

# SENTINEL SPORTS

## "Prelude To Glory"

### De La Hoya and Chavez in separate bouts at Caesars

LAS VEGAS — Undefeated WBO lightweight champion Oscar De La Hoya and legendary WBC junior welterweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez prepare for their eventual showdown in co-main events on Friday, February 9 at Caesars Palace.

Chavez (96-1-1, 78 KOs) meets Scott "Pink Cat" Walker (21-3-1, 12 KOs) in a 10-round

non-title bout, while De La Hoya (20-0, 18 KOs) moves up to 140 pounds for the first time and battles Top 10-ranked Darryl Tyson (47-8-1, 24 KOs) in a 12-round title elimination bout.

Presented by Top Rank, Inc., in association with Don King Productions, both bouts will be televised live on HBO at 6:30 p.m. (PT).

In 1995, De La Hoya secured

his place in history as one of the greatest lightweights of all-time. Last May 6, he destroyed IBF titleholder Rafael Ruelas, sending the champion to the canvas twice in the second round before referee Richard Steele put a stop to the bout.

He then gained even more respect with a sixth-round TKO over hometown rival, and previously unbeaten, Genaro

### Runners ready for 30th annual Las Vegas International Marathon



The Las Vegas International Marathon is rated as one of the top 20 marathons in the world

Photo by Derrick Johnson

LAS VEGAS — More than 6,000 runners, representing all 50 states and close to 40 countries are in the middle of their final training sessions for the upcoming 30th Annual \$41,000 Las Vegas International Marathon (LVIM). The three-race event, with Las Vegas Events as the title sponsor, has become the largest running festival held annually in the state of Nevada. The marathon will be held February 8-11.

"Each year this event has grown, the more potential we see for Las Vegas and the world of running," said Al Boka, in his 14th year as LVIM race director. "Running is a universal family activity and Las Vegas continues

to develop as an international resort destination, so for Las Vegas to host one of the top 20 marathons in the world is a natural."

In addition to the featured 30th annual 26.2-mile Las Vegas International Marathon on Sunday, February 11, the festival also includes the 4th Annual LVIM Half-Marathon (13.1 miles) on Feb. 11 and the Inaugural Las Vegas International 5K (3.1 miles) to be held on Saturday, February 10.

Also a part of the event is the three-day LVIM Health & Fitness Expo which will be held starting Thursday, February 8 and running through Sunday, February 11 on the grounds of

the Vacation Village Hotel/Casino on the south end of the Las Vegas Strip.

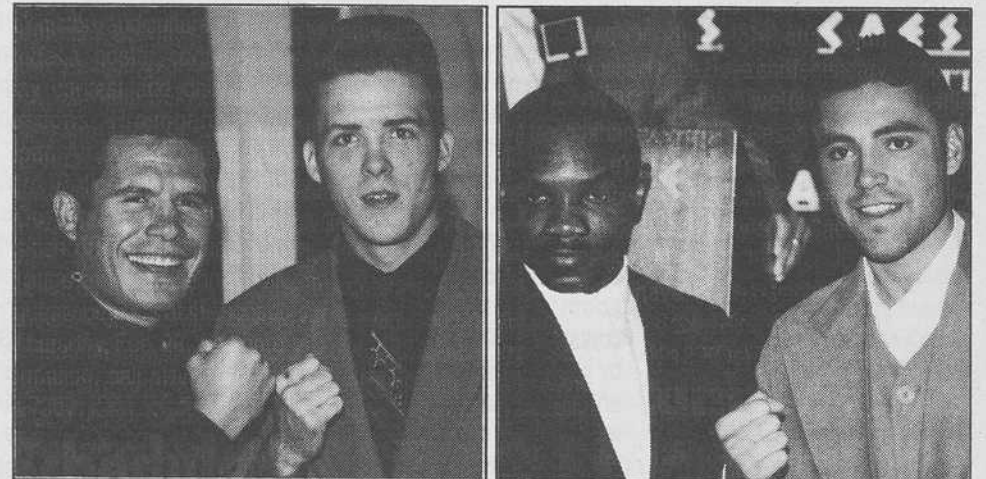
Both the marathon and half-marathon will be run entirely as point-to-point races on the old Los Angeles Highway and finishing at the Vacation Village. The new International 5K will start and finish at the Drink and Eat Too nightclub at Harmon Avenue and Koval Lane in the shadow of the MGM Grand Hotel, Casino and Theme Park.

The International 5K will start at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10, with a course that runs on Koval, Flamingo Road, Paradise Road and Tropicana Avenue.

Sunday's races start with the half-marathon at 7 a.m. followed by the marathon at 7:30 a.m. The half-marathon will start 3.5 miles South of Sloan while the marathon and five-person marathon relay will start 3.6 miles South of Jean and both will head straight into Las Vegas. The USATF and AIMS-certified courses are considered to be among the fastest in the world.

The half-marathon has been chosen for the second straight year to be the 1996 USATF National Master's Championship for runners 40 years and older.

For more information, call the Las Vegas International Marathon office at 876-3870.



Only Scott "Pink Cat" Walker (second from left) and Darryl Tyson (second from right) stand in the way of a meeting between Julio Cesar Chavez (L) and Oscar De La Hoya (R) later this year.

Photo by Jonathan Olsen/Front Row Photos

Hernandez, who he dazzled with his defense while overwhelming him with his power, before making his East Coast debut last December with a spectacular second-round knockout of former world champion "Jesse" James Leija.

The 23-year-old from East Los Angeles has made a habit of knocking people out. With

victories over most of the top lightweights, De La Hoya knows that a successful debut at 140 pounds is all that stands in the way of a mega dollars fight against the legendary Chavez.

Tyson is ranked No. 10 by the IBF and No. 11 by the WBC. He turned pro in 1982 and won 24 of his first 25 bouts, before losing a narrow 15-round

decision to Jimmy Paul. Following a 15-fight winning streak, the 35-year-old from Washington, D.C., was awarded another world title opportunity. Again, Tyson's dreams of a world title ended when the judges awarded the decision to Miguel A. Gonzales.

Julio Cesar Chavez, a world See *Prelude To Glory*, Page 15

## National Sports Briefs

★★★★★

### Knick's Anthony Tucker arrested after dispute

NEW YORK — Anthony Tucker, who has been on the New York Knick's injured reserve list since before the start of the season, was arrested after he allegedly hit a police officer in a traffic dispute.

Two officers stopped Tucker, 26, after they noticed his car was blocking traffic near an entrance to the Westside Highway, said officer Kathy Kelly, a police spokeswoman.

### Olympic Stadium needs reinforcement

ATLANTA — Olympic Stadium, the 85,000-seat centerpiece of the 1996 Summer Games, needs to have parts of its steel skeleton reinforced, an engineering firm said recently.

A spokesperson for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games would not comment on whether the stadium would have been safe for spectators, but the contractor and engineering firm said it would have been.

"It's absolutely safe, always was," said Antranj Ouzoonian, a New York-based engineering firm that reviewed construction of the \$230 million stadium.

### Olympic coverage to include cable after '96

ATLANTA — NBC, already projected to televise a record 168 hours of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, will add up to four more hours to its coverage, sports chief Dick Ebersol said Monday.

### Addressing the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, the president of NBC Sports also began laying out his plans for beyond Atlanta.

Ebersol said the network will have at least two cable partners for the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

"The Atlanta Games will be unique in that they are the last Games to be seen on one channel in the United States," he said.

### College player killed in accident

COLUMBUS, Ind. — One player was killed and five others were injured, along with their coach, when one of the two vans carrying the Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis women's basketball team crashed on icy Interstate 65.

Shannon McPherson, the starting point guard who would have turned 21 the day before the accident, was thrown from the van after it struck a median and overturned on the way back from a game at Indiana-Southeast in New Albany last week. She was pronounced dead at Columbus Regional Hospital.

### Lewis runs last in Gallery Games race

HOUSTON — Carl Lewis is saying this is his last year in competition. And that's where he was last Saturday night — last.

The eight-time Olympic gold medalist, who turns 35 soon, lost in the men's 60-meter dash at the Gallery Furniture Games to

another gold medal winner, Leroy Burrell.

Burrell clocked 6.64 seconds before his hometown fans and yet another gold medalist, Mike Marsh, was the runner-up in 6.71.

Lewis came in behind Jamaica's Raymond Stewart, who was timed in 6.72, and Japan's Takayuki Nakamichi, in 6.83.

### Nuggets' Bickerstaff ready for anything

DENVER — Denver Nuggets coach Bernie Bickerstaff is ready to do whatever the team's owners want him to — even if it means giving up his job as coach.

Bickerstaff said he also might resign if he thinks he is not getting the job done.

"I'm an organization guy," said Bickerstaff, also president and general manager. "I always have been. Whatever they want me to do, I'll do."

### Fake credit card lands Tillman in jail

TORRANCE, Calif. — Former heavyweight contender Henry Tillman was sentenced Tuesday to 16 months in prison for using a fake credit card at a casino in nearby Inglewood.

Tillman, 34, used the fake Discover card in September 1994 to get \$800 at the Hollywood Park Casino.

Tillman, of Diamond Bar, California, pleaded guilty last July 17. Charges that he falsified a driver's license and used a "cloned" cellular phone were dropped under a plea agreement.

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