

Issac for boxers

Continued from 1B

If Isaac, who has a stable of 10 fighters under the direction of trainers Seabrooks and former heavyweight Leon Moffett, appears to be undertaking a huge task, it's because he grimaces at the misuse and neglect of athletes.

"I'm finding that the sports agent/athlete relationship is like

a pimp/whore relationship, meaning as long as you are making money you are useful," he said. "How I differ is my fighters know I love them. I do love these kids, but half of them are 30, 31, 32 years old. If you come to the gym, we hug each other. We bond a lot, we do everything in groups. If one fighter is fighting we all show up."



Stan Wright, Reggie Issac and Benji Singleton (left to right) are working to get Charlotte boxers into the sport's big time.

Look out below

New England receiver Shawn Jefferson prepares to grab a Drew Bledsoe pass for a touchdown in Super Bowl XXXI. Green Bay cornerback Craig Newsome tries to defend on the play. Despite a 14-10 lead in the first half, the Patriots were unable to hold off the Packers, who won 35-21.



PHOTO/WADE NASH

Howard racking up on Super Bowl effort

Continued from 1B

Parcells' future dominated Super Bowl week, particularly as it became increasingly clear he wants to leave the Patriots, probably for the New York Jets. The Jets, presumably waiting for Parcells, haven't even interviewed a potential coach in the five weeks since Rich Kotite left.

This issue is over a 1996 addition to Parcells' contract, calling for the agreement to expire after this season instead of next season. Kraft contends the only team Parcells can coach in 1997 is New England.

If Tagliabue rules for Kraft, the Patriots might settle for compensation in the form of a draft pick. The Jets hold the No. 1 pick in the draft, although it's unlikely that would be the compensation.

As for Howard, he's getting his compensation now. His first trip was the traditional one to Disney World that goes with being Super Bowl MVP. On Tuesday night he appeared on the David Letterman show.

Steinberg said he already has fielded numerous phone calls

from prospective endorsers.

"I would think any product associated with speed would fit," Steinberg said.

This was a journey for Howard from the top to the bottom and back to the top again.

This year, he returned six kicks for touchdowns, the first and the last perhaps the most important.

The first was a punt return for a score in an exhibition against Pittsburgh after Howard had missed all of training camp and the first two exhibition games with a hip pointer.

"I think he probably would have been cut if he hadn't done that," Holmgren said. "We had a lot of quality receivers and that opened our eyes."

He returned three punts for touchdowns in the regular season and another in Green Bay's 35-14 playoff win over San Francisco. Then came the kickoff return in the Super Bowl, the MVP trophy and new financial horizons.

"That's nice," Howard said. "But what I really want is a chance to play some more."

Vanderhorst excels

Continued from 1B

Vanderhorst sank two clutch free throws to give Garinger a 86-84 lead with five seconds left. But Independence's Scott Lilly sank a running three-pointer to lift Independence.

"We had them beat, but certain things weren't meant to be," Vanderhorst said. "I feel like I proved myself to them a little bit, but I wanted to win. So since we lost I feel like I'm still climbing the mountain."

Lewis is very pleased that Vanderhorst chose to play at Garinger, and he respects his non-sense attitude.

"Independence is a very up-tempo type team, and he brought that to us," Lewis said. "Bringing him in is merely bringing in a fresh body. If something happened to T.C., we would have no letdown with Jervay running the offense. He's a fair three-point shooter, and actually as little as he is, he can penetrate real well."

WNBA signs Stinson

Continued from 1B

18.6 points and five rebounds a game.

Bullett, who hails from West Virginia and has family in Fayetteville, starred at Maryland. She looks forward to playing with Stinson again.

"I played with her in Cesena last year and I know her real well," she said. "Playing against her in college, I think we click very well," Bullett said.

Bullett also likes the idea of playing close to home.

"I'm really happy to be in Charlotte, I have butterflies and I'm not even on the court yet.

"It's good to be somewhat close to home, I come from a big family and I hope every game that we play here, they can come down."

The new league hopes to average 5,000 fans a game. At that figure, WNBA officials say the league will be a financial success. The league is on solid financial ground with money coming from the NBA and three television networks: ESPN, NBC and Lifetime. Bullett says the onus is on the players to perform at a high level and keep the fans coming out.

"If the women really get into it and want to play, there's an opportunity that they have set for us and as far as woman wanting to play their best basketball that they can, that will show on the court and I hope that being a part of this, I can express the same things," she said.

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