

Tyson No Role Model; Kids Need Better Hero

My nephew Timmy is a sports fanatic. Every time I travel home, the 10-year-old dynamo bombards me with questions about professional, college and high school athletics.

Timmy's a budding star. As a starting tight end, trophy-winning grappler and all-star pitcher in the Maryland pee-wee leagues, this kid — like many others his age — is already planning for the days when he enters the limelight of the pro sports world.

That in itself does not scare me, but his heroes do.

Lately, Timmy's taken to boxing. He likes the thrill, the excitement and the violence of the sport. That's fine, if we don't mind the next generation spending its spare time watching huge men beat the living hades out of each other. We did the same thing, after all.

But Timmy's newest figure of fortune is Mike Tyson, and that makes me sick. Tyson is not a hero. He is a rapist. A convicted rapist. A convicted rapist who spent time in prison.

Since he exited an Indiana prison in April, Tyson has made headlines all over the globe. His exploits have been reshaped. His rise to fame has been retold. His career prospects have been re-pondered.

But the import of his crime, it seems, has been forgotten.

Sports Illustrated plastered its July 3 cover with this year's most ridiculous pondering point: *Should we root for Mike Tyson?*

Why is that even a question?

In 1991, Tyson invited Desiree Washington on a late-night limousine tour of Indianapolis. On the way, she agreed to accompany him to his hotel room to "pick up something." That's when Washington said no to sex, and Tyson ignored her.

Tyson had already been publicly accused of brutal spouse abuse by actress Robin Givens, and his attitude about women in general has always been less than savory. But people still defend him.

Tyson still denies the charge of rape, meaning, to many, that he is just a railroaded superhero. No matter that the evidence convicted him.

Tyson has served his time, meaning to some he's ready to re-enter society and the ring. No matter that he's never apologized.

Tyson has a "gift" — a clubber claw that enables him to knock the consciousness out of his opponents, meaning to many that he should automatically be let back into the limelight. No matter that impressionable children are watching.

But Tyson is not a victim, as his promoters and his supporters would have us believe. His career possibilities are on a bigger upswing now than when his trial began in 1992, and few boxing enthusiasts will refuse to pay the \$50 pay-per-view fee to watch Tyson re-enter the ring August 19 against Peter McNeeley.

It's all about morbid curiosity — Tyson committed a violent crime, and people have a fascination with watching violence within a roped-in square. Tyson's brutality in the ring is legal, so enthusiasts have few qualms about relishing it. But what the public cannot afford to forget is the brutality which took Tyson out of the roped-in square and into a steel-barred cell.

Does Tyson deserve a second chance in society? Sure. He's served his time, and he has earned his right to be a free man.

Does Tyson deserve a second chance in the ring? Absolutely not. When he entered the boxing ring as a public figure — when he earned the title of Heavyweight Champion of the World — he forfeited his privileges as a regular Joe Schmo. He became rich, he became famous, he became a superstar, and he became a role model. When he raped Washington, he forfeited his right to be a superhero, just as his right to box again should be repealed.

Tyson had a responsibility to his fans, and he jabbled it in the nose. Should we really expect anyone to root for a criminal? Scary as it seems, Timmy does. His mother has explained the import of Tyson's crime, but how well does a child understand rape? What Timmy — and all of his friends and children all over the world — sees is an athlete with money, with power and with fame — attributes which most children covet.

Timmy knows that Tyson committed a crime, but he also knows that the fighter will be allowed to re-enter a public forum and earn several million dollars a year. What, then, did Tyson lose but three years of freedom? Who wouldn't give up three years to be a famous millionaire for infinity?

Most 10-year olds would.

Gambling Nets Terps' QB 8-Game Suspension

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland quarterback Scott Milanovich has lost a chance to win the Heisman Trophy and the multimillion dollar NFL contract that usually follows, all because of a handful of bets totaling \$200.

Milanovich, the most prolific passer in Terrapin history, has been suspended for eight games by the NCAA for gambling on college sports, according to sources. It is the most severe penalty handed to a Division I athlete for such a violation.

The school has appealed the suspension, one of five given to Maryland athletes by the NCAA on Monday. The school also will appeal the 20-game suspension of reserve basketball guard Matt Raydo.

Four of the athletes have given the university permission to release their names. The fifth, according to sources, is Milanovich, but the school and NCAA won't confirm that.

The appeal process will be completed within two weeks. For now, however, Milanovich is left with shattered hopes.

"Let's just say he's disillusioned," Maryland athletic director Debbie Yow said. Milanovich has not commented publicly on the case, and calls to his parents'

home in Pennsylvania were not returned.

The NCAA said that had Milanovich not cooperated with the university's investigation of campus gambling, he would have been forced to miss the entire season.

Milanovich allegedly placed six bets totaling \$200 during the fall of 1992, 1993 and 1994. Yow said none of the athletes bet on Maryland games or did anything to alter the outcome of games involving the Terrapins.

"The most important issue for us is that he had contact with a bookie and placed bets with that bookie," said Carrie Doyle, the NCAA's eligibility director. "When you start placing bets with a bookie personally, you've crossed a line, and after you've crossed that line the cases become serious cases."

"This is organized gambling, and the possibility of organized crime being involved is certainly a greater possibility when you start betting with a bookie."

If the appeal is denied, Milanovich would miss 75 percent of the Terrapins' games. In 17 prior cases, the NCAA did not suspend a player for more than 25 percent of his team's games.

"What a jump, from 25 percent to 75 percent. My God!" Yow said. "We don't

argue that he should be punished. We recommended two games. It's just that the punishment does not fit the misdeed."

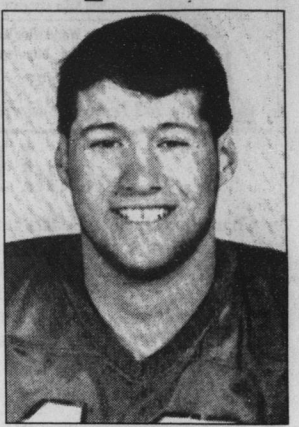
This was supposed to be a banner year for Milanovich. He contemplated skipping the season to enter the NFL draft after his junior year, but after the league's evaluation committee determined he would have been picked between the third and seventh rounds, he decided to return to school.

He ranks No. 1 at Maryland in career pass completions (525), completion percentage (.661), pass efficiency (142.40) and touchdown passes (47). Operating Coach Mark Duffner's run-and-shoot offense, he was expected to set school marks in career passing yards, attempts and total offense. He also ranks first in career punting average (42.8 yards).

The other three football players — Jermaine Lewis, Jaron Hairston and Farad Hall — will miss one regularly scheduled football game.

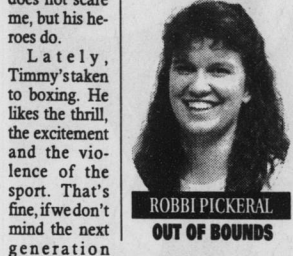
Each placed two bets on college football or basketball games using parlay cards, sheets that list 30 to 40 games. The total amount bet ranged from \$10 to \$25.

Raydo was given his 20-game suspension for making nine to 12 bets on college football games during the fall of 1994.



Sources say SCOTT MILANOVICH placed \$200 in bets from 1991-94.

Some of those bets were also made through a bookie, which led to his harsh sentence. He, too, would have been suspended for a full season had he not cooperated in the investigation, the NCAA said.



ROBBI PICKERAL OUT OF BOUNDS

Former Champ Becker Relinquishes Centre Court Dominance at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England — Boris Becker raised the silver tray over his head and broke into a trot, waving to the cheering crowd as he circled Centre Court.

It was his consolation lap. With a valiant but futile effort, Becker reluctantly succumbed to Pete Sampras' swift serves Sunday in the final at Wimbledon, 6-7 (7-5), 6-2, 6-4, 6-2.

Becker lost the battle but won the crowd. During the postmatch ceremony, fans reserved their loudest ovation for the proud German, and they insisted that he take a jog around the court with his second-place trophy. Even Sampras applauded.

"It was one of the nicer feelings I ever had," Becker said. "It made me feel like a part of Wimbledon."

Among active players, male or female, he is Wimbledon's most beloved former champion. Ten years ago, Becker became

the tournament's first unseeded and youngest winner at age 17, and he added titles in 1986 and 1989.

But against Sampras, Becker acknowledged, he had no chance. "He owns the Centre Court now," Becker said. "I used to own it a few years back, but it belongs to him now."

Still, Becker lost like a champion. He hit 15 double faults and never once reached break point against Sampras, but the red-headed German held his temper and joked with the crowd, once covering his eyes with his hand as he was about to receive another unreturnable serve. The Becker of 10 years ago might have reacted differently to Sampras' domination.

"I probably would have jumped the net trying to beat the guy up personally," Becker said. "Now I'm a bit calmer, and I have my emotions more under control."

After hitting a forehand return wide on

match point, Becker greeted his opponent at the net with a hearty handshake, made a thumbs-up sign to Sampras and told him, "You're the champion."

Sampras, the winner of three consecutive Wimbledon titles, didn't resent the more enthusiastic crowd support for Becker.

"Boris is a great champion," Sampras said. "He has played here a number of years, and you know he was more or less the underdog. I knew going into the match that the crowd was probably going to be on his side a little bit, but I think they wanted to see good tennis."

The match was competitive only for the first set, when Becker escaped the lone break point and won the tie-breaker.

Then Becker buckled. The path to his seventh Wimbledon final included victories over Cedric Pioline and Andre Agassi in the tournament's two most compelling

men's matches, but the arduous fortnight took a toll.

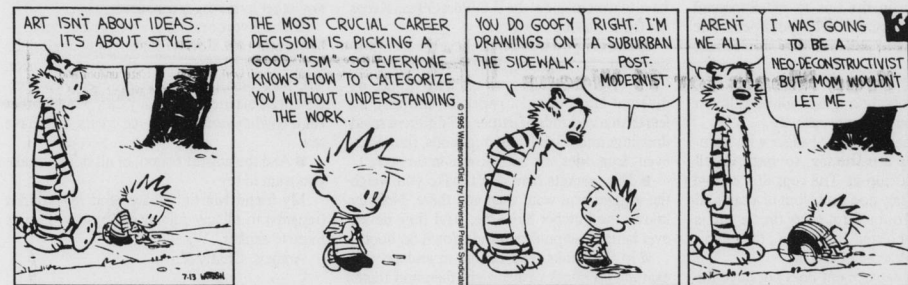
"After the first set I kind of lost power in my whole game," Becker said. "After that, I didn't have a chance to win anymore."

As Sampras took control, the crowd squirmed, Becker's family in particular. His sister closed her eyes before each point, unable to watch; his wife buried her face in her hands; his mother simply looked sad.

A title for Becker would have been only a little less surprising than the one he won at age 17. But despite being labeled the "old lion" by British tabloids, he still harbors hopes of winning another championship in his favorite tournament.

"I may have a beard which looks like a lion a little bit," Becker said. "But at 27 I don't necessarily feel that old yet. ... I feel like I'm very important to tennis, and if you're still under 30, it doesn't matter whether you're 29 or 21."

Calvin and Hobbes



THE Daily Crossword by Don Johnson

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Mantle Warns Against Hard Drinking, Promotes Organ Donation

DALLAS — Looking thin and admitting he's weak, Mickey Mantle turned serious during his half-hour news conference

Tuesday, almost always to give the warning that people shouldn't live the lifestyle he did and expect to get away with it.

"You talk about a role model, this is a role model: Don't be like me," said Mantle, whose 40 years of hard drinking in part led to his being near death and needing a new liver on June 8. "God gave me the ability to play baseball, and I wasted it. I'm going to spend the rest of my life trying to make up. I want to start giving something back."

Mantle said he was serious about making a difference in helping promote organ donations. He's vowed to do whatever he can to help the program at Baylor University Medical Center, site of Tuesday's news conference and the hospital that treated him from May 28 to June 28.

Organ banks around the country say Mantle's case has already made a difference. The Southwest Organ Bank, which found the liver for Mantle, has seen requests for donor cards go from 10-12 per week to more than 700.

Doctors say Mantle's recovery is going smoothly, and they're still confident about the 60 percent chance they've given him to live five more years.

"Everything is going as well as you could expect," Goldstein said.

Chelsea Theatre advertisement for 'A Rapturous Love Story' and 'Madison County'.

Carolina Theatre advertisement for 'Doctor Zhivago' and 'A Great Day in Harlem'.

Warrenton advertisement for 'The Funniest All-Out Comedy Since Mrs. Doubtfire' and 'Nine Months'.

Mia Contemporary Fashions advertisement for a mid-summer sale.

Ram Triple advertisement for 'Under Siege II' and 'The Indian in the Cupboard'.

Plaza Theatres advertisement for 'Apollo 13' and 'Congo'.

Movies at Timberlyne advertisement for 'Batman Forever' and 'Species'.

C.O. Copies advertisement for 3¢ copies and a mid-summer sale.