

Foul play not ruled out in Swale's death

United Press International

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. — The doctor heading the team investigating the death of Kentucky Derby winner Swale said Wednesday the cause of death may not ever be known, but she wouldn't completely rule out the possibility of foul play.

Dr. Helen Acland, chief of the Laboratory of Large Animal Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, said tests on tissues taken from the 3-year-old colt did not reveal the cause of death.

She said examination of the tissues, taken during a necropsy (autopsy) performed Sunday hours after Swale collapsed and died at Belmont Park near New York, supported preliminary findings that ruled out a heart attack as the cause of death.

"We found enlargement of the heart that is usually found in athletes," Acland said during a news conference at the rural facility, 40 miles outside of Philadelphia. "We also found microscopic lesions of the liver and kidneys but not severe enough to contribute to the demise of an animal."

"It's possible we may never know the cause of death. There are some things that can cause death in horses that don't leave a trace."

Acland said her "gut feeling" was that the horse died of a "cardiac dysfunction, but we may never be able to confirm that. There are other things that can make the heart stop besides a heart attack."

Acland did not rule out foul play being involved in the death of Swale. She said extensive toxicological tests would have to be taken to rule out

that possibility, and those still may prove to be inconclusive.

"I'd be able to answer that better in a few weeks after we've gone through a range of chemical tests," she said. "Judging the history of the animal, he seemed to be well taken care of. The possibility (of foul play) is small but I have trouble defining small. I'd like to defer that question until we've performed some testing."

Swale, the dark bay son of 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew, died as he was being sponged down in his barn following a workout. He won the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes, taking the latter race just eight days before his death.

Acland said tissue of Swale's brain would be examined next. Those tests would take anywhere from 10 days to two weeks, she said.

TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Astros blasted again by Padres

United Press International

HOUSTON — Terry Kennedy slammed three hits and scored two runs and Tim Lollar and Dave Dravecky combined on a three-hitter to lead the San Diego Padres to a 6-2 victory over the Houston Astros Wednesday night.

The Padres took a 1-0 lead in the second inning off Mike Madden, 2-2. Kennedy walked and scored on a

two-out triple to right by Garry Templeton.

In the Astros' third, Lollar walked Madden and Phil Garner to open the inning. Craig Reynolds bunted the runners over and Jose Cruz rapped a two-out, two-run single for a 2-1 lead.

The Padres took a 3-2 lead in the fourth inning. They chased Madden by loading the bases with none out

on a single by Kennedy and walks to Carmelo Martinez and Templeton. With one out, Alan Wiggins singled off reliever Bill Dawley to score Kennedy and Martinez scored on a sacrifice fly to center by Tony Gwynn.

In other games, St. Louis shut out Montreal 2-0, New York beat Philadelphia 7-4, Atlanta got by San Francisco 6-5, Cincinnati downed Los Angeles 4-2.

Decker not sure if she'll run 'double'

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — With no action scheduled in the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials Wednesday, the athletes got a much-needed rest from both the physical and mental stresses of the meet.

None appreciated it more than Mary Decker, who is seeking berths on both the 1,500 and 3,000-meter teams.

On Thursday she will have the first round of the 1,500 in the morning and the semifinals of the 3,000 at night. But it is a double she is going to have to get used to for the Olympics.

"My main priority at the Olympics will be to win," Decker said. "People don't quite understand. They think since I won the double at Helsinki I should run the double here. The heat and smog will be different in Los Angeles than in Helsinki."

She added that it may be until the final Olympic entry deadline before

she decides to double. In that case, an alternate will have to train heavily until she makes her decision, which bothers Decker only slightly.

"I hate to do that to another athlete," she said, "but to give myself the best chance at the Olympics, I have to do it."

Decker has grown testy commenting on the potential Olympic matchups between her and teenage sensation Zola Budd, but Francie Larriue-Smith, who also qualified for the 3,000 Tuesday, has been watching Budd with interest.

Larriue-Smith has been running competitively since 1969, when she was 16, so she feels for Budd's volatile political situation; Budd, the barefoot-running South African native, was forced to gain citizenship in Britain to enter the Olympics.

"She's young, hungry and knows no limit," Larriue-Smith said. "I remember myself at that age. You're oblivious to everything around you, and that includes politics."

Duran not listening to messages

By MILTON RICHMAN
Columnist for United Press International

NEW YORK — Someone Up There is trying to deliver a message to Roberto Duran, struggling to tell him something, and it's probably a big waste of time because when can you remember anyone being able to tell Roberto Duran anything?

Never in his lifetime. You've heard of those guys who march to different drummers, haven't you? Duran doesn't bother marching at all. He moves strictly at his own pace, and about the only thing he ever bothers listening to is his heart.

That's what helped make him the fighter he was at his peak, a point during which he ranked among the best there ever were in the history of his craft and virtually assures him future installation in Boxing's Hall of Fame.

But with it all, he's not getting the message he should, the one clearly telling him to quit while he's still ahead. All he has to do to see the message once more is to look at the film of last Friday's disaster at the hands of Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns in Las Vegas.

I know he has seen that film at least once already because I saw him looking at it in his trailer-dressing room not long after suffering his

second-round knockout. Maybe his head still wasn't entirely clear then.

He probably is mostly interested in seeing how he left himself open to get hit the way he did by Hearns' knockout punch. But I'd call his attention to the end of the first round when the bell mercifully came to his rescue after he had been decked twice.

That's the part where he should pay the most serious thought. If he does, he can't help but get the message.

He'll see himself so confused, so disoriented, so pitifully out of it, that he goes walking off into the wrong corner. Stop and think now, how many times have you ever seen Roberto Duran in such bad shape that he has no idea where he was going.

He did some other things, too, that should be tipoffs to him this wouldn't be a bad time to hang 'em up.

Before the fight even started, while the introductions were going on, instead of bouncing around the ring, throwing punches and breathing fire the way he always does, he simply sat on his stool and looked gentler than a lamb.

That wasn't the Roberto Duran I know. Hardly anyone else recognized him that way, either.

I know it's easy to tell someone else to quit, but I'm not the only one who thinks the 33-year

old Duran should. Ray Arcel, boxing's highly respected octogenarian who handled Duran for the better part of 10 years, told him the same thing four years ago.

"I asked him to quit after the second (Ray) Leonard fight," says Arcel.

"I wrote him a letter in which I said that every book has a beginning and an end, and when you finish reading it, you close the book and put it away. I told him he had been an asset to boxing and would be remembered as being a great fighter."

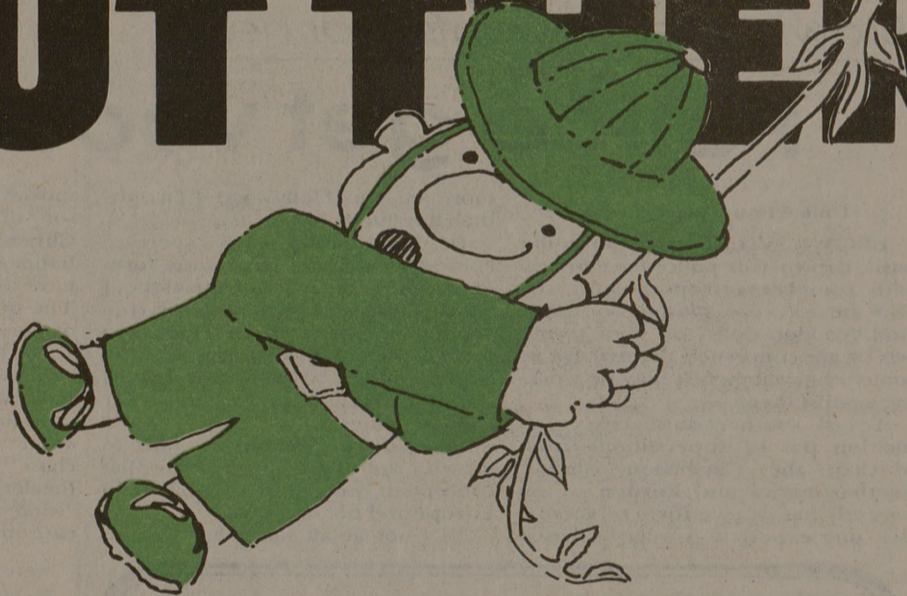
Arcel wasn't in Las Vegas for Friday night's fight. He heard all about it and read about it, though.

"Time is a killer," he says. "Roberto has always been self-destructive. He'll put on 25-30 pounds between fights and then have to almost kill himself taking it off. When you're 20 or 21, you can put your body through severe rigors like that, but at Duran's age, it's a much greater strain."

Monetarily, Duran did much better than Hearns in Friday's fight.

His share was close to \$2 million. Hearns got a little better than half of that following a last ditch negotiation session the day before the fight during which it tottered between being off and on.

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