

## Instant Classic

Aggies agree to battle Jaguars in Las Vegas

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The chancellors at N.C. A&T State University and Southern University have officially accepted the invitation for their teams to battle in the 2003 Las Vegas Football Classic. The game is scheduled to be played on Sept. 13 at University of Nevada-Las Vegas Sam Boyd Stadium.



Renick

"We are excited about this tremendous opportunity to draw exposure to Southern University in the Western United States, and I am strongly encouraging everyone to make plans to attend the 2003 Las Vegas Football Classic." Southern University Chancellor Dr. Edward Jackson said in a recent letter to Southern University fans.

A&T Chancellor Dr. James Renick added: "We can assure you that the entire city of Las Vegas, its businesses and community leaders are solidly behind making this an exciting and well-run classic."

N.C. A&T and Southern University have met four times on the gridiron and the record stands at two wins apiece. A&T won the first meeting in 1942. Southern won the 1970 and 1971 matchups. The Aggies won the last meeting, in the 1994 Heritage Bowl, 22-21.

The Las Vegas Football Classic is a football classic for

See Las Vegas on B3

## Local boxers upset in Kernersville

Edwards, Gibson and Sales lose controversial bouts

BY ANTHONY HILL  
THE CHRONICLE

Three of the area's up-and-coming amateur boxers went down in controversial bouts at the Sportsplex in Kernersville on Saturday.

The younger brother of light heavyweight contender Derek Edwards, Jeffrey Edwards, and Kernersville slugger Tommy Gibson were disqualified in their fights, while Jason Sales lost in a close battle to Wilson's Rodney Green.

Both Edwards and Gibson seemed to have their opponents under the wraps for the most part, but both were disqualified due to ring violations. Edwards lost to Thomas Biggs of Ft. Bragg, while Gibson dropped a match to Wilmington's William Brown.

"I know that I won," Edwards said while pacing after the match. "When we were on the ropes and I hit him with a hook, that knocked him down. That was not a slip. Plus, they cheated me when they said I was hitting him with low blows. I was hitting him in his abs (stomach). I know he felt it. I was killing him with straight, right hands to the body. I wasn't frustrated. I was just trying to stay focused, use my jab, and set him up with my right hook."

Edwards seems focused on taking out his loss on his next opponent.

"Definitely," Edwards said. "My next opponent is gonna feel it. That's my word."

Gibson was disqualified for hitting Brown in the back of the head too many times. Gibson didn't realize why he was disqualified after the fight.

"I really don't know what I

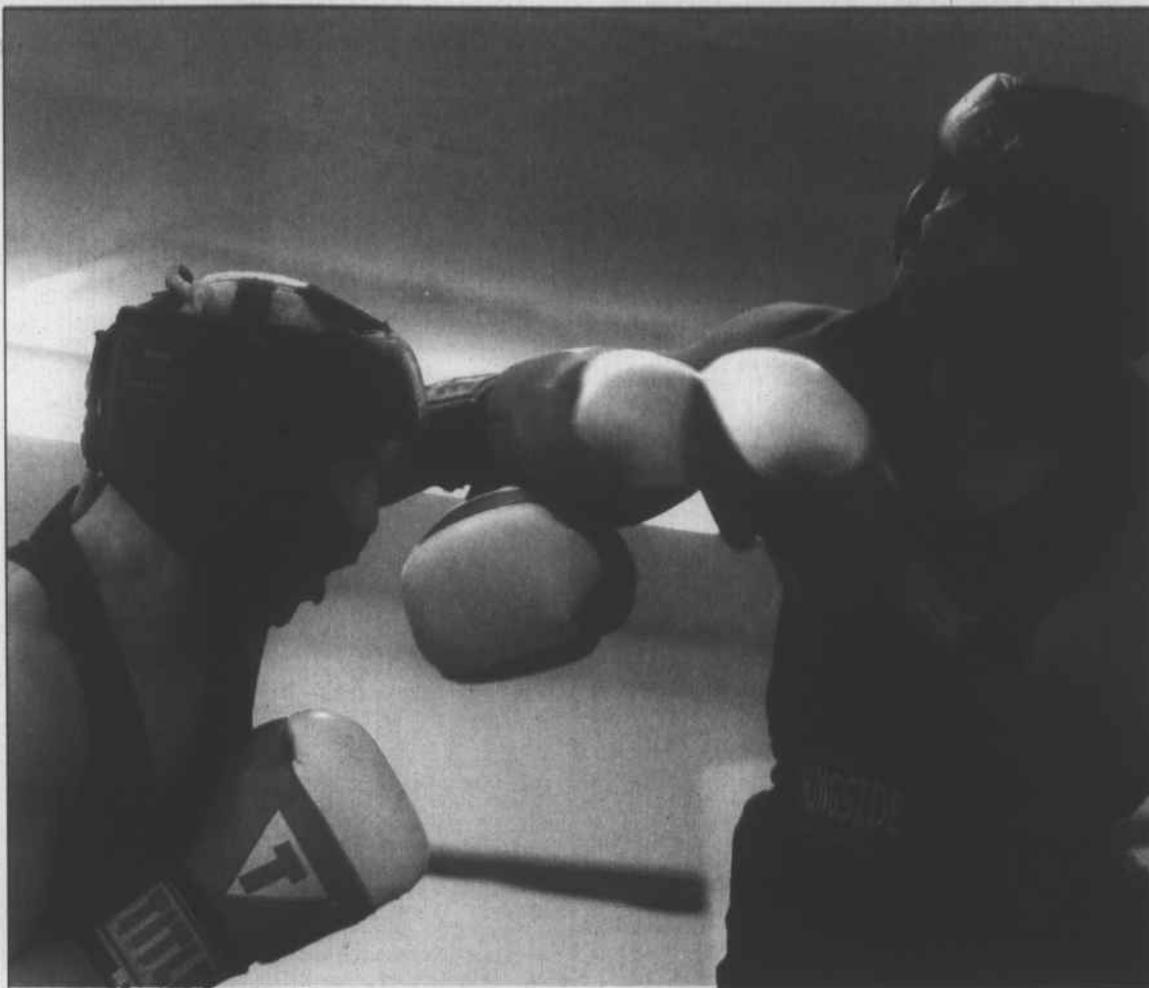


Photo by Bruce Chapman

Winston-Salem boxer Jason Sales smashes a left hook to the face of Wilson's Rodney Green at Kernersville Sportsplex.

was doing," Gibson said. "I guess, because I'm taller. I was trying to hook around him. I didn't think I was doing that. I like fighting people who are taller than me. I didn't see how I was holding behind the head at all. But I got disqualified somehow. That's the first for me."

The main event of the night was between Winston-Salem's

Jason Sales and Rodney Green of Wilson. The two got together for the second time. Green won by a decision the first time the two met.

"I fought this man once already, and he won by decision," Sales said. "I felt like I was in better condition this time."

Sales is a very determined

fighter who gained interest in the sport after watching "Tough Man" on television.

"I watched 'Tough Man' one time," Sales said. "After I saw that I wanted to box. I started in Wilkesboro. I came down here to get tougher. This is my second year here (14th Street), and things are going well. It takes a lot of heart to be a boxer. It also

takes some conditioning to box. I used to play football, and it never got me into this kind of condition."

Sales began the fight with an attack that seemed to take Green by surprise. He was ducking and dodging while connecting with left and right hooks.

"I knew that he would come

See Boxing on B3

## Kobe will be topic for a while



Just like all great stories in sports, stories of great tragedy are never ending. And that is exactly what we have in the story of Lakers star Kobe Bryant and the trouble he's found himself in.

Mark Hurlbert, district attorney of Eagle County, Colo., announced that Kobe Bryant was charged with the sexual assault of a 19-year-old woman. Man, Kobe was letting all of his emotions out during the news conference too. Anyone with a heart would've believed his remarks of love for his wife and the shame of his actions.

There's no doubt in most of our minds that Kobe is innocent and this girl is lying. Or is she? Well, you have to admit that when you first heard that some woman had accused Kobe of sexual assault, your first thought was obviously that this must be some gold digger, trying to get in his pockets. After all, we all know Kobe, and this is totally out of character for him. Isn't it?

I mean, come on now. These have to be false accusations about Kobe. We can't lose him to this. There's only a handful of wholesome, black athletes out there, with no strikes against them: Ray Allen, Emmitt Smith, Tracy McGrady and, of course, Tiger Woods.

The truth of the matter is no matter how much we want to believe Kobe didn't do anything, few of us REALLY know the man. I've watched hundreds of his games, commercials and countless news conferences. I also know that he has a lot of Michael Jordan's mannerisms. He speaks Italian and has a

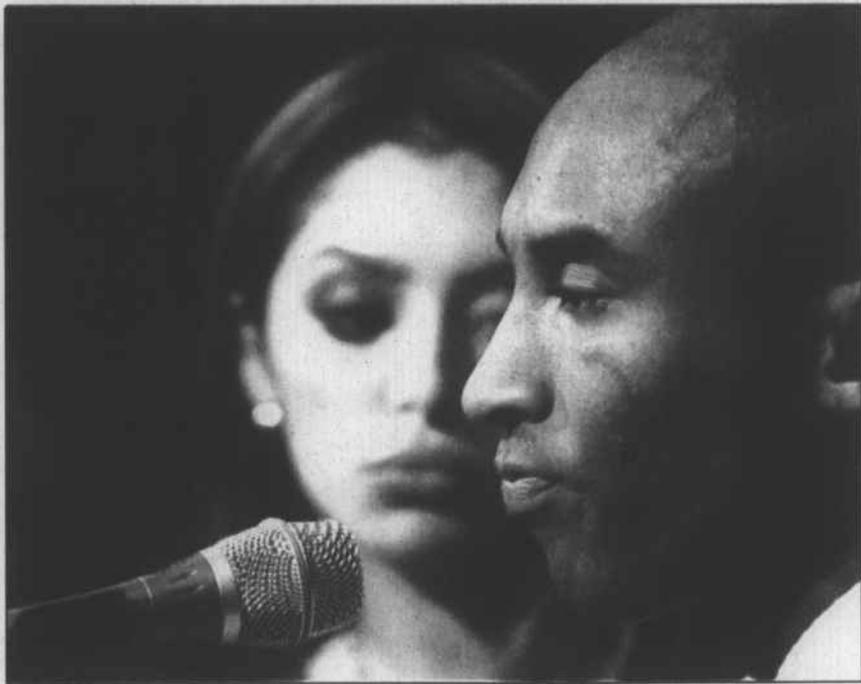


Photo by Aurelia Ventura/La Opinion

Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant declares his innocence during a news conference at the Staples Center as his wife, Vanessa, looks on.

beautiful wife. Oh yeah, and I also know that he cheated on her too. But I'll be the first to tell you that I don't know the man for real.

None of us knows Kobe's sexual habits or how mad he can get behind closed doors. None of us knows what he's capable of when no one is around. Heck, most of us don't even really know the people we work with and around every day. Look around your office or work station. What do you really know about the people you come in contact with every day? Probably, very little. There's no doubt that all of us will find out more about Bryant than we need to know after all this court stuff begins.

Oh yeah, I've already heard reports that Kobe may not have used a condom while having

sex with the young girl. Well, how else could investigator's have gotten DNA? Wow, how stupid can you be, Kobe? First, to cheat on your beautiful wife months after having a baby girl. Then, not bothering to put a jimmy hat on.

Now, I don't think Kobe is guilty of assaulting the girl. I have no idea what really happened on that June night in Colorado. But I do know that Kobe made some really questionable decisions. And ever since the news of Bryant's arrest broke two weeks ago, we've all been searching for reasons to discredit this 19-year-old girl. So far, it's been looking pretty bad for her. Let's see, she tried out for "American Idol," so she must want to be famous. She voluntarily walked to Kobe's room, so she evidently wanted

something. And on top of all that, she allegedly overdosed on drugs a couple of months ago, so she's unreliable and an apparent drug user. And I'm sure we're going to find out a lot more about her and her family when the case begins next month. Man, her life will never be the same. She'll always be the woman who pressed charges against Kobe. And what if she loses the case? Then she'll be the chick that lied about Kobe.

I'm sorry. It's just hard for me to believe that Kobe would have to sexually assault any woman. How many women does he have to force himself upon? Well, there probably aren't many. She better make her side of the story known before her name gets dragged in more mud puddles than she can

See Hill on B3

## Football championship game returns to Durham

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The CIAA Football Championship Game will return to Durham and N.C. Central University. The game is scheduled for Nov. 15, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association announced on July 16.

"We're excited about the championship game returning to Durham and North Carolina Central University in November," CIAA Commissioner Leon Kerry said. "With the outstanding support the citizens of the Triangle have given the CIAA, we are looking forward to another exciting and successful championship game."

The championship game was played at N.C. Central's O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium in 2000, when the event was resurrected after a 10-year hiatus. This will be the fourth time

since 1990 that the CIAA will match the eastern and western division champions to decide the championship on the field.

"North Carolina Central University is pleased to have the opportunity to showcase our outstanding institution by serving as host of the 2003 CIAA Football Championship Game," said NCCU Chancellor James H. Ammons. "NCCU is looking forward to welcoming the CIAA and its fans to our campus and the city of Durham. As proud

See CIAA on B3

## Winston-Salem State adds new coach to football staff

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Gilbert Wiggins has been added to the Ram football coaching staff, the Winston-Salem State University Office of Sports Information has announced.

Wiggins will officially join the coaching staff on Aug. 1 and will be responsible for coaching the defensive backs. He will join defensive coordinator Gregory Richardson in helping to continue the

tradition of dominating WSSU defenses.

Wiggins played football at Elizabeth City State University and graduated in 1979. He is no stranger to Kermit Blount, current WSSU head football coach, either. The two squared off against each other during their college playing days.

Wiggins comes to WSSU by way of N.C. Central University, where he served as the Eagles' defensive coordinator for two years after spending eight years in the same capacity at Livingstone College.

Wiggins lives in Apex, N.C., with his wife, Judy, and has two children, a daughter, Tania (24), and a son, Coty

See WSSU on B8