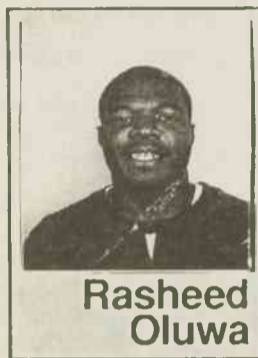


# SPORTS WITH THE RASH

## Nevada ruling on Tyson's boxing career bites

Some things in life are left to conjecture. If a wife testifies to domestic abuse, she must, regardless of how truthful her story is, come up with substantial evidence. If a woman accuses a man of rape, no matter how believable her story sounds, she must come up with that evidence as well. That's the way the law is supposed to work. A man is innocent until proven guilty.



Rasheed Oluwa

Why is any of this relevant? Because when the subject of Mike Tyson is thrown around, a lot of his past indiscretions will inevitably pop up.

But when the subject is narrowed down to Tyson's return to the ring, different considerations must be taken

into account.

Most people cannot actually say that they've witnessed Tyson batter or rape a female. However, most people can say that on June 28, 1997, Mike Tyson bit the ear of Evander Holyfield in the 3rd round of a championship fight. Case closed.

No matter how the videotape is edited or manipulated, the end result shows "Iron" Mike Tyson

biting the ear of Evander Holyfield.

On October 19, 1998, the Nevada State Athletic Commission reinstated Tyson's boxing license after revoking it over a year ago on July 9, 1997.

The commission deemed Tyson mentally fit to box again.

Now, obviously, it's a given that boxing is an intrinsically violent sport but it doesn't matter how violent a sport it is, there are boundaries and when Tyson bit Holyfield, he overstepped those boundaries.

If Tyson had bitten Holyfield on an episode of HBO's prison based series "OZ" his actions wouldn't have been so bizarre.

But in the real world, biting another person's ear is considered antisocial. Heck, children are taught that in the 2nd grade.

The notion of bringing Tyson back is ludicrous. Sure, people are entitled to make mistakes, but some mistakes are unforgivable. Anybody who thinks otherwise would probably change their mind if someone bit their ear off in a boxing match.

It is unfortunate that Tyson was kept from the ring. Yeah, he may have been a fading heavyweight on the downside of his career, but he was still entertaining, and entertainment is something which is sorely missing in the heavyweight division.

Tyson should have thought of that before he played Hannibal Lector with Holyfield's ear. Tyson should be held accountable for his actions. It's good that he has found a new advisor in "Magic" Johnson and a new center in his life through religion. But anytime someone decides to bite another person's ear off at the spur of the moment, then that person falls into the sociopath category.

A psychological profile done on Tyson said that "a risk of such a re-offense is low." Really? Try convincing Tyson's next opponent of that.

Tyson has done more than enough to prove that he is a danger to his opponent in the ring. Not because he is going to knock him out, but because he tries to eat his opponent when he's losing. Does the Nevada State Athletic Commission need Tyson to bite off a "wing" and "thigh" for further proof?

Tyson's past actions in some cases cannot be accounted for. But the whole world saw Tyson chomp off Holyfield's ear. For this act, Tyson can't be given the benefit of the doubt. The sparring he should now be doing now should be on Canibus's next rap album.

## Lady Rams expect good season despite CIAA disappointments

BY RASHEED OLUWA  
Sports Editor

Last season the Lady Rams started the basketball season with high hopes and expectations. They ran through the regular season winning the Western division in the CIAA.

Then the unthinkable happened. The Lady Rams got upset by Livingstone College in the semifinals of the CIAA Tournament. That loss stings to this day.

"We didn't set all our team goals last year," says head coach Debra Clark. "Coming up short in the CIAA tournament has given us motivation this year."

The rest of the CIAA has taken notice, as the Rams enter this season as the favorites to take the Western division again. Coach Clark returns a deep, athletic squad with loads of experience. The club returns six seniors including pre-season CIAA performers, Wykesha Broadnax and Erica Leggett.

Although the Lady Rams lost senior Christy Brooks, a valuable reserve capable of playing four positions on the court, the Rams feel that they will recover from this loss smoothly.

"Christy played a big role for our team last year," says assistant coach Terri Eanes. "But now we've got so much depth, we'll be able to make up for her."

Depth is essential for the Lady Rams who plan on playing an up and down attack utilizing their speed and quickness. Clark hopes to score anywhere from 70 to 80 points per game. Spearheading coach Clark's up and down attack will be four year starter, senior point guard Nikki Blackwell.

"Nikki's underrated," Clark says. "A lot of the things she does doesn't show up on the stat sheet. But she's our most steady player and she brings a lot of leadership to the court."

Starting alongside Blackwell on the perimeter will be shooting guard, Erica Leggett and last year's All-Rookie team performer, sophomore swing player, Christa West.

Although these are the projected starters, Clark feels real comfortable relying on her bench for extended minutes of playing time. Perimeter players standing by on reserve are senior Holley Griffin, junior Renee Cameron, sophomores Tamika Clark and Lakisha Covington, and freshman Shonketa Broom.

"I feel that those players can come off the bench anytime and contribute," adds Clark.

Anchoring the frontline for the Rams this year will be senior Wykesha Broadnax, an All-CIAA performer last season and sophomore Kesi Nobles, a member of last year's All-Rookie team. Clark is looking for Noble to make great improvements in light of her performance last season.

"She's always been a good rebounder, but this year she's been more aggressive offensively and she's looking for her to shoot more," says Clark.

Adding interior support off the bench for the team will be senior forward, Rachel Hicks who will be out until December as she recovers from shoulder surgery, senior center, Dementrice Porter, freshman center, Latoya Cobb who Clark considers the best athlete on the team, and freshman center, Tiffany Whitted.

Despite early season predictions of success, the Rams still remain hungry and focused.

"We're aware that we are picked to finish first," says Clark. "But now we really have to maintain consistency. Everyone is going to be shooting for us now."

The Lady Rams begin their season November 16, 1998 hosting Kentucky State University.

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