



sports roundup

By MARK QUEEN

IT WAS EXPLAINED HERE last week how the abortive Joey Giardello-Rubin Carter middleweight title fight scheduled for Las Vegas last Oct. 23 was arranged and exactly why it was called off and rescheduled for Philadelphia on Dec. 14.

Simply stated, Las Vegas lost the fight because the Silver State Sports Club of this city failed to post its share of the purses guaranteed the two fighters in contracts involving Silver State, Nationwide Sports, Inc., of Philadelphia, and Telescript, Inc., of New York and Los Angeles.

Nationwide had previously signed champion Giardello and No. 1 contender Carter for the fight. Nationwide then assigned the live fight rights to Silver State on condition the local promotion firm contribute \$42,500 to Giardello's total purse of \$102,500 and pay Carter the entire \$12,500 coming to him. Telescript was awarded the closed circuit television rights on condition it contribute the additional \$60,000 due Giardello.

As required by the Nevada State Athletic Commission, Telescript posted a \$60,000 letter of credit issued by the Bank of California and made payable to Giardello if and when he fulfilled his obligation to Nationwide. But a check for \$55,000 posted with the commission as Silver State's share of the guaranteed purses proved unnegotiable and was never replaced.

WHEN SILVER STATE failed to meet two deadlines to produce the \$55,000, the last of these only four days before the fight was scheduled to take place, the commission was forced to call everything off. A last-minute offer by Silver State to post the \$42,500 due Giardello and give Carter a 60-day note for his \$12,500 (an offer Carter's manager said was acceptable to the challenger) was rejected by Nationwide vice president Michael Del Collo, who told the commission, "Nationwide is obligated to protect Carter as well as Giardello."

As soon as the fight was called off, the buck-passing started.

Silver State, realizing its state license to promote boxing was in jeopardy as a result of its default, tried to make Telescript the goat by claiming the \$60,000 letter of credit posted for the TV outfit's share of the guarantees had been, or was about to be, rescinded. An alleged telegram to this effect from someone in California supposedly able to rescind the letter of credit was never produced.

As a matter of fact, an officer of the bank, P. T. Gibson, assured commission chairman Art Lurie that the letter of credit was irrevocable and would have been cashable at its face value of \$60,000 by Giardello had the champion so much as stepped in the ring with Carter here within a week after the scheduled fight date of Oct. 23.

INSPIRED RUMORS were circulated that Telescript had gone out of business days before Oct. 23. This also proved false. Silver State then reportedly claimed that Telescript had failed to pay a contracted \$10,000 advance for some sort of "television rights" or "bond". However, careful scrutiny of all the fight contracts submitted to the commission failed to show that Telescript was obligated to pay such an advance to Silver State, although Telescript had agreed to reimburse Silver State in the amount of \$10,000 IF the live gate did not amount to \$82,500.

Nationwide and Del Collo also were the targets of inspired rumors designed to take the heat off Silver State.

Del Collo not only was severely criticized for refusing to accept Silver State's belated "compromise" offer to put up \$42,500 "tomorrow", but it was later claimed that Nationwide "would have found some reason" for pulling out of the deal even if Silver State had come up (See SPORTS, page 10)

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SECOND SECTION

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Roosevelt Lee

Silas Stepp

Charles Payton

Von Drummonds

Colored Cagers

NEGRO PLAYERS are playing important roles in Nevada Southern University's current basketball campaign, which promises to be the most successful in the local school's history, barring injury to key men.

Silas Stepp, a two-year Rebel varsity star; Charles Payton, up from last year's junior varsity, and newcomers Roosevelt Lee and Von Drummonds all are helping to make Coach Ed Gregory's current squad a strong contender for small college honors.

Lee, 6-1 tall and weighing 165 pounds, made an auspicious debut with the Rebels by scoring a game-high 32 points as NSU opened the season with a 98-83 decision over San Diego Navy's PhibPacs on the local court. A junior guard transfer from Riverside City College, Rosie sparked his team to an undefeated season (35 straight) and the California junior college crown last year.

The 6-5, 215 pound Stepp won Little All American recognition last season as he ran his two-year point total to 897, putting him within reach of Bernie Fumagalli's NSU record of 1122. Silas showed his class in NSU's second game this year by racking up the evening's high of 27 points as the tough Diablos nipped the Rebs, 86-81, at LA. NSU was handicapped by the loss of senior star Bob Moon, but almost pulled it out after trailing by 19 points late in the first half.

Payton, 6-0, 165 pound soph, is a defensive stalwart and exceptionally accurate from the free throw line. Charles earned seven letters

Star for NSU

in basketball, football and track at Las Vegas High.

Drummonds is a 6-6, 200 pound freshman who seems destined for future stardom. The fact that the former Cleveland, Ohio, athlete was able to make the NSU varsity in his first year of college speaks for itself.

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