

SPORTS

SPORTS IN SIGHT

By Lonnie Wright
Sentinel Sports Editor



By Eddie Owens Guest Columnist

Recently as I drove around the community, particularly the Black community, I noticed on the playgrounds and in the public parks, that everyone wanted to be a Magic Johnson. This, no doubt, is in response to the recent NAB championship. The kids would throw a fancy pass or dribble between their legs like thousands of others imitating the NBA star.

I'm not saying it's wrong to pattern oneself after a winner in athletics, but that is only a mere part of life.

I personally spent 18 to 19 years of my life involved in a basketball career and I definitely was a winner on every level of play. But down the line an injury could have ended my career as quickly as a blink of an eye. Although I spent those many years playing basketball, I must admit that I never played just for the attainment of wealth. I played because I was blessed with natural ability and talent and because I enjoyed the game immensely.

I believe that no matter what endeavor a young person pursues, he must attain the intellectual factors surrounding his or her goal. It is a total enigma for a young person to put all his marbles in one basket. We need more doctors, lawyers and, yes, even musicians, if one is musically inclined.

Youths should pattern themselves after someone



OWENS

like Alex Haley. He is a hero whom our youth should look up to, not because of the financial wealth he attained, but because of the educational aspect he brought forth in learning about one's history. He impinged on America's conscience. He did his homework and fed his mind as well as his physical being.

In addition, even if one really wants to play basketball, football, tennis or whatever sport he may decide upon, one still must maintain a certain grade average to remain eligible to play both on the high school and the university levels.

Only 1 percent of players around the country will ever play in the NBA. So to the youth of today I say, put and keep your feet on solid ground! Be an educational protege of people like Alex Haley, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Dr. Bill Cosby, Barbara Jordan and many many more. An education is an important part of one's life.

A LOOK AT OUR GUEST COLUMNIST:

- Made All-American basketball player, 1st team
- Player of the year-State of Texas-High School 1972
- Most Valuable Player-Pizza Hut Classic
- Most Valuable Player — twice '74-75, Rebel Roundup
- Record-Most points at UNLV, over 2,000
- Director at free basketball clinics
- Recently returned to UNLV to receive B.A. degree in elementary education ...received financial aid to return for degree through UNLV Basketball Alumni Association fund — one of the principal purposes of the organization's effort.

Approaching All-Time High

DURAN-LEONARD FIGHT SPARKS TICKET SURGE

Ticket sales for the highly touted World Boxing Council welter-weight championship bout between the champion Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran is fast approaching an all-time high.

They meet Friday night in Montreal's Olympic Stadium in possibly the richest fight in history. It is reported that the most Muhammad Ali ever made for a fight was \$6 million for his successful defense against Ken Norton in New York's Yankee Stadium in 1976.

Twenty-four year old Leonard is getting a percentage of all revenues and stands to make between \$8 million and \$10 million. Duran, the former lightweight champion who has lost once in 70 pro fights, reportedly will make 1.5 million tax-free.

This fight will be seen at 310 locations in the United States and Canada, with a total a 1.6 million seats and tickets ranging from \$15 to \$30. The fight will also be



ROBERTO DURAN



SUGAR RAY LEONARD

televised live or on a delayed basis in 60-70 other countries.

In Las Vegas, tickets for the June 20 Leonard-Duran bout on closed circuit TV at Caesars Palace are on sale at the ticket office near the Omnimax Theatre in the hotel's Fantasy Tower. All seats are general admission, with tickets available in both the Colosseum complex as well as the Sports Pavilion.

Special Eidophor projectors, representing the state of the art in giant-screen television, have been brought in from Los Angeles to provide

the best possible reproduction of the action. Caesars Palace has exclusive Southern Nevada broadcasting rights to the fight from Montreal and an early sellout is likely.

Caesars also announced that a special two-day fight package is being offered, in conjunction with Saturday's World Featherweight Championship between Salvador Sanchez and Danny "Little Red" Lopez. Termed the "Rematch of the Decade," this exciting event will be held live in Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion beginning at

12:30 p.m. A \$5.00 discount off the price of the two events is offered to fight fans attending both days of boxing. Tickets for the Sanchez-Lopez bout are priced from \$15 to \$100 (ringside), making it possible to spend as little as \$30 for these two events of national and worldwide interest.

Doors will open for the Friday, June 20 event at 4:00 to allow time for seating; the first fight will begin at 6 p.m. The semi-main event matches heavyweight contender John Tate against Canadian heavyweight champion Trevor Berbick.

The Leonard-Duran fight is co-promoted by Bob Arum (Leonard's man) and Don King (Duran's kingpin), and rivals in anticipation such fights as the Ali-Joe Frazier series, Ali-George Foreman, the second Gene Tunney-Jack Dempsey fight and Joe Louis' rematches against Max Schmeling and Billy Conn.

Parents Furious Over Sports Cuts

Action of the Clark County Board of Education last week has outraged the parents, students, educators and some members of the board over the staggering budget cuts wiping out junior varsity athletics and special school counselors.

The board of trustees voted 5-2 to approve \$2.5 million in budget cuts for the 1980-81 school year which will take effect July 1. Trustees Janet Sobel and Tom Semmens opposed the cuts.

"It's my position that this is the best possible recommendation," trustee Virginia Brooks

Brewster said.

Over 200 residents, crowding into the board room and hallways, were opposing the elimination of boy's and girl's junior varsity programs and 12 counselors in elementary schools and sixth-grade centers. There were more than three hours of pleadings from the audience. Elimination of junior varsity sports will affect about 1,700 students.

"If you take out the junior varsity you will see a high increase in crime," warned parent Pat Little.

Wiping out special school counselors also

drew sharp criticism.

"Without a counselor for my daughter, I probably would have been seeking psychiatric help for her," Kay Searle said.

Associate superintendent Ed Greer told the trustees: "Frankly, I think this is just the beginning. If we don't get relief in July, we will be coming back with \$3 million more in proposed cuts."

Officials of the Clark County Classroom Teachers Association charged the district with mismanaging funds and said the budget cuts might violate terms of a recently-negotiated contract.