



sports roundup

By MARK QUEEN

Russ Quint Vegas Bound?

DON'T TELL A SOUL, but we're pretty sure Las Vegas is going to come up with one of the year's most spectacular sports events along about the middle of next month.

Unless some unforeseen circumstance gums up the works at the last minute, our Man in Moscow informs us that the Soviet Union National basketball team will make its American debut in the Las Vegas Convention Center in mid-April against the National College All-Stars.

This is really big stuff! According to our spy in the Kremlin, the Russian cagers will play some eight games in the United States starting with Las Vegas. And every other game on the schedule will be in a major city like New York, Chicago, Los Angeles or Houston.

It is no secret that the Southern Nevada AAU has been trying to get someone to underwrite the \$6,500 basic guarantee necessary to bring this great attraction to our fair city. We now understand that this little detail has been taken care of by certain civic-minded organizations and businessmen. Hurrah for them!

The publicity value of such an event, if and when it occurs here, is incalculable. The Las Vegas "date-line" will appear in every important newspaper and sports magazine throughout the world for at least a solid week before the game. And we will get sizeable blasts on sports pages everywhere for days after the official announcement is released shortly (we hope).

More important to the home folks, we were assured when the game was first proposed for Las Vegas that admission to the Convention Center for such a contest will be "reasonable." It may be as low as two bucks with the best tickets selling for no more than \$4.

At prices like that, the game should pack the 6,500-seat (for basketball) arena on Paradise Road. That will more than take care of the entire "nut" of about \$10,000.

Few basketball fans in this area will pass up the chance to see the cream of current collegiate cage talent take on the rugged Russians, who are fast becoming a serious threat to United States supremacy in Olympic Games basketball competition.

Rob Tenacity Paid Off Big

SPEAKING OF BASKETBALL, our congratulations to Coach Ed Gregory and his hard-working Nevada Southern lads for making it into the regional playoffs for the NCAA small college tournament in the very first season the local school was eligible.

In earning a spot in the Pacific Coast eliminations at Seattle this weekend, the Rebels showed an unselfish, well-rounded attack and a stout defense in the clinches en route to a 61-56 victory over Cal Poly last weekend. A Nevada Southern loss would have sent the Broncos to Seattle.

We think it was especially significant that in a comparatively low-scoring game, with both teams playing ragged ball in spots due to the extreme pressure, only six points separated the high and low scorers among the six NSU players who were in there most of the time.

Those two fine Negro stars, Roosevelt Lee

Champion of Champions



"MR BASKETBALL" IN ACTION--Bill Russell (6) of Boston Celtics shows why he is considered world's greatest basketball player in this remarkable photo by Larry Sharkey of Los Angeles Times during recent game between pro champs and Los Angeles Lakers. Darral Imhoff was just about to score field goal for home team when Russell's outstretched finger tips deflected ball and enabled Celts to cinch ninth straight NBA Eastern Division title with 97-95 victory. Defensive star Russell not only was his usual brilliant "best" in backcourt, but came through with personal season high of 24 points, 11 of them in last quarter, to assure narrow Celtic win before 14,656 marveling fans at Sports Arena.

and Silas Stepp, paced the Rebs with 13 and 12 points, respectively. Then in order came Wally Moon with 11, Bill Davis, 9; Bob Glasgow, 8, and Jerry Dick, 7. Ron Wielochowski picked up the other point.

Another thing we liked about the Rebs was their tenacity. They had plenty of opportunity to "give up" as the Broncos jumped out in front by 10 points at 23-13 midway through the first half, but the home club never stopped trying and their bulldog determination finally prevailed.

NSU was never ahead until well into the second half. After tying things up at 2-2 in the early moments, the Rebs fell behind and were five points in arrears at 28-23 at the intermission.

With several minutes gone in the second half, Cal Poly had increased its lead to six points at 32-26 and it looked mighty bad for the home folks. Stepp cut it down to 32-28 and then Moon, who was scoreless up to then after a record 38-point performance a week before, reeled off five straight markers to put the Rebs on top for the first time, 33-32.

Within the next four minutes, the lead changed hands nine times! And it was all tied up at 47-47 with 6:30 to go when Lee finally put NSU ahead to stay with two foul shots.

With less than a minute left and NSU leading by two points at 57-55, Stepp came up with one of the game's crucial plays by stealing the ball from Cal Poly. Moon then iced it for the Rebs by drawing a foul with 33 seconds left and making good on two chances.

As for NSU's chances at Seattle, all we can say is that if the Rebels survive the regional (See SPORTS, page 10)

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