



sports round-up

By MARK QUEEN

THERE HAS BEEN so much tommyrot passed on the public in regard to the cancellation of the Joey Giardello-Rubin Carter title fight here that we feel compelled to set the record straight. However, this must wait until next week so that we can double-check all our information. In the meantime, we would like you to look over a review of an important work on boxing that was published this year. The review was written by Shirley Povich, highly respected sports editor of the Washington Post, and closely reflects our own opinions--both in reference to the book and Povich's personal observations.

BARNEY NAGLER has chosen to title his first book "James Norris and the Decline of Boxing" (Bobbs-Merrill, \$4.95, 249 p.) and the wonder is that he has never written a book before, especially this one. He could have, with his superb perception for the rascality of men and events, and he can handle the language.

Also, he was standing close when the fight game went racket in a great big, profitable way, for the Mafia of boxing after the takeover. Boxing was Nagler's boat for 25 years as a New York sports writer, and if his is not the first expose of the prize fight industry it is the best one by the margin of a clean knockout.

He examines not only the longtime sickness of the prize ring industry but the ruthless cunning of the men who progressively poisoned it for profit. How champions were made on order of the mobsters, how the well-born millionaire promoter, Norris, first accepted the help, and then became the victim of, gangster managers, how and why Frankie Carbo landed in jail-- this is Nagler's story.

Ever since it became a business, prize fighting has never been free from skulduggery, but the great leap forward dated from the end of World War II when network television discovered that sponsors would pay heavily for the fights. The networks had money to spend, and mobsters were scheming to get it.

THERE WAS a scramble to control the champions, because title fights were the most negotiable and brought the bigger TV revenues, but the bread-and-butter income from the weekly non-title bouts was also huge. When Norris and his International Boxing Club gained a contract with a network to provide two shows a week, boxing's underworld provided much of the casting.

This meant Carbo, the shadowy figure with octopus control of fighters in all weight divisions. He also had a record of 17 arrests that ranged from vagrancy to felonious assault, grand larceny and robbery. Also, five for murder. Managers who resisted Carbo's control of their fighters risked the Carbo treatment, which was ungentle.

The heat was on the IBC to get the fighters to fulfill its television commitments and a source was in Carbo's stable, Norris' choice of associates had long been bewildering, anyway. He knew the rowdies of the race tracks as well

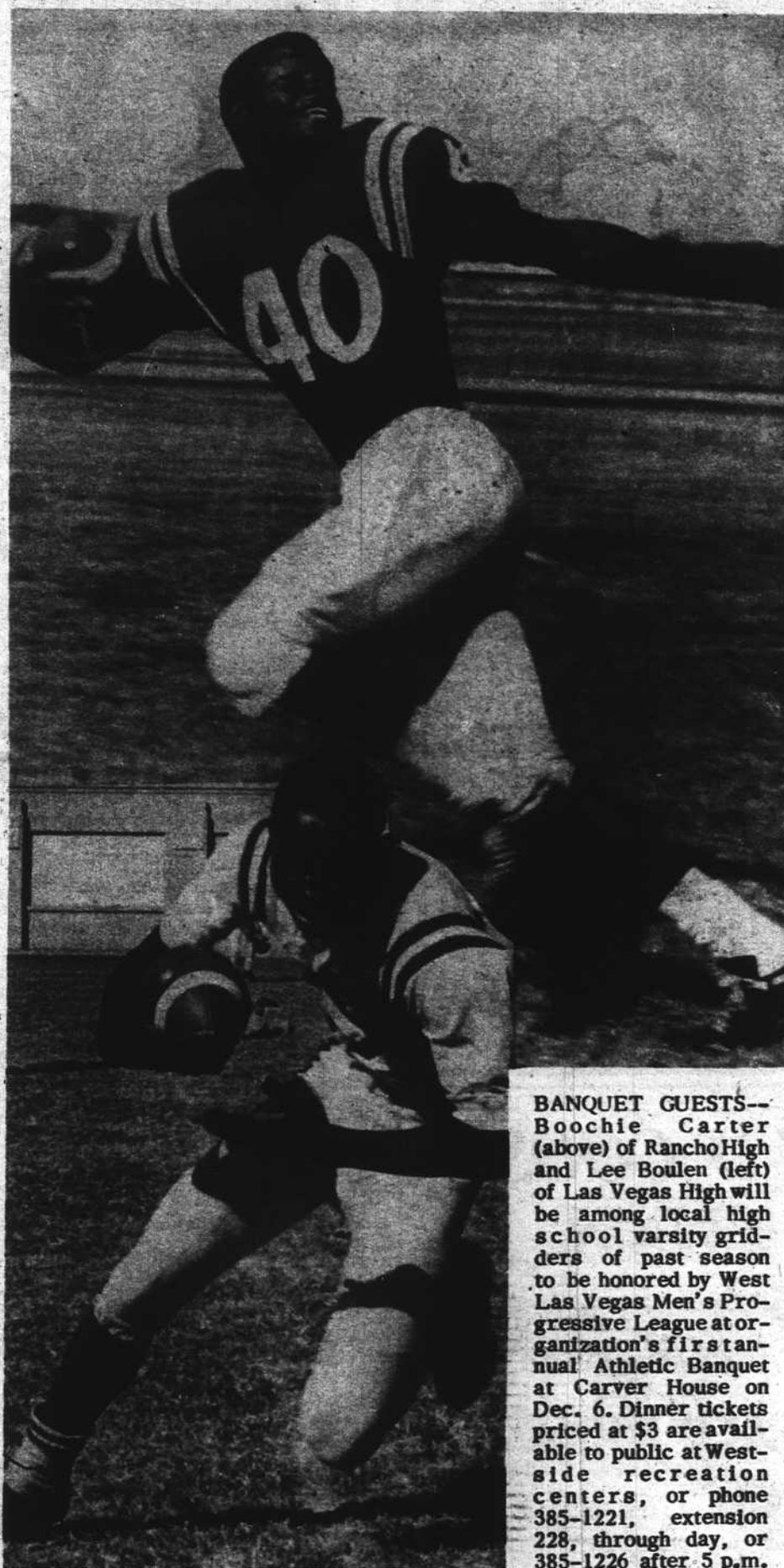
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LAS VEGAS Voice

SECOND SECTION

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BANQUET GUESTS--Boochie Carter (above) of Rancho High and Lee Boulen (left) of Las Vegas High will be among local high school varsity grid-ders of past season to be honored by West Las Vegas Men's Progressive League at organization's first annual Athletic Banquet at Carver House on Dec. 6. Dinner tickets priced at \$3 are available to public at West-side recreation centers, or phone 385-1221, extension 228, through day, or 385-1226 after 5 p.m.

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