

SENTINEL SPORTS

Strivin' '95 slated for July 29, 30

Sentinel-Voice
With the 1995-96 school year creeping around the corner, the third annual Strivin' 2 Stay In School program will take place July 29 and 30 for forty select youngsters from the A.D. Guy, Boys and Girls Club Unit.

The youths will be guests of Nevada Pro Sports during a weekend homestand for both of its pro teams — the Las Vegas Sting and Las Vegas Dustdevils.

Twenty kids will attend the Sting's July 29th (Saturday) meeting with the Arizona Rattlers and another 20 will see the Dustdevils play the Washington Warhogs on July 30th (Sunday).

The program, created in 1993 by Sentinel-Voice Sports Editor Willie Ramirez, has been successful the first two years on the strength of the volunteers involved.

"It is a great program that Willie, (Sentinel-Voice Marketing Director) Ramon (Savoy) and everybody else at the Sentinel-Voice has taken on," says Nevada Pro Sports Marketing Director Steve Stallworth. "There are a lot of great causes out there, but it's the people behind those causes who really believe in it and have the passion for it that make these things happen."

Two years ago several local celebrities appeared at A.D. Guy to speak to the kids, and last year the Las Vegas Posse honored 42 youths from the unit.

The group was praised for its completion of the Smart Moves program — a national project that educates kids on drug and grand awareness and sexual promiscuity. The A.D. Guy Unit was the first unit to instill the Smart Sports program, compelling kids to partake in the Smart Moves program in order to participate in athletic activities.

"The A.D. Guy kids are a special group of kids and they deserve to be recognized for everything they do," Ramirez says. "More than anything, at that club, you notice a bond between all the kids and volunteers that spend time there. That means something these days and that's one of the reasons they deserve the acknowledgement."

The top 40 kids from the unit, according to last year's grades, will don Strivin' '95 T-shirts and be honored at halftime of each game.

Newly-elected Ward 1 Councilman Michael McDonald will also attend both games, accompanying the kids from his ward's unit.

"Willie approached me about the program in 1993, when I was involved with the 89109 project," says Councilman McDonald. "I was anxious to bring Strivin' 2 Stay In School to the Boys and Girls Club Unit in 89109, but time and opportunity were never on our side. Now, as councilman

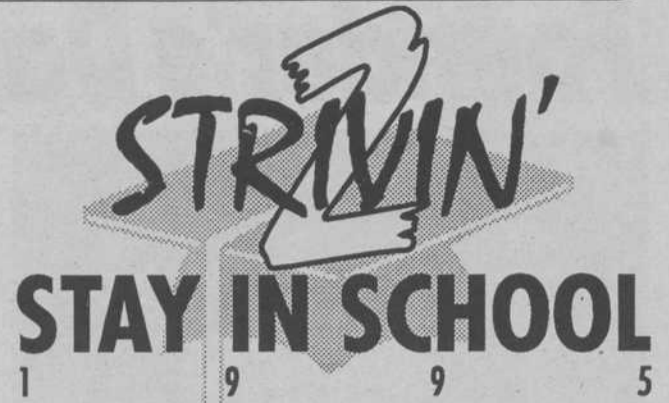
of Ward 1, I have the opportunity to play whatever role I can for the up-and-coming program, and help make A.D. Guy the best unit in Las Vegas."

"The wonderful thing about dealing with kids," says Ramirez, "is that there are people out there that are willing to lend a helping hand. Even if one kid is influenced in the right way, realizing the importance of gaining an education, this

program will have served its purpose."

The program has been geared around the one thing that has seemed to engulf the attention of today's youth — sports.

"Whether athletes want to be or not, they are role models," says Stallworth. "It's very important that our athletes understand that and know that. ... There is no question about the



importance and the role that athletics plays in not only being a well-rounded person, but what it does for your character and discipline. I think it absolutely goes hand-in-hand with academics, no question about it."

Sting defensive back making things tough for wide receivers entering the "May-zone"

By W.G. Ramirez
Sentinel-Voice

When former UNLV standout Rodney Mazion made it to the Las Vegas Sting camp almost two months ago, things weren't exactly peaches and cream with he and Head Coach Babe Parilli.

It was more like, let's say, mixing gas and fire.

After a screaming bout during drills, Parilli doused Mazion's flame by kicking him out of practice. Days later, Mazion was invited back to camp.

"I settled down, the coaches settled down and we're gaining a large amount of confidence in our program and our team," Mazion this past Tuesday. "It's like a tremendous boost, everybody is coming together and we're playing as a team."

All the bickering from the past has been dismissed as a misunderstanding, and thanks in part to Mazion's contribution on defense, the Sting (3-4) is riding a three-game win streak heading into its meeting with winless Miami (0-8) this Saturday.

"What I've done is discipline myself and gone back to the things that my college coaches taught me," Mazion says. "I've been squeezing the wide receivers to the wall, where they can't get by me as easy. I use the wall as a second defender."

Mazion's hard hits haven't been the only thing to ignite fans, nor public address announcer Mike O'Brian, as the 5-8, 170-pound speedster has been returning kickoffs as well.

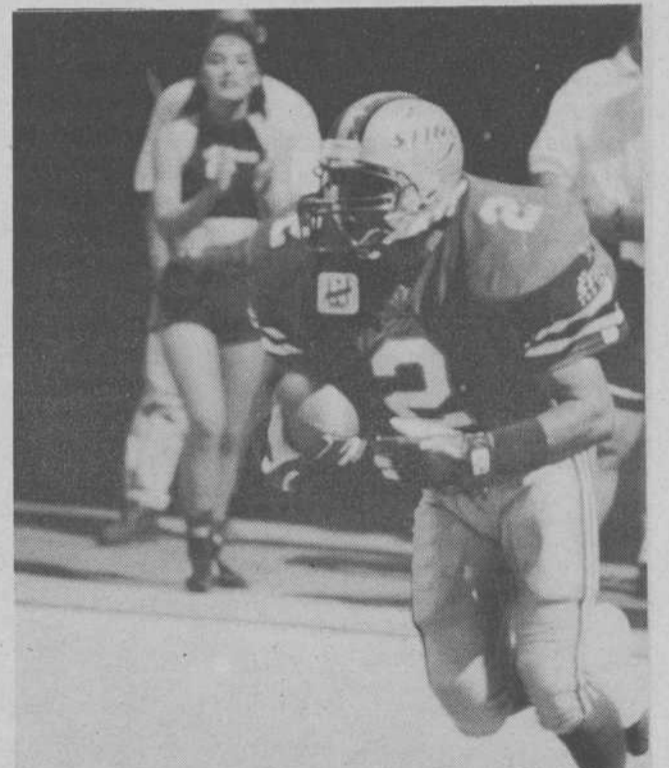
Last week, Mazion led the Sting with 161 return yards, which included a 56-yard touchdown return early in the third quarter against Milwaukee.

Arena Football is Mazion's second stint as a professional athlete, after being drafted by the New York Mets in 1993.

"I miss it, but no so much anymore because I don't watch it anymore," says Mazion about baseball. "If I really sit down and thought about it, I probably would miss it. I'm here to help the team win and I'm trying to make it to the next level."

One might say that the National Football League is in the back of Mazion's head, while he states it differently.

"The NFL is in the front of my head right now," Mazion says. "I'm



Defensive back Rodney Mazion has added a threat to the special teams unit for the Las Vegas Sting, now that he is returning kickoffs.

trying to do what I can do to get there as soon as possible. Even if it's to at least get a tryout or be on somebody's special teams or development squad. That's one of my dreams and aspirations, is to play in the NFL."

For now though, his efforts on keeping receivers at bay are taking place on a 50-yard field in the AFL, and as O'Brian proclaims jubilantly about Mazion's performance, throughout the Thomas and Mack, "It's not gonna happen if it's in the MA-ZION!!!"

Black Tavern Owners Plan Benefit Golf Tournament

By Victor S. Ingram

Local West Las Vegas bar operators will sponsor a golf tournament on Saturday, July

15 at the Las Vegas Hilton Country Club. The event proceeds will benefit a variety of youth activities from little league

baseball to after-school tutoring programs. In 1990, African American bar and restaurant owners united to form the Black Tavern Owners Association. The association was initiated by the needs of community youth and economic empowerment in West Las Vegas, says organization president John Edmond. "The idea of the Black Tavern Owners Association was to provide economic opportunity to the community," states Edmond. The organization plans to promote business opportunities

and development in the economically depressed area.

Focus then shifted to methods to ensure youth basketball, football, and baseball teams received support from community taverns. "Over the past several years we've gotten various youth groups that come to us for funding," says Edmond. An endless amount of donation-seekers prompted the need for a major fund raiser. A golf tournament seemed a lucrative option towards financing, yet

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