

Tyson

(Continued From Page 19)

"My friend, if you wish to ask me anymore questions and if you wish for me to stay here, you are to only ask me questions that concern boxing. I don't mean to sound like I'm being abrupt to you, but that's what I prefer, that's what I am here for if you don't mind, brother. Thank you."

After the press conference, Horne responded, saying: "He doesn't want to mix his religion with his profession. We don't talk about Mike Tyson's religion

at all. When he's ready to discuss it, he'll discuss it."

Tyson said that he was attempting to better himself from the person he once was, and thanked his religion for guiding him in that direction.

"I'm not a good guy neither am I bad guy. I'm just a human being trying to get along in this world. I'm involved with a sport that I love, but it doesn't love me."

"I'm trying to be humble as much as possible. It's very difficult because for a long period

of time I was brash, I was arrogant and I had reason to be. But I didn't understand Allah and I didn't understand Islam and it's just a very difficult transition.

"I'm trying to hold my own with it. I'm just looking forward to doing well. If I become a role model, hopefully I'll do it for the best interests of boxing and people will get the whole scenario."

Addressing questions that pertained to critics who have attempted to downplay his skills, Tyson said, "Who said that, where are they? Nobody ever told me that, in my face of course."

"I don't know who said this, but all the people that made these accusations have never fought anybody. These are people that are always on the sidelines, talking about me and my fight style and how I deteriorated. They never fought anybody, they

never fought me, so they would never know."

Tyson was prepared, and seemingly delighted, when a reporter took the conversation to a philosophical level.

"When you come from a perspective of Aristotle and Socrates, the main issue is nothing is great," said Tyson. "Humans are not great. There is no one here that's great, only Allah is great. There might be a couple of people that believe we're great, but it just helps us do God's job."

As for future opponents, Tyson didn't reveal much, just that he is prepared to fight whomever King puts in front of him.

"He's focused and he's in love with keeping himself in shape," Horne said. "He knows that in this profession that his time is limited. In order for him to



FRONT ROW PHOTOS

PHOTO: Jonathan Olsen

At his first "Q & A" with the media, Mike Tyson confers with co-manager John Horne during Wednesday's press conference at the MGM Grand Hotel.

do as much as he possibly can do, in as little time as possible, he knows that he has to get on his job and keep things going as much as he can."

And after McNeeley, will there be at least a couple of more in 1995?

"It would be nice wouldn't it?" Tyson said imploringly.

League Announcements

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■ The City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities will host the Regional Qualifying Meet for the Hershey's Track and Field Youth program. This year's contest is scheduled for Wed., June 21, at 6 p.m., with registration beginning at 5 p.m. Competition is open to all boys and girls from 9-14 years of age, and will be held at Las Vegas High School, 6500 E. Sahara Ave. Participation in this event is free, and all competitors receive a T-shirt upon registration. For more information contact State Coordinator, and Recreation Division Manager for the City of Las Vegas, Steve Mead, at 229-6729.

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■ Learn the basics of playing volleyball at an upcoming clinic taking place at the Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Road. The three-hour City of L.V.-sponsored workshop begins at 6:30 p.m., on Tues., June 13, and will focus on court positioning, setting techniques, serving, spiking, game strategies and etiquette. Registration continues through June 6, at a cost of \$10. Space is limited to the first 25 who sign up. Also, teams can be organized for a cost of \$160. Play can be scheduled for 6:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesdays or Fridays. All volleyball participants must be at least 13 years-old. Call 229-6563 for additional information.

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■ Local organizations in need of facilities to sponsor sports tournaments, competitions or exhibitions, can now rent the gym at the City of L.V. Chuck Minker Sports Complex, 275 N. Mojave Road. Groups may reserve the facility for exclusive use at a cost of \$20/hour during business hours or \$30/hour at

other times. The facility is open weekdays, 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Possibilities for use may include, but are not limited to, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, dances, seminars, or workshops. Groups must include ten or more individuals. Call 229-6563 for reservation details.

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■ The City of Las Vegas Doolittle Community Center, 1901 North "J" Street, announces the organization of their annual church basketball league. Registration continues through June 10, at a cost of \$150/team. Players must be at least 16 years old. Competition, which starts June 16, runs from 6-9 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Call 229-6374 for details.

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■ An adult basketball league is being offered this summer by the City of L.V. Municipal Sports Unit. The league, designed for players 18 and older, begins competition July 17. A classification tournament begins July 10. Registration will take place one day only, Saturday June 24, from 7 a.m. - 12 noon, in the JC Penney's lower-level court in the Meadows Mall, 4300 Meadows Lane. The cost is \$450 per team, plus umpires' fees. For additional information, call 229-2089.

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■ Registration is now underway for a summer youth basketball league at the Doolittle Community Center, 1901 North "J" Street. Play begins June 12 and continues each Monday thereafter, from 6-9 p.m. The City of Las Vegas sponsored league accepts players from 2nd-8th grades. The cost is \$200 per team plus officials' fees. Call 229-6374 for further information.

Inner Ring

(Continued From Page 19)

of King, Holloway and Horne after being released from prison, Gonzalez writes "Mike Tyson never fired me. As far as I was concerned, I still had a job working for him. The story of Mike Tyson's life did not have to end on that cold day in February of 1992 when an Indianapolis jury handed down its verdict. Instead, another story could begin, one filled with truth and light. I had the Wizard computer disc and the copies made with the hand-held Panasonic copier. These things told a story, about the fraud, deceit, and betrayal committed upon Mike Tyson."

The story, is "The Inner Ring."

■ DEAR MT... — Since the book's release, Gonzalez wrote an open letter to his former boss, saying, "I GIVE YOU THIS BOOK so that the situation which landed you in prison does not repeat itself. ... I GIVE THE WORLD THIS BOOK so that it finally can know the truth. Society is kept in the dark about many things. ... Millions of

National Sports Briefs

NFL OWNERS

APPROVE STADIUM PLAN FOR RAIDERS

National Football League owners today approved a stadium proposal that will keep the Los Angeles Raiders in Southern California. The announcement was made at the N-F-L's annual spring meetings in Jacksonville, Florida. The plan calls for the Raiders to remain at the Los Angeles Coliseum for two more years while the league helps build a stadium at Hollywood Park in Inglewood. The Raiders will eventually share the facility with an existing or expansion National Conference team.

RODMAN RAMBLES

IN SPORTS ILLUSTRATED ARTICLE

Controversial San Antonio Spurs forward Dennis Rodman is on the cover of the current issue of Sports Illustrated and tells the magazine that he dreams about suicide, frequents gay bars and that Madonna wanted to have his baby. Rodman is pictured on the cover wearing a shiny tank top, metallic hot pants and a rhinestone dog collar. "Sometimes I dream about just taking a gun and blowing my head off," Rodman tells the magazine.

AMSTERDAM TO HOST WORLD BOWL IN JUNE

The Amsterdam Admirals, the only unbeaten team in the World League of American Football, will host World Bowl '95, the league's championship game the weekend of June 17-18. The Admirals, who are in their first season, won a berth in World Bowl '95 by virtue of their undefeated record (5-0) the first half of the season. Amsterdam will face the team with the best record over the second half of the season. If Amsterdam produces the best record over the second half of the season, then they will host the team with the second-best overall record. At this time, the date and kickoff time have not yet been finalized. An announcement will be forthcoming in the next few days.

viewers of the recent HBO movie didn't learn you are a good and simple man, that you cared about others and did things to help them, and wanted to do much more. With THE INNER RING, they have a chance to get inside for the first time, to experience both the light and darkness of your life, and learn what really happened to you.

"MT, look around you right now. Who is there with you? Where did they come from? Who put them there? Do you have any life with ties to the past? Will they even let you have a life with any ties to the past? Rory, is he one? Then ask him to give you freedom of choice, freedom to fight, and see what he says. Rory saw it all. Ask him how he lives with THAT every day."

Referring to Horne's statement, through King Productions spokesman Mike Marley, to the USA Today, Gonzalez says "Horne has called me a fired employee, for stealing, insubordination, and for criminal involvement. MT, please don't let him say these lies. Ask John Horne to give you a copy of THE INNER RING," signed Rudy Gonzalez, "Team Tyson."

Steele

(Continued From Page 18)

fighter, Steele remained intoxicated by the sport and was enthralled by an opportunity to become a referee.

"It was a way for me to help the sport I loved," said Steele, who only needed three years to earn his first title bout. "A way to protect the young people."

Steele's passionate concern for the youth in boxing has overflowed into the local scene. He currently runs the city's newest boxing facility — The Nevada Partners-Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing Gymnasium.

"It's a way to attract young guys who might not have any other interest," said Steele, who spends most of his time grooming the talent of tomorrow.

The non-profit Nevada Partners program is designed to provide job and life skills training to youths and adults. The boxing gymnasium provides an outreach and physical training for pre-working age children, who gain self-discipline and goal-orientation prior to entering the workforce.

The training regime is far from

unfamiliar to Steele, who still does 200 sit-ups a day, runs several miles per week and swims when he isn't running.

It isn't uncommon to find Steele sparring 15 rounds with several young pugs daily.

"These kids can't understand how I can box five different fighters 3 different times."

Steele said it's his put-up-or-shut-up mentality that keeps the kids coming back, begging for more.

A part-time sociologist, Steele blames the problems with today's kids on the lack of goal-setting and low expectations from adults.

He asks many of the regulars to find someone in their community that drives them to achieve their goals. The most common result, according to Steele, is "rarely."

Although youths aren't challenged in everyday life, it is quite different within the four walls of the The Nevada Partners-Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing Gymnasium, where per Richard Steele, the challenges are forever forthcoming.