic committee yet but he gave what many interpreted as sufficient reason for cuban withdrawal. fernandez stressed what he called +the

hostile political climate that exists in los angeles, often stimulated by counterrevolution organisations.+ he said that that climate militated against an atmosphere of fair and healthy olympic competition. he pointed to the stories in the u.s. press about plans by certain anti communist organisations in the united sta

united states to encourage the defection of socialist bloc athletes which include offering large sums of money and providing for +safe houses+ in los angeles. fernandez said that no such hostile atmosphere existed in havana two years ago when the central american games took place there, nor did they exist in the panamerican games in caracas in 1983 nor did they exist, he said, in other olympic games.. he said these right wing organisations were even organising a hysterical campaign that could put the lives and physical integrity of visiting athletes in danger. he said that this was being done +under the protection of american authorities+. he said it was a pity that there will no possibility of fair and healthy atmosphere of competition at the games. but, he said, cuban athletes continue training and no decision has been made.

fernandez' remarks were given unusual coverage on television radio and in newspapers here which led many to believe that the way was being prepared for a pullout.

alberto juantorena, the +cuban gaselle+ who won the 400 and 800 m sprints at montreal in 1976 and was looking forward to a comeback try at this olympics said he would abide by any decision made by the cuban olympic committee +without question+. he said that if they decide that the atmosphere is such in los angeles as to destroy the spirit of olympic play, cuban athletes, although disappointed would support the decision.

the cuban press has reproduced several posters put out by communist groups in the u.s. in one it vtittukvmtttuttave

