

# RECORD FIELD

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teams, along with some all-star squads in the A Division, the tournament will include pool play prior to the single-elimination tournament. "We guarantee that these teams will play at least four times each," said Farrell, who once coached at Las Vegas High School. "They can play as many as eight games if they advance through the bracket. And we believe the entire Las Vegas experience really helps

these young players improve their skills."

Nike returns as the title sponsor of the tournament while L.V. Events is the presenting sponsor of the ever-growing championship tournament.

"The tournament couldn't continue to grow and improve without the help of Nike and Las Vegas Events," Farrell added. "Nike has been with us for several years and this is the second that Las Vegas Events has been

an active part of our event."

More than 1,200 of the top prep basketball players in the nation will play in front of nearly 500 college & Jr. college coaches.

The North and South gyms at the UNLV Physical Education Complex will be the sites of the Open division while the A division will play in the gyms at Gorman, Bonanza, Chararral and Green Valley High Schools. Play will begin daily at 8 a.m. with the last game scheduled each day to start at 9:30 p.m.

The championship games of both divisions will be played in UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center on Sat., July 25. The A division will play at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Open championship at 7:30 p.m.

Two local teams will play in the event. The Las Vegas Stars will be coached by former Western head coach Al LaRocque, who runs the Nike Development League in Las Vegas.

The Junior Rebels will be coached by former UNLV player John Welch.



## The Dome Factor

What makes a good ballpark or stadium for baseball depends on who is doing the judging. But one thing is certain — the park can play a big role in the outcome of a game.

Look at the World Series in recent years. No team seems to be able to win a game away from its home park, leading some people to believe that the world championship is decided on the basis of which league has home-field advantage in a particular year.

The 1991 World Series between the Atlanta Braves and the Minnesota Twins is a good example. The Metrodome in Minneapolis is a unique situation. No other park, not even among the ones with domes, presents the same challenge as the Metrodome, where all of the stadium's noise is centered on home plate. If a player isn't used to it, he is going to have problems, since it is imperative that teams get their signals just right.

Don't get me wrong. The Braves really can't blame their loss on the Metrodome, anymore than one play or mistake can be singled out. The Braves lost that series as a team, and fans shouldn't point to one base-running error or home-run ball as the killer. One key hit for either team could have broken that series wide open. Sure the Twins got a boost from being in their home park, but that's been true for most teams since the beginning of baseball.

Domes do present unique problems, however. I remember when the first domed stadium — the Astrodome in Houston, Texas — became the home for the Houston Astros. The ceiling was light colored, and when the ball got up in the air, it was hard to follow. If you took your eye off the ball for a second, you lost it. I recall at least one no-hitter that was lost when a Houston pitcher had trouble following a ball due to the ceiling.

But, no matter what your opinion is of domes, there is no question that they have been a lifesaver for fans. Whether you are watching a game in cold northern cities like Montreal and Toronto or in hot and humid Houston, domes allow fans to view their teams in comfort and avoid the problems of cancellations due to weather. And fans, after all, are what baseball is all about. ■

Hank Aaron is the top home-run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank is senior vice president of the Atlanta Braves.

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### ★ ★ ★ SPORTS BRIEFS ★ ★ ★

**GET YOUR KICKS:** Clark County Parks and Recreation invites you to join the fun in a **6 on 6 Mini Soccer League**. This league is designed for young men ages 16-25 who reside in Southern Nevada Housing Developments. Games will be played at the Silver Bowl Sports Complex from 11p.m. - 2 a.m. on Wednesday and Friday nights. Volunteer coaches are also needed. Call e455-8249 for details.

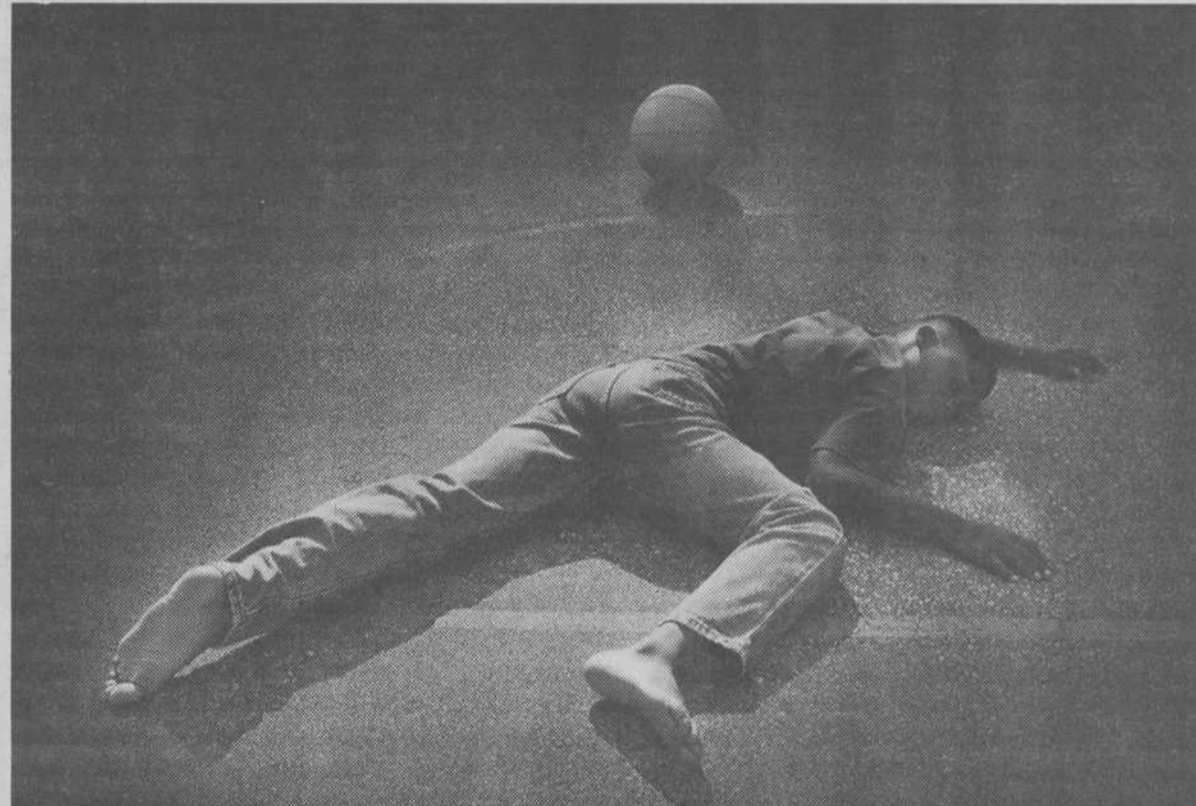
**BIRD READY TO FLY:** Larry Bird, whose status on the U.S. Olympic basketball team was uncertain because of back problems, made a surprise appearance Monday at the Celtics' rookie camp. Bird participated in drills and scrimmaged. Bird will accompany the U.S. team to Europe on Saturday, according to trainer Ed Lacerte.

**FOREMAN SUFFERS TRAGEDY:** A nephew of former heavy-weight champion George Foreman drowned Saturday night at the boxer's ranch near Marshall, Texas, according to authorities. Charlie Perry Steptoe, 21, was pronounced dead after being pulled from the swimming pool by Foreman around 9:30 p.m.

**SHOOTING STARS:** Seven former Las Vegas Stars have shot to the top. Robby Alomar of Toronto, Sandy Alomar and Carlos Baerga of Cleveland, John Kruk of Philadelphia, Bip Roberts of Cincinnati and Tony Gwynn and Benito Santiago of San Diego were on the rosters of the two All-Star teams.

**DEION KNOWS BQ:** The Atlanta Braves will let Deion Sanders play football on Sundays, as long as the two-sport star continues to play baseball during the week. The Atlanta Falcons had offered Sanders \$1 million to report to pre-training camp which began Tuesday, but he told both organizations he planned to fulfill his baseball contract.

**SOUTH BEND GETS THE NOD:** The College Football Hall of Fame will reopen a few miles from Notre Dame stadium, where 36 inductees - players and coaches - helped build the legend of the Fighting Irish. The hall of fame will be built next to the Century Center downtown convention hall for \$13-\$14 million and open the day before the Michigan-Notre Dame game in 1994.



# SOMEBODY'S DYING FOR A NEW PAIR OF SNEAKERS.

All over America children are the victims of violent crime. They are being assaulted and even murdered for the sake of anything from a pair of sneakers to some loose change in their pockets.

It's a situation that's only getting worse. Unless you do something to fight back, your child could become one of those victims.

You can make a difference. Start now by calling 1-800-WE PREVENT and we'll send you information on successful ways to join with others to protect your children from crime in your neighborhood.

1-800-WE PREVENT



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