

LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice Sports



Sports Profile

Bob Rodgers

★ ★ ★ REBEL SPOTLITE ★ ★ ★

ROCHELLE OLIVER NOW A FULL TIME ASSISTANT LADY REBEL BASKETBALL COACH

by Bob Rodgers

The two most important things Rochelle Oliver has to offer the young Lady Rebel players is her experience and motivation. As the captain of the 1983-84 Lady Rebels, Oliver led the team to a 24-7 record, and their first PCAA title, as well as their first ever NCAA playoff berth. Rochelle averaged 17.3 points per game, and became the first Lady Rebel to continue her basketball career as she traveled to Vienna, Austria to play during the 1984-85 season.

The two-time JUCO All-American from Santa Monica, California, was a girls varsity high

school coach at Bakersfield High School during the 1985-86 season, and spent two years at a boys group home before returning to UNLV.



ROCHELLE OLIVER

AKBAR MUHAMMAD IS A BIG FORCE IN TOP RANK INC. BOXING

by Bob Rodgers
sportswriter

Akbar Muhammad has been a part of Top Rank Boxing since 1978. He became an officer in the organization in 1980 and worked his way up to Senior Vice President, a position he has held since 1988.

The ambitions Muhammad, who learned a lot of his ways from Heb Ali and Bob Arum, had the privilege of being on the first planning to that prepared boxing for ESPN.

Akbar has been an agent for former world champion Donald "Cobra" Curry and sports announcer Al Bernstein, as well as many great young fighters.



AKBAR MUHAMMAD

Muhammad, who had a short stay with Don King in 1975, started in the boxing business at the age of 22, and has been working at it ever since. His current goal is to produce a few world champions in 1991.

AMERICAN YOUTH TENNIS LEAGUE TO BEGIN PLAY

The American Youth Tennis League of Nevada will offer three year-round tennis leagues to kids aged 5-13, beginning the week of March 11th. The American Youth Tennis League is the nationwide little of league of tennis, developed after a decade of research and sponsored locally by Clark County Parks and Recreation. All your child needs to be a success in the American Youth Tennis League of Nevada are a fun-loving attitude and a pair of tennis shoes. The American Youth Tennis League of Nevada provides everything else, including step-by-step instruction, free use of loaner tennis racquets, and same age and skill level classes for your child. For further information, please call the American Youth Tennis League of Nevada at 794-0510.



Calling the Guys Who Call the Game

Professional football on television is a funny business.

Watch any National Football League game on television these days and you're likely to hear more attempts at comedy than you would on a rerun of "Cheers." Somewhere along the way, much of the serious art of calling a football game has been lost.

I make no secret of the fact that I'm of the old school when it comes to football, and that includes sportscasters. My all-time favorite was Ray Scott, who used to announce Green Bay Packers' games. Ray had an intimate knowledge of the game and a straight-ahead delivery that left little room for one-liners. After listening to him call a game, you came away with a little more knowledge about football.

Of course, Pat Summerall and John Madden, the most famous sportscasting team today, both have great minds for football, too. Madden will make some great observations on things that have little to do with what's going on down on the field.

Don't get me wrong. I think Madden and Summerall, who have now been together on CBS for 10 years, do a heck of a job. It's just that Madden's lighter side seems to have inspired every other color man to become a regular stand-up comic.

Dan Dierdorf, the color man for ABC's "Monday Night Football," sometimes goes in the opposite direction. Dierdorf is too prone to praising players' efforts for being "incredible," "unbelievable" and "the best," when their feats are often just the result of poor play by the opposition. Many times, what Dierdorf means to be great insights are not grounded in good football.

Believe it or not, I miss Howard Cosell on Monday nights. Sure he used too many big words, but he really knew a lot about football. Sometimes I'll turn off the sound on television and listen to the radio broadcast of "Monday Night Football" with Jack Buck and Hank Stram. Those guys are about as old school as you are likely to find in this day and age.

I really think that the best football commentary on television is on cable's ESPN. Chris Berman is in a league by himself. Unlike CBS' Terry Bradshaw, who is all style and no substance, Berman has hit the right mix of humor and serious football insight. His mind and mouth move quickly and, as opposed to many sportscasters, are connected. If Berman wanted to be a telecast color man, I believe he'd be even better than John Madden. I try to catch him every time he's on.

If there were more Chris Bermans out there, TV's new school of football broadcasters would be better off. We could laugh and learn. **W**

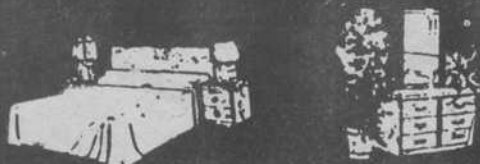
Gale Sayers is considered one of the greatest running backs of all time. The former Chicago Bear is a member of the National Football League's Hall of Fame.

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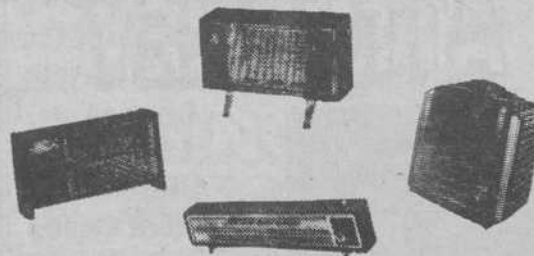
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