

sports roundup

By MARK QUEEN

WATCHING THE BOSTON CELTICS whip the Cincinnati Royals on TV last weekend made us think of the Harlem Globetrotters. When things got a little thick toward the end of the game, with only a few points separating the two teams, Red Auerbach of the Celts had four of his great Negro stars carrying the load--the fabulous Bill Russell, Tom Sanders and the Jones boys, Sam and K.C. We were almost hoping that Tom Havlicek would foul out so Red could send in Willie Naulls and make it unanimous.

Oscar Robertson of the Royals was his usual brilliant self and nosed out Sam Jones, 35 to 31, for high-point man in the low-scoring (89-85) contest, but there doesn't seem any stopping the Celts. Victory put Boston seven and a half games ahead of second place Cincinnati in the Eastern Division race, with Philadelphia and New York trailing far to the rear.

It's closer in the Western Division, with Elgin Baylor and Jerry West largely responsible for keeping the Los Angeles Lakers a jump or two in front of the St. Louis Hawks and the Baltimore Bullets.

SPEAKING OF BASKETBALL, Silas Stepp and Rosey Lee continue to lead our own Southern Nevada Rebels toward another successful season. Big Si was named "Most Valuable Player" as the Rebs finally won their own Holiday Classic tournament after three unsuccessful attempts by turning back Western Washington State, 87-61, and Cal Western, 64-57.

Stepp set two tournament records--12 field goals in one game as he racked up 27 points against the WWS Vikings--and a total of 19 field goals for two games as he came through with another game high of 18 points against the defending champion Westerners in the finale.

But even the high-Stepper couldn't swing the tide for the Rebs in Reno last Monday night despite another overall high of 26 as the Nevada Wolf Pack, paced by their own fine Negro stars, Nap Montgomery and Larry Moore, humbled Nevada Southern, 86-78.

ON THE BOXING FRONT, we were interested to note that Eddie Machen and Ernie Terrell have signed to fight on March 5 in Chicago for the World Boxing Association's version of the heavyweight championship. Final recognition by the WBA apparently will depend on the winner meeting and defeating another high-ranked contender--Floyd Patterson, Cleveland Williams or George Chuvalo, perhaps.

Williams may have forfeited his shot at the ersatz title--at least for a year or so--due to his recent embroilment with the law in Houston. Who does the Big Cat think he is, anyhow--Sonny Liston?

As far as Sonny is concerned, we've just about given up on the guy. His own recent escapade in Denver could just about ruin his chances of ever regaining the heavyweight crown. It's going to take a lot of high-powered public relations shenanigans to put Sonny back in a position where any promoter will take a chance on him. It's a real shame.

And where does this leave the redoubtable Cassius (Mohammad Ali) Clay, the "real cham-

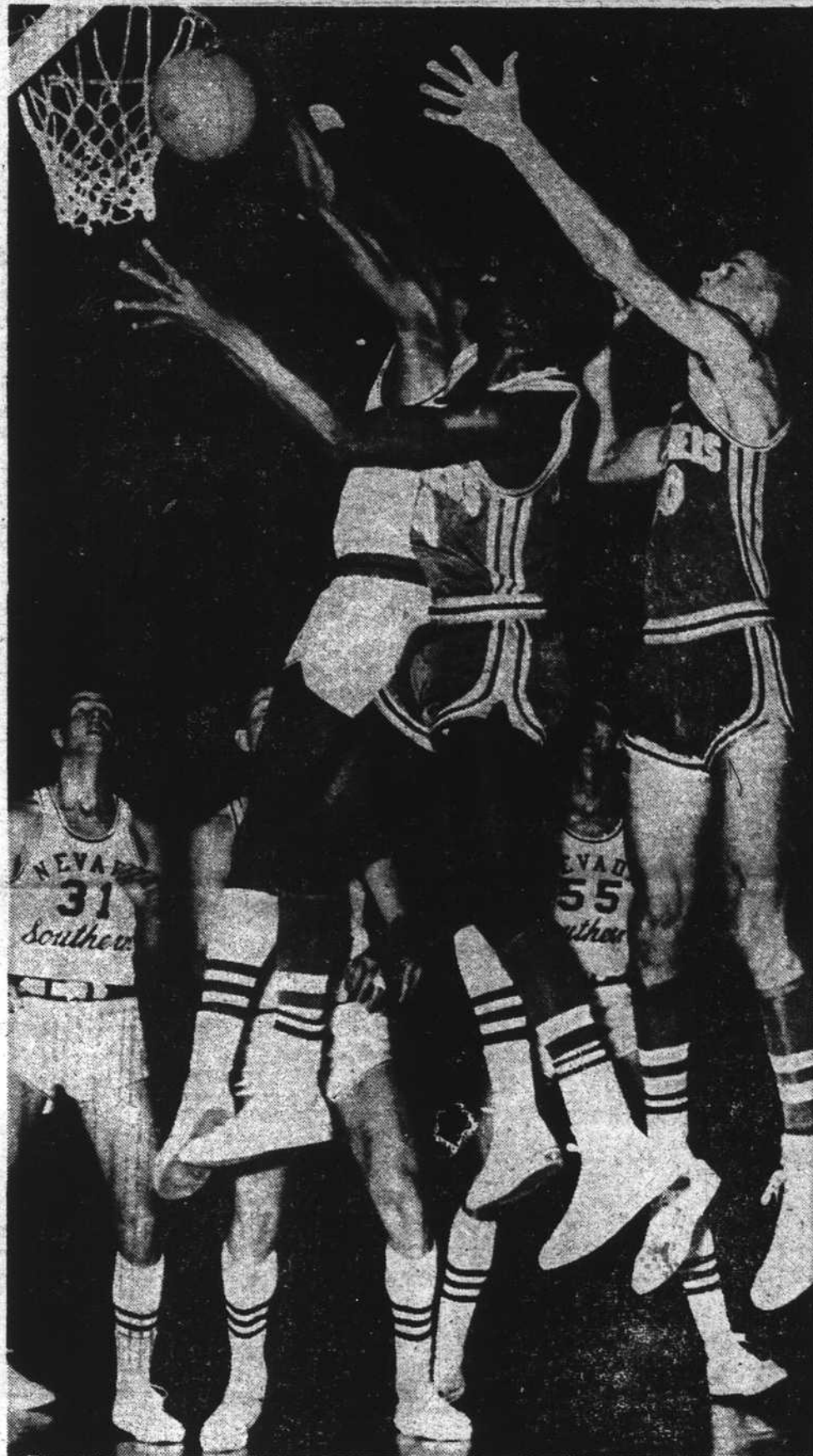
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ATTABOY, SILAS!--Nevada Southern's Silas Stepp (white uniform, nearest basket) hauls down rebound under Cal Western backboard during final game of recent Holiday Classic basketball tournament at Convention Center, won by NSU, 64-57. Applying pressure are Westerners' Lem Lemons and Steve Crowell (right). Rebels in background are Bill Davis (31) and Bob Moon (55). Stepp set two tournament records, was high point man in both NSU games, and was voted tournament's "Most Valuable Player". (See Sports Roundup left)

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