

Tyson fit to fight in June

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS - Rumors that Mike Tyson wasn't training and that his once-postponed bout with Evander Holyfield was in jeopardy prompted a visit to Tyson's training camp by a top Nevada boxing official.

After watching Tyson train for about an hour, Nevada Athletic Commission executive director Marc Ratner said he was satisfied the June 28 fight was going ahead as scheduled.

"For the last 10 days, every other phone call is another rumor about the fight," Ratner said Friday.

"We as a commission just wanted to put the fears to rest about this fight."

Ratner asked the Tyson camp if he could watch the former heavyweight champion work out

this week at the Golden Gloves Gym. Tyson recently resumed



Tyson

training after a cut by his left eye forced the postponement of the bout, originally scheduled for May 3.

He watched for about an hour as Tyson worked on the heavy bag, the speed bag and did some other exercises.

"We heard rumors that his shoulder was bothering him," Ratner said. "That certainly was not the case. He is at his fighting weight. I was impressed that he looked physically very good."

A spokesman for the MGM Grand hotel, meanwhile, said the postponement didn't result

in any appreciable return of tickets to the sold-out MGM arena.



Holyfield

"We only had a handful of refunds, less than 50, out of 16,331 tickets," spokesman Bill Doak said.

Doak said the demand for tickets, which cost up to \$1,500, was even greater than the first fight, won by Holyfield in a huge upset last November. "We could probably sell the arena three times over if we wanted to," he said.

Holyfield will get some \$35 million for the rematch, while Tyson will make about \$20 million.

Dent likes the way golf is turning

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much money you make, they have to forget about you.

"Second is good, money is good, but you know that victory just tastes a little better."

Winning earned Dent a first place check of \$135,000 that pushed his Senior Tour total past \$5.1 million. But if not for people like Charlie Sifford of Charlotte, the first black player on the PGA tour, Dent would not be making the money he now enjoys, or the fame that comes with playing in front of big galleries on national television.

And then there's superstars like Tiger Woods, who has helped generate fan interest. Dent was happy to see Woods become the first African American to win the Masters but was more impressed by the number of new fans who flock to tournaments to catch a glimpse of Woods.

"Any superstar, black or white, it doesn't matter what kind of superstar, like Michael Jordan or whatever," Dent said. "Anybody who can keep the people coming to the golf courses, whether he's black or white, blue or yellow."

Dent turned professional in 1966 and is a familiar face to a lot of golf fans but he admits people don't recognize him the way they do Woods.

"Hell no. No human, nobody not even Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, not even those guys...but the kid deserves it," he said. "I guess he came out like a tiger should come out, come out running. All I can say is I take my hat off to him, I don't care if he is black or white."

Dent believes Woods' rapid rise on the PGA tour and huge popularity has helped everybody earn extra money.

"He helped me, he put money in my pockets," he said. "If he can get a million dollars a guarantee (tournament appearance fee), I can sure get 10,000, if somebody wants to give me 10,000, so he helped me."

"He's just a great player, he's somebody that people have been looking for and he's just what the tour needed."

What the tour didn't need was the big racial flap created by Fuzzy Zoeller. On the final day of the Masters, Zoeller said Woods shouldn't order fried chicken and collard greens at the champion's dinner next year. Dent says the

media blew the comments out of context and that there's no room for politics in sport.

"That shouldn't even go into sports I think. We have too much fun and too many things going on to be spoiled by politics," he said. "Politics should stay in Washington because you don't want your president speaking for you do you?"

"Every sport, everybody black and white, they have fun together and if you're playing basketball and you got a black guy, you're going to throw it to the guy who can make the two points to win the game. You want to win, that's the way I looked at it."

After beating a legend like Trevino, you'd think Dent would boast about it. No way. He was just happy to see Trevino and some of the big name senior stars get untracked.

"It's good to see all the guys playing good again," he said. "It just keeps the people coming and it's good for all of us and Lee put a little money in my pocket because he played so many times."

"I'm glad to see him play good because he might be thinking of quitting."

Dodgers may be sold to Fox TV

By John Nadel
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Rupert Murdoch appears on the verge of adding the Los Angeles Dodgers, one of sport's premier franchises, to his burgeoning business empire.

Owner Peter O'Malley, whose family has controlled the Dodgers since 1950, when they were still in Brooklyn, said Monday he has asked baseball for permission to enter into serious talks with Fox Group, an affiliate of Murdoch's News Corp.

Fox spokesman Vince Wladika said, "We're in negotiations," but would not comment further.

A television source, speaking on the condition he not be identified, told The Associated Press the deal could be announced next week. The price is expected to be \$350 million-\$400 million.

O'Malley said in a statement issued by the Dodgers: "We're in the fifth month of what we expected to be a six-month process."

The team's sale price is expected to set a baseball record, topping the \$173 million Peter Angelos' group paid for the Baltimore Orioles in 1993.

O'Malley announced on Jan. 6 that he was putting the team on the block.

He needed the permission of baseball officials before he could share certain financial information with the Fox Group, including details of baseball's national television, marketing and licensing deals.

Any deal would be subject to the approval of baseball owners, which would take several months. O'Malley still would run the team during the approval process.

Fox would become the latest of several media companies that control baseball teams. Already involved are Time Warner Inc. (Atlanta Braves), The Walt

Disney Co. (Anaheim Angels) and the Tribune Co. (Chicago Cubs).

The Dodgers come with the 300-acre site near downtown Los Angeles where Dodger Stadium is located, a 468-acre spring training facility in Vero Beach, Fla., and property in the Dominican Republic.

When O'Malley first announced he was selling the team, he cited estate planning as his main reason for the move. But he was quoted in Monday's editions of the Los Angeles Times as saying that, if he had been able to build a stadium for an NFL team near Dodger Stadium, he might not have put the Dodgers up for sale.

"I can't deny that was a factor," he said. "I must tell you I was extremely disappointed when we were asked to shelve our ideas."

O'Malley said mayor Richard Riordan first asked him to help attract an NFL franchise in August 1995 - shortly before LA's first season without an NFL team since 1946. The Rams moved to St. Louis and the Raiders to Oakland before the

1995 season.

O'Malley figured a new stadium next to Dodger Stadium would complement his efforts to help.

But last summer, before the feasibility study on the impact of a football stadium next to Dodger Stadium was even finished, the City Council voted to build a new stadium at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

O'Malley said he notified Riordan in August it was "technically feasible" to build a football stadium on Dodger Stadium property. But a few weeks later, O'Malley received official notification from a Riordan representative asking him to throw his support behind the Coliseum.

"We were extremely disappointed, but I completely understood the position we were asked to take," O'Malley said.

"I still believe it was the right decision not to compete with the Coliseum, and I completely understood the position we were asked to take. The Coliseum deserves that final look, but it must have closure at some point."

Weak hitting leaves Cincy red

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI - Bret Boone, who had six RBIs in his past three games, says he's finally coming out of his season-long batting slump.

"I really wanted to get off to a real good start, and it didn't work out that way," Boone said. "So it snowballed to 80 at-bats. But, hey, those 80 at bats are over with. I can't worry about what's happened in the past."

"It's been frustrating because we haven't played well as a team, which makes it worse."

That tension showed in the clubhouse Saturday night when Boone and Deion Sanders had a disagreement after the Reds lost 9-6 to the Padres in San Diego.

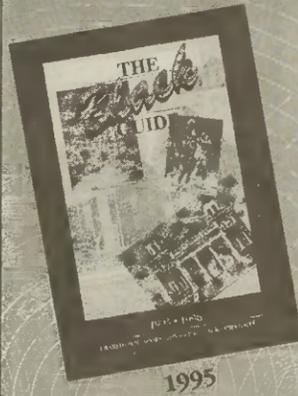
Boone and Sanders were restrained by teammates and the cause of the dispute wasn't clear, although it apparently was rooted in something that occurred during the game, teammates said.

"They didn't fight," Knight said. "There was just exchange of verbiage in the heat of the loss."

"There is frustration, probably, in struggles that we're having individually. Things heat up and you have to release them. Sometimes somebody says something to someone, and you explode," Knight said.

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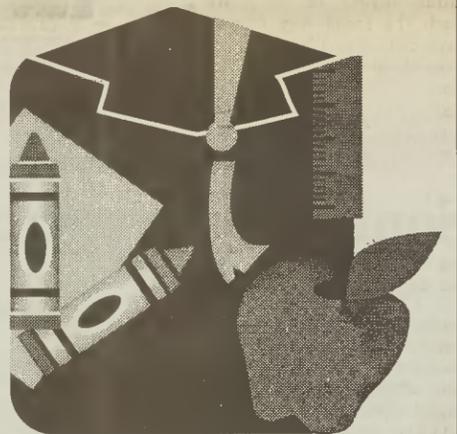
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