

LaSalle's Simmons Named AP Player of the Year

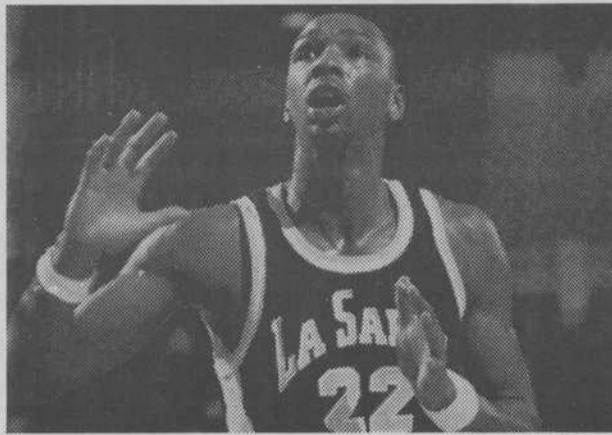
DENVER — Unlike some of his big bucks-conscious brethren, Lionel Simmons chose to return to college for his senior year.

The decision not only will be worth a degree this spring, but it helped Simmons earn the Adolph Budd Trophy as The Associated Press college basketball player of the year.

And the trophy, ironically, may mean an even more lucrative professional contract.

Simmons, a 6-foot-7 senior forward at La Salle whose 3,217 points are exceeded by only two other players in NCAA history, was presented the award Friday.

Simmons received 135 of 438 votes in a nationwide poll of sports writers and broadcasters conducted



Lionel Simmons

before the NCAA tournament.

Gary Payton of Oregon State was second with 102 votes, followed by Derrick Coleman of Syracuse with 63 and the late Hank Gathers of Loyola Marymount with 42.

Also receiving votes were

Doug Smith of Missouri with 21, Larry Johnson of UNLV with 18, Chris Jackson of Louisiana State with 15 and Bo Kimble of Loyola Marymount and Dennis Scott of Georgia Tech with 12 each.

Dorsett Ready For Retirement

DALLAS — Former Dallas Cowboys running back Tony Dorsett says he's ready to put the final touches on his NFL retirement papers so that he can devote his time to sports TV and his son.

Dorsett, an almost certain pick for the National Football League Hall of Fame and the No. 2 rusher in league history, said Tuesday he signed his retirement papers last week, two days after auditioning with ESPN for a job as a television sports broadcaster.

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Local tennis professional B.J. Richard of Henderson reached the top eight of the \$10,000 USTA National Senior Women's Clay Court in Houston, Texas. Richard reached the semifinals by downing Mary Ginnard of Cleveland 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 before surrendering to sixth seed Andrea Barnes of Palo Alto 6-3, 6-4. The field of 64 players hosted top ex-Virginia Slims players Kate Latham and Carol Bailey. In doubles action, the team of Richard/Torrance reached the quarter finals before losing to the second seeds Copper/Schafer 3-6, 7-5, 7-5. Richard's accomplishments are most impressive considering her 16 months' absence due to a knee operation. Richard contributes her performance to her determination to give 100 percent in spite of the many obstacles in Las Vegas. Richard leaves May 5 for the \$10,000 USTA National Senior Indoors in Minnesota.

Karate Tournament To Benefit UMC's Pediatric Unit

Bob Chaney and the Gold Coast are hosting a charity Karate Tournament to be held on Sunday, April 15, 1990 at 9:00 a.m. in the ballroom at the Gold Coast Hotel & Casino. The theme of the event is "Kids Helping Kids" with the bulk of the contestants being between the ages of 4 and 15 years of age. 100 percent of the proceeds derived from this event will go to University Medical Center's pediatric unit via the Children's Miralce Network Telethon.

Competitors have been in-

cluded from Arizona, California and Utah. All children who register for the competition will receive a "Happy Meal" donated by McDonald's at 1601 W. Charleston Blvd. All first place winners in the children's division will win an award.

All of this has been made possible by the Gold Coast Hotel & Casino, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Family Fitness Centers, Fiesta Hair Fashions, Dashboard Covers, Moran Weinstock & Associates and Awards Won Trophies.

Middleweight Championship Battle Set For Caesars Palace April 29

Las Vegas, Nev. -- All-action fighter Doug DeWitt is set to defend his World Boxing Organization middleweight title on Sunday afternoon, April 29, when he faces British middleweight champion Nigel "The Dark Destroyer" Benn in the Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion. The doubleheader boxing card also features a World Boxing Association light heavyweight title fight, with champion Virgil Hill, of Bismark, N.D., taking on Philadelphia's Tyrone Frazier.

DeWitt, who could have waltzed through his last two rounds against former junior middleweight champion Matthew Hilton, when the two met in Atlantic City last January, battered the game Hilton to an 11th round TKO. It was DeWitt's first title defense, and it demonstrated the determination that helped him overcome some disappointing career losses -- close calls after going the distance with Thomas Hearns, Milton McCrory and Robbie Sims.

Long rated one of the middleweight division's top contenders, it took Doug nearly a decade to win a world title. Now only 28 years old, with a professional record of 32-6-4 (18 KOs), Doug is seeing his

game plan pay off. The snapping left jabs and powerful left hooks, the durable chin and fearless style are his mainstay in the limelight that has thousands of fans flocking to see him fight.

Nigel Benn's ring record of 25 wins, only one loss, and an incredible 23 KOs speaks for itself. The 26-year-old Benn is one of today's most feared middleweight contenders.

The hard-swinging "Dark Destroyer" has a legion of fans in England and is making a reputation in the United States as well. Promoter Bob Arum calls him "My English Hagler," referring to Marvelous Marvin Hagler, the dominant world middleweight in the 1980s.

Flashy both in and out of the ring, Benn knows that the DeWitt shot is a major career turning point.

"I'm a fighter, not a boxer," says Benn, "and there isn't a middleweight I fear."

Tickets for the Virgil Hill vs. Tyrone Frazier/Doug DeWitt vs. Nigel Benn boxing doubleheader at Caesars Palace are priced at \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$200. Phone the Caesars Palace Olympic Casino Box Office 702/731-7865 or 800/634-6698.

Coaches Want To Extend 3-Point Line

The National Association of Basketball Coaches is considering lengthening the 3-point line, as well as allowing officials to consult television replays in the last minute of a game. The NABC is in favor of moving the 3-point line back nine inches -- from 19 feet, 9 inches to 20 feet, 6 inches.

Oklahoma Drops Women's Basketball

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma said it was dropping its women's basketball program, which was ranked in the Top 20 three years ago but has failed in 16 years to attract supporters.

Athletic Director Donnie Duncan said the university would honor the current

Texas Players Talk of Steroid Use

AUSTIN, Texas — Twenty-five University of Texas football players used anabolic steroids since the NCAA's 1986 ban on drugs, eight Longhorns players told an Austin newspaper.

Offensive lineman Shay Shafie said at least three current members of the squad have used steroids, but he would not identify them.

Several other players also said they knew of teammates who used steroids during the 1989 season, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

scholarships for a four-year period from the year of enrollment. He also said current coaching contracts would be honored.

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