

# A sad scenario

by patrick beckwith

sports editor

ANNOUNCER: Today it was announced that superstar Larry the Linebacker failed the leagues random drug test and will be suspended for 30 days. It was the second time in two years that Larry failed a test.

SOMEWHERE IN A NEW YORK OFFICE BUILDING LARRY IS MEETING WITH NFL COMMISSIONER BOB.

BOB: Geez Larry I'm really sorry this happened, but we have no choice but to suspended you.

LARRY: But it's only my second offense, and I thought you got four chances in football.

BOB: It was strictly a PR move. With all these "Just Say No" people breathing down our necks we had to make it look like we are curving the drug problem in the league. That guy who heads baseball has been doing it for years and everyone is buying it. All we do is suspend a player for 30 days and then let him come back. Then everyone thinks the guy is OK.

LARRY: Are you sure its only going to be 30 days. I saw a guy who plays in the NBA get suspended for two years for drug abuse.

BOB: No Larry, we would never take such harsh measures to curve drug abuse in the league. We don't want to be aggressive like the NBA, we just want to look good.

LARRY: But Bob you've suspended fourteen players in the last couple of weeks, when are you gonna stop doing this.

BOB: Now that the regular season is here we're going stop suspending players. We had all the suspensions happen in the preseason so that the players would miss as few games as possible. We want it to look like the league is acting socially responsible, without ruining the product for the fans.

LARRY: Thanks Bob. We really appreciate everything you're doing for us.

BOB: My pleasure Larry, anything for the good of the league.

The words of the rock band Def Leppard best exemplify the philosophy of the NFL when it comes to drug abuse by players.

"It's better to burn-out then fade away."

# Too many boxing champs

by mike metzner

boxing columnist

As socities advance and technology sets in, we undergo changes, usually for the better.

In sports the advances of training technology and revolutionary medical treatments have helped us build bigger, stronger and faster athletes. However, the sport of boxing has evolved over the past two decades into a haystack of unknown champions.

Whatever happened to the good old 1950's when there were eight divisions with eight world champions and everyone knew who the champion of the world was?

Today there are three major governing bodies (WBA, WBC & IBF) who rule 16 different divisions. That is to say there exists the potential for 48 men to walk the earth as "Champion of the World." This not only results in mass confusion, but decreases the value of a championship belt.

For example, who is the middleweight champion of the world? Well, that depends on who you talk to.

The IBF would say Michael Nunn, the WBC would claim Iran Barkley and the WBA would say the ever-popular Sumbu Kalam-bay. Instead of asking oneself who is the champ in each division, the challenge now becomes, can I name all three champions in all 16 divisions?

The most recent disturbance in the sport is the rumblings about Thomas Hearns and Sugar Ray Leonard attempting to win their fifth world titles in early November.

Hearns fought Leonard for the undisputed welterweight title in 1980 and got knocked out. Hearns second attempt at an undisputed title came against Marvelous Marvin Hagler who put Hearns to sleep in the third round.

So let us set the record straight and say that Hearns

is fighting for his fifth piece of a world title.

As for Leonard, unfortunately the man has become bigger than the sport. It used to be that one had to be ranked in the top 10 in order to "earn" a title shot.

However, big dollars and an even bigger ego have allowed for a little bending of the rules.

After Leonard defeats Don Lalonde of Canada for both the light heavyweight and super middleweight titles, Leonard will have beaten a man who had to drop seven pounds to accomodate Mr. Leonard's wishes.

What is the solution?

Simple, follow in the footsteps of Home Box Office and create a unification series in every division. We should all tip our hats to Seth Abrahams of HBO for cleaning up the heavyweight division.

The process will restore integrity to perhaps the simplest form of competition.

**Sports Talk with Patrick Beckwith can be heard Fridays at 10am on 91.5 KUNV**

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## Financial independence for athletics

by marlo menez

staff writer

Sheila Strike-Bolla, Director of Special Projects at UNLV, is working to make the new "Visions" project become a reality for the Athletic Department.

The first goal of the project is to raise enough money to endow half of the athletic scholarships, build additional facilities and provide enhancement money that can be immediately put into current programs for improvements.

Within the next 3-5 years the goal is to endow the entire scholarship program at UNLV.

The original concept was developed over a series of Athletic Department meetings. The hope is to improve on the current accomplishments and offer greater opportunities to UNLV athletes. The project is officially titled "The UNLV Vision Concept."

The current athletic budget consists of a very limited funding program from the university and the state legislature. This adds up to a relatively small portion of the departments income. Their main revenues are attained through ticket sales,

scholarships, donations and television and radio revenues.

But the athletic budget has failed to keep up with inflation increases. So a new program is necessary to keep up with the rising cost of inter-collegiate athletics.

One of the main goals is to establish a source of income that will maintain current ticket prices and keep up the flow of funds to all of the sports programs. So to keep pace with the kind of program they currently have, the athletic department will need to find additional funds in the future. That is why this first stage is so crucial to the future of athletics at UNLV.

If this project is successful then UNLV will be able to compete for the superior athletes that other larger schools recruit. For the players this will mean full scholarships and a first class educational experience. When the coaches recruit they will be able to offer opportunities that are equal or better to those of other institutions.

Visions has not begun to solicit donations, but has already received several, including one in excess of \$1 million, bringing the donations total to \$1.6 million.

They will begin soliciting donations in November.

A brochure and a video describing the project and where the money will go is currently in the planning stages.

The program has already received written endorsements from several prominent people, including Governor Bryan, Board of Regent Chairperson June Whitley and UNLV President Dr. Bob Maxson.

All the funds raised will be deposited into the UNLV Foundation which is in charge of academic fundraising. The UNLV academic program will be receiving a portion of the interest that the Visions program will earn. The endowment program that Visions wants to create is one in which they would only use the interest earned from the funds raised.

The people and organizations which donate the funds will receive some sort of recognition from the university.

Visions also wants to emphasize to the public that UNLV athletes not only excel on the field, but that they also receive an education and training that will enable them to succeed in many occupations outside of athletics.