

Silver medalist shuns boxing life; credits Army for Olympic success

By Jim Kay

Charles Mooney, U. S. Olympic boxing silver medalist, was in Lincoln Friday through Sunday to answer questions on U.S. Army recruiting and on Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs.

Mooney, an Army sergeant stationed at Ft. Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C. made it all the way to the finals in the bantam weight (125 lb. weight limitation) division before losing to Yong Jo Gu of North Korea in a unanimous decision. He talked with the Daily Nebraskan and ROTC members at a luncheon Friday afternoon.

"I hope to be in the Army another 25 years, God willing," Mooney said. "My goal is to become a sergeant major."

Mooney said he has no intentions of turning professional.

Career began late

Mooney had never formally boxed until he joined the army four years ago. He became interested when two sergeants talked him into boxing for their company.

"I couldn't play basketball because I was too short, and I couldn't play football because I wasn't heavy enough," Mooney said, "so I turned to boxing. I learned most of my boxing in the streets."

Mooney said that after he started boxing he gradually set higher goals for himself. He made the all-Army boxing team and went to Panama to box in international competition in 1973. While in Panama, he decided to try out for the 1976 Olympic team.

"I asked someone down there if they thought I was too old to try for the Olympics and they convinced me that it was never too late," said Mooney who is 25.

Mooney said American boxers were not intimidated by the more experienced European boxers.

"The European boxers are more picture boxers," he said. "They would stand straight up and come right at you. I think they figured one punch could take U.S. boxers out in the last round."

Mooney was involved in a controversial bout with a Soviet athlete prior to his final bout.

"The Russian hit me below the belt and it took a lot of my strength out of me," Mooney said. "The referee gave me a standing eight-count and then I got mad. It turned into a fight then—not a boxing match."

Mooney said he thought the biggest asset of the American team was their excellent physical condition.

"Pat Nappi (American boxing coach at Montreal) ran us ragged getting us in shape," Mooney said. "He personally helped me to gain a lot of technique."

Mooney said he felt there would always be politics in-

involved in the Olympics but he also said he thought the judging had been pretty fair.

Mooney also discussed Cuba's heavyweight representative, Teofilo Stevenson, who won the gold medal for his weight class for the second straight time, and said he thought many of the Cuban boxers were "burned out" at the Olympics because of overfighting.

"Some of the Cuban boxers had had as many as 150 bouts prior to the Olympic Games," Mooney said. "It was just heazay, but we heard that the Cubans locked Stevenson up in jail prior to the games because he didn't want to fight."

Mooney offered a few thoughts about Howard Cosell, who covered the boxing matches for ABC-TV in Montreal.

Cosell 'smart man'

"He's a real smart man," Mooney said. "But he's just like anybody else. He doesn't put on anything. He's a real good guy."

Mooney, married and the father of a one-year old son, has been on the road for two months since the end of the Montreal games.

"I'm getting anxious to get home now," he said. "I'm going to start going to college half-days at Fayetteville State in North Carolina."

Mooney said the close-knit boxing team was going to hold a reunion soon at the home of the Spinks brothers of St. Louis, both of whom won gold medals in Montreal.

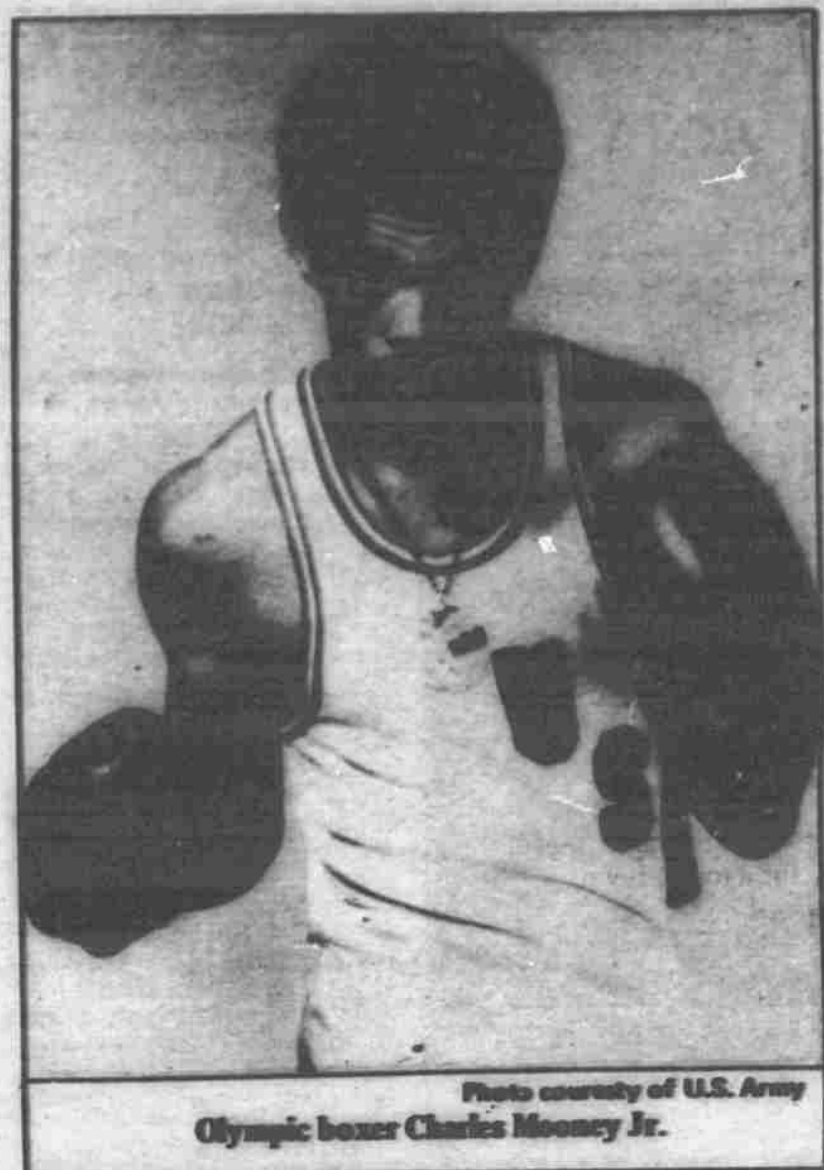


Photo courtesy of U.S. Army
Olympic boxer Charles Mooney Jr.

Pollsters left with egg on their face as top picks falter in first outings

Last weekend may go down as one of the greatest upset weekends in collegiate football history.

Eight teams in the Associated Press' (AP) preseason top 20, and nine in the United Press International's (UPI), failed to win last weekend.

The prognosticators at Playboy and Sports Illustrated (SI) magazines did equally as bad. The only victorious team in SI's top five was Michigan, 40-27 winners over Wisconsin. Eleven of the magazine's top 20 choices didn't win.

Playboy's number one team, Nebraska, was tied. Southern California 46-25. USC's Trojans had been rated

The weekend started on an ominous note for favorites when UCLA upset Arizona State 28-10 Thursday night. Arizona State was ranked third by AP and SI, fifth by Playboy and seventh by UPI.

One of Saturday's biggest surprises was Mississippi's 10-7 upset of Alabama, ranked second by SI, fourth by UPI, sixth by AP and seventh by Playboy. Only Playboy had Mississippi in the top 20.

Missouri, which opened last season with an upset of Alabama, continued on the same note this year, dumping Southern California 46-25. USC's Trojans had been rated second by Playboy, fifth by SI, and eighth by AP and UPI.

Other upsets Saturday included LSU's 6-6 tie with Nebraska, Boston College's 14-13 victory over Texas, Pittsburgh's 31-10 win over Notre Dame, California's 36-24 loss to Georgia, North Carolina State's 24-21 win over Florida, Miami's (Ohio) 21-16 loss to Marshall and Texas Tech's 24-7 whipping of Colorado.

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