

February 13, 1992

THE REBEL YELL

13

Las Vegans try out for American Gladiators

by Bret Skiba

They came, they saw and they tried to conquer. Over 500 men and women showed up at the Thomas & Mack Center Thursday afternoon in an attempt to become challengers for the American Gladiators television show.

Most of the contestants were large, physically fit body builder types who ranged in age from 20 to 30 years of age. Although no actual Gladiators were present, the contestants who survived until the final rigorous event, went home discouraged and in pain. This just proved rule number five in the tryout contract, participation in the tryouts may result in serious physical injury.

The warriors-to-be were put through a series of endurance and fitness tests to determine who would get a chance to challenge the Gladiators on the Feb. 21 at the T&M. Only 12 would be selected out of all the survivors, four men, four women and four alternates. The first of these tests was to do a certain amount of fingertip push-ups in one minute, 50 for the men and 30 for the women. Over 60 percent of the contestants were eliminated in this event. Next came the 40-yard dash. Although men had 4.8 seconds and women 5.5 seconds to complete the dash, Julie Harrison, a former track athlete beat all men's and women's times in this event.

Following this came the

hand bikes for both the groups. Only the men had to compete in the next test, doing 18 strict, behind the back, wide grip pull-ups. If for any reason a competitor did not finish any one of these tests, they were eliminated immediately, this ended the dreams of about 85 percent of the hopeful.

The first two competitors to finish the physical fitness portion were Harrison and Qasim Muhammad, a 24-year-old warehouse worker and body builder. Both entrants were encouraged to enter by friends and said they did not believe they would make it to the actual Gladiator events of powerball and the joust. In these two events, the athletes were judged solely on skill, agility and

sportsmanship.

Finally the survivors were videotaped and interviewed to eventually be narrowed to the final 12. They will be notified a week prior to the event and will appear in the actual contest on the Feb. 21.

Tryouts like this one are occurring in 69 other cities as part of the American Gladiator live tour, produced by Fishof Productions and sponsored by 7-Eleven. All finishers will be judged on points in all 70 cities with the top finishers qualifying for the final televised event in Atlantic City, NJ this summer. Las Vegas is one of the largest markets for the show and so was selected as one of the areas to host the tryouts and tour.



photo by Wray Halterman

Behind the head pull ups was only one of the endurance and fitness tests designed to eliminate the majority of contestants



photo by Wray Halterman

American Gladiators hopeful grunts and grinds through the hand-bike challenge

Larry Rivers exhibit opens at UNLV

Writing and illustrating poetry, playing in jazz bands and designing sets are just some of the many talents of artist Larry Rivers.

Always out of sync with what was "in," over the past four decades, Rivers has remained stubbornly resistant to whatever was trendy when it was trendy.

In revealing retrospective exhibition of the iconoclastic works of Rivers, Nevada Institute for Contemporary Art brings one of the most important members of the New York School to the Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery.

The traveling exhibitions of paintings, drawings and mixed-media constructions demonstrates the artist's perceptual experimentation with new techniques and materials

while presenting a versatile array of past and current achievement. Drawn from private collections as well as from the artist's own, the works range in date from 1950-1990.

This exhibition is a project of Art Access, a program of The American Federation of Arts with major support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. It is funded locally in part by Nevada State Council on the Arts, a state agency, The Lied Foundation Trust and the Kenneth Donahue Memorial Fund.

The exhibit runs now through March 15. Admission is free. The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 739-3751.

'Final Analysis' is pure mumbo-jumbo

by Daniel W. Duffy

Final Analysis is a new pseudo-Hitchcock thriller that doesn't quite live up to the Master of Suspense's excellence.

Richard Gere plays a sappy Jimmy Stewart-esque character who gets duped into a murderous plot involving Kim Basinger, Uma Thurman and Eric Roberts in the *Vertigo*-inspiring background of San Francisco.

The film takes a tremendous amount of time getting started and when a pace is finally established, it gets bogged down in a courtroom drama where Gere's character is nearly forgotten about. After the lengthy court battle, the excitement level of the film does increase and it becomes rather suspenseful. For the most part, however, the

MOVIE REVIEW

Final Analysis (★★½)

Starring Richard Gere and Kim Basinger. Directed by Phillip Joanou.

film is muddled and unbelievable.

Gere turns down the charm a bit to portray a dull psychiatrist, but he plays the part with a certain gullible dignity. Basinger is (surprise!) perfect as the imbalanced femme fatale; Thurman and Roberts are also convincing in supporting roles as psycho sister and thug. So the acting isn't the Achilles heel of the movie; it's the story that is simply never ending and preposterous.

The film also tries to incorporate other Hitchcock elements with a scene that draws intense parallels to a scene from the Hitchcock classic *Saboteur*

where a man dangles from the Statue of Liberty, but instead of a villain clinging on for dear life, it's Gere himself fighting for his life while hanging from the top of a rickety light house.

Analysis makes a statement about the inadequacies of the American justice system, showing how a truly disturbed murderer can be declared temporarily insane by a psychological diagnosis of an illness that has received little research. Depending on a psychological board's review, the person could be out of a mental hospital within a matter of months.

If you are not into confusing brain clots though, it is advisable that you stay away from this movie which may lead to aneurysms in some viewers.