

Big West.....? Olympic Basketball at T&M

by patrick beckwith

sports editor

The Big West. A Big Deal? Maybe.

The Pacific Coast Athletic Association's decision to change its name to the Big West Conference appears to be a step in the right direction towards gaining recognition for the fledgling conference. But only a small step.

The greatest benefit the conference may gain from the name change is a possible basketball television contract with ESPN. The Big West would have the third game of a tripleheader on Monday nights that ESPN calls "Big Monday". In past years Big Monday was doubleheader that included one game from both the Big East and Big Ten conferences.

If the television contract becomes a reality it will no doubt offer the conference some badly needed publicity as well as giving other Big West schools, outside of UNLV, a chance to appear on national television.

The Big West Conference will also have a television contract with the Prime Ticket Network, a southern California cable channel. Prime Ticket will televise a total of 51 Big West events including football, men's and women's basketball, women's volleyball, baseball and softball.

The name change will also make it easier for the average fan to remember the name of the conference. The initials PCAA are difficult to decipher from the many other conferences across the country, for example, WCAC, ACC, SEC, MAC, SWC, ECAC. And if you were able to find someone who remembered the letters PCAA there was little chance that they actually knew what it stood for.

The Big West is short, concise, to the point and best of all, comprehensible.

A name change may solve the problem of name recognition, but it will not change the quality of the product. The problem with the PCAA in the past was that with the exception of UNLV basketball the conference was not competitive on a national level. If the Big West wants to achieve more popularity they must become competitive at the two major sports in college athletics, basketball and football.

This can only be done by having each member school put forth the necessary finances and by scheduling a higher level of competition. It will no doubt take time to achieve these goals, but the Big West Conference has the resources and the name that is needed.

Intramurals: Just for the Fun of it

by andrea luce

guest writer

Is your social life in a slump?

Have you become a stress-aholic or better yet a couch potato?

If so, why not get involved with intramurals. What better way to meet new friends and have a fun time doing so.

Intramural sports such as football, basketball, volleyball and soccer will begin the third week in September and continue until December. Persons eligible to play intramurals

are all faculty members and students taking a minimum of three credits in the fall semester.

Intramurals began with the sole purpose of bringing students together and providing social opportunities on a commuter campus. It has transpired into a great way to make new friends, relieve school related tension and just have fun.

Intramurals in the past were organized by the student government, but due to the almost yearly change in government, the Moyer Student Union will now be

in charge of all intramural activities.

Recreation Sports Coordinator Patty Wagner has great plans for the upcoming intramural season. Brochures providing information on each intramural sport will be available throughout the UNLV campus beginning in late August.

So if you need a break from homework and would like to meet some new people why not pick up a brochure and join intramurals, just for the fun of it.

by michael barclay

guest writer

The heart and "Seoul" of United States basketball comes to the Thomas and Mack on August 27 at 8 p.m. as the 1988 U.S. Olympic team takes on a group of NBA all-stars. The game will be the final contest in a series of exhibition games that will be played in different cities throughout the country.

The exhibition will allow Las Vegas residents to catch a glimpse of many of the country's finest basket-

ball players, both amateur and professional, as well as offering the Olympians a final challenge before competing for the gold at the Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

The current Olympic Team roster is composed of 17 players. This number must be trimmed to 12 roster players and two alternates by September 2, but according to officials at Georgetown University, site of the basketball trials, the final cuts will be made prior to the series of exhibition games.

Some members still on the Olympic roster include UNLV sophomore Stacey Augmon, J.R. Reid of North Carolina, David Robinson of Navy, Danny Manning of Kansas, Hersey Hawkins of Bradley and Brian Shaw of Cal-Santa Barbara.

Although Olympic Coach John Thompson has refused to make comments on individual players or their chances of making the final squad, Augmon has been the most impressive defensive player at the trials and appears to have

a great chance to become the first UNLV player to compete on an U.S. Olympic Basketball Team.

The NBA roster for the exhibition tour is currently unavailable as the pros will be hand-picked prior to each game.

Fans wishing to see the August 27 game can purchase tickets at the Thomas and Mack Center Box office or at any Ticketron outlet. Tickets can be ordered by phone by calling 1-800-992-2128. Tickets are priced at \$25, \$17.50, \$12.50 and \$7.50.

Welterweights Overshadow Boxing's Giants

by mike metzner

guest writer

With the subatlet of Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson and the rumors surrounding Ex-Middleweight Champion Sugar Ray Leonard, the junior welterweight division is rapidly becoming the most competitive weight class in the sport.

On Sunday July 31 James "Buddy" McGirt, the IBF titleholder, stopped former Olympic gold medalist Howard Davis at

2:24 of the first round. McGirt now looks towards a match with another Olympic gold medalist, Meldrick Taylor, on September 3 at an undetermined site.

WBA Champion Juan Martin Coggi of Argentina has an unconfirmed date with Hector "Macho" Camacho in September. Meanwhile WBC champ Roger Mayweather of Las Vegas should be ready for a title defense in the early fall.

While one must consider

the middleweight division as highly competitive, the number of top notch fighters at the 140 lbs. class makes the quality of the junior welterweights unparalleled. In addition to the three fine champions, names such as Camacho, Brazier and Pazienza give the 140 pounders a plethora of pugilistic excitement.

Engels Pedroza, perhaps the most talented and exciting of all the junior welterweights, is looking to avenge his only loss against

Mike Johnson. Pedroza should make a great impression on the division before becoming a full-fledged welterweight. Pedroza possesses blazing speed along with devastating knockout power.

In October Julio Cesar Chavez will meet Jose Luis Ramirez in a lightweight championship bout. Following that bout, Chavez will look to add his name to the junior welterweight ranks.

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PERSONALS

Tom, TE AMO.

Tami

Iacono's - I miss you. I had such a pleasant stay at Iacono Manor. Thank you Dahlings!

Connie

Mark, Don't let it get too deep! My mom likes you - Yes! But you're doomed because of it.

Love, Paulina

To Some Bunny, Who are you?

SunnyBunny

Fellow Goddess of the airwaves. Thanks ever so much for all! I may not miss this land of sand, but you're another story. Take care, have a terrific fall.

Love Diana

To the other Goddess of the airwaves, it's been a fabulous year huh? And disco monkeys... Face it, you can't get those in the big rotten apple. I'm really going to miss you. Just remember, legality awaits...Love you much

The Real Goddess (donna)