

# A LINE ON SPORTS

By ELBURT MILLER



Leverage, the dictionary says, is "positional advantage; power to act effectively." Stock-Market operators have used leverage for years, borrowing money to increase their capacity to buy common stocks. Corporations exert leverage on their earnings by issuing bonds and other forms of debt obligations. Until recent years, most pro athletes probably employed leverage only with a tire iron when fixing a flat. Their horizons have widened, however. Now they have leverage at the bargaining table, and they know how to use it - or their agents do, to put it more accurately. The arrival of strong players unions and the birth of new leagues have changed the name of the game. Unionized players obtain attractive fringe benefits. Individual athletes weigh bids for the services.

Some of the recently published amounts supposedly accruing to league - bolting hockey players are awesome, even when deflated to allow for inevitable exaggeration. Bobby Hull is alleged to have signed a \$2.75 million contract with Winnipeg of the World Hockey Association. Derek Sanderson's agreement with Philadelphia of the WHA is said to be worth over \$2 million to Derek.

The Los Angeles Lakers of the National Basketball Association reputedly will pay Jerry West \$300,000 next season. Elvin Hayes, recently traded by Houston to Baltimore in an NBA transaction, immediately demanded an upgrading of his \$1,073,500 contract covering 10 years. Citing fraud, Elvin apparently won his points from a docile management. The Bullets caved in forthwith. Even more significant than a few individual cases was NBA Commissioner Walter Kennedy's recent statement that the "average cash payment, not deferred payment, is now around \$60,000 a year for NBA players" that's leverage on a grand scale. Hefty depreciation allowances on players contracts possibly against income from non-sport ventures, are one of the chief reasons promoters confidently boost their bids for so called name athletes. TV contracts, or expectations of same, are another important factor. In the case of hockey, quick acceptance of the product in new markets has enticed more operators into the field. Perhaps all will succeed beyond their wildest dreams. Then again, maybe both ultra generous managements and instant-rich athletes should consult a few veteran stock market players. The new-breed club owners might discover that nothing grows to the sky, and the millionaire athletes might find out that leverage works two ways - up and down.

Emmett Ashford, the first Black umpire in the Majors, came out of retirement briefly last week and worked one of the longest inning of his career. In Hawaii for a visit Ashford consented to call balls and strikes in a series-closing game between Hawaii and Tacoma. The first inning lasted 45 minutes, with starting pitchers Dennis Prbant of the Islanders and Mark Wiley of the Twins each failing to retire a batter before being relieved.

"I thought the innings would never end and was beginning to wonder what I had gotten myself into," said Ashford after the game. Hawaii eventually won the game, 9-5, and Ashford went back into retirement.

Ten years ago, boxer Eddie Machen reflected to a reporter, "After seven years as a professional fighter, not bad years on the record, 'I'm not where I aimed to be. Far from it. I've had so much heartache and dashed hopes that I sincerely wonder if my teachers were right.'" Machen's teachers in his hometown of Redding, Calif., used to tell him, "Eddie if you try-and keep trying-you'll get to the top. Never quit and you'll never be disappointed." Those words now serve as Machen's eulogy. Coroner's deputies said Machen fell or jumped from his second-floor apartment. Machen lived 40 years striving to make it "to the top" of the boxing world. He never made it. After his defeat to

Ingemar Johansson in 1958, Machen said, "Everything's closing in." He said he was running out of money for his wife, Charlotte, and his three children, and when the strain reached its peak he attempted suicide on a lonely

## Nat'l Park Service Closure Order

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as Acting Superintendent of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, National Park Service, I hereby declare that portion of the Eastern end of Lake Mead lying in a line drawn from Hemenway Harbor to the Southern most island of the Boulder Island group, and from said island to mid-point of the wall below Promontory Ridge to be closed to all boat traffic, except official craft, in advance of and during the running of the race sponsored by the Las Vegas Ski and Boat Club.

The area to be closed in the interest of public safety is indicated by the crosshatched section on the drawing below.

Times during which this closure will be in effect are indicated below:

Saturday September 9, 1972, Sunrise to Sunset  
 Sunday September 10, 1972, Sunrise to Sunset  
 (Authority for Closure: Section 3.15(c), Chapter 1, Title 36, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Revised January 1, 1972.)

highway. His fighting record was 50-11-3 with 27 knockouts.

K. C. Jones, former Boston Celtic backcourt ace known for his fierce defensive game and more recently as the assistant coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, has accepted the post of head coach of the San Diego Conquistadors, a New American Basketball Assn. admittedly, Jones said he knows little about the ABA and said he will rely heavily on the assistance of Alex Groza, who will become the new squad's general manager. It is significant that K. C. Jones became the second Black head coach in professional basketball only preceded by his teammate Bill Russell.

### VOTE FOR Albert L. DUNN

ASSEMBLY DIST. NO. 7  
 Endorsed by Southern Nevada Central Labor Council Pd. Pol. Adv.



### Score with Big "Sy" Stepp

County Commissioner "C"

A Natural Leader  
 Pd. Pol. Adv.

## Travel Club

Las Vegas Travel Club will be traveling to see such football games as Arizona State Conference Openers, U.C.L.A. - vs. U.S.C., U.N.L.V. - vs. Wolf Pack, L.A. Rams - vs. 49 ers, and many others.

## LAS VEGAS TRAVEL CLUB

September 22, 1972 Grambling of Louisiana meets University of Southern California, in the Los Angeles Coliseum, and we plan to be there, to see one of the most talked about College football games of the year.

Join the Las Vegas Travel Club !! \$22.50 includes: Reserved seats, all transportation (Scenic Cruise Bus) Champagne.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To:

**LAS VEGAS TRAVEL CLUB**  
**3925 EAST ALTO DRIVE**  
**LAS VEGAS, NEV. 89110**

Or Call:

**Sammie Armstrong -**  
**642-9188 -**  
**Office 452-1414**

**Must Be Club Member To Travel With Us !!**

## LLOYD'S BAIT HOUSE

4104 EAST LAKE MEAD BLVD.

ALL FISHING SUPPLIES  
 Fishing Licenses

— SPECIALS —

### WATER DOGS

MINNOWS • SUCKERS

RED WORMS • NIGHT CRAWLERS



**Package Liquor - Beer**  
**Wine - Food To Go**

BUSINESS PHONE HOME PHONE  
**649-4575 • 642-9771**