

# BRIEFS

## MIKE TYSON EARNS \$75 MILLION IN 1996

Although he worked less than 50 minutes in the ring this year, Mike Tyson earned \$75 million in 1996 pay, a one-year record for any athlete, according to *Forbes* magazine. The former heavyweight champion fought three times during the year and still knocked Chicago Bulls guard Michael Jordan out of the top spot in the *Forbes* Super 40 list of highest-paid athletes announced Sunday. Jordan, however, will be poised for a comeback in 1997. His \$30 million contract will factor in more next year. Then there's the box office, merchandise and video income from his movie *Space Jam* that could push him past \$100 million in 1997. *Forbes* said Jordan's 1996 income is about \$52.6 million; 12.6 million in salary and \$40 million from other sources including endorsements. German auto racer Michael Schumacher was paid \$25 million to drive for Ferrari's Formula One team and made \$8 million in other income. He was ninth last year. Shaquille O'Neal, who signed a \$120 million contract with the Los Angeles Lakers, moved up to fourth place from fifth last year. His total income is listed at \$24.4 million. Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith is the highest-paid football player and is fifth overall with \$16.5 million. *Forbes* list has nine basketball players, seven boxers, six football players, five baseball players, four auto racers, four golfers, three tennis players and two hockey players. No women athletes made the list.

## "I'VE JUST GOT TO PLAY HARD," FRYAR SAYS

Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Irving Fryar moved into 11th place among all NFL receivers with 638 catches for 9,927 yards. Fryar caught six passes in the Eagles' 24-0 win against the New York Giants. "A young lady came to our facility the other day and asked me to sign a jersey," Fryar said. "She said one of her family members had passed away and wanted to be buried in my jersey." The request left Fryar close to tears. "knowing somebody thinks that much of me, and wanted to be buried in my jersey, I've just got to play hard," Fryar said.

## OLAJUWON'S HEART AILMENT NOT UNCOMMON

Hakeem Olajuwon's irregular heartbeat, known as atrial fibrillation, has been associated with several kinds of heart disease. But doctors say it can also occur repeatedly in essentially healthy hearts, affecting some two million Americans. About 250,000 are hospitalized each year and 3,600 die. Others who've had it include former Denver Nuggets guard Eric Murdock and former president George Bush. Olajuwon missed three games after his Nov. 19 hospitalization. In his three games since his return, he averaged 26 points, 12 rebounds and shot 52 percent in 36 minutes a game. He was hospitalized a second time Sunday after experiencing the irregular heartbeat after a game against the Washington Bullets.

## JORDAN HITS THE 25,000-POINT MARK

Michael Jordan became only the 10th NBA player ever to score 25,000 points in a game against San Antonio last Saturday. He hit his mark on a 16-foot jumper with less than a minute left in the 97-88 win over the Spurs. Jordan finished the game with 35 points. "I'm very happy to be in that elite group," said Jordan who leads the league in scoring with a 31.9 average per game. Some 37,058 at the Alamodome witnessed the event and San Antonio's Dominique Wilkins, the only other active player with 25,000 points was also playing. Utah's Karl Malone is the next closest player to 25,000 points with 23,684. If he stays healthy and scoring at his same pace, he should break the mark in March.

## PREP BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

# Las Vegas, Western at top of class

By Lee Brown  
& Diamond Ross  
Sentinel-Voice

With the 1996-97 prep basketball season just getting underway, many familiar teams and players from last year are expected to steal the spotlight. Two teams, however, won't be ranked as high as they were last season: Durango and Bishop Gorman high schools, the top two teams in the state a year ago.

No. This season, all eyes will be on Las Vegas and Western high schools to lead the Sunrise and Sunset Divisions, respectively.

Durango, which last season won its second state title in its four years of existence, will likely be playing second fiddle to the Western Warriors this time around as the season got underway this week.

Western, which finished 14-14 a year ago, has height and more importantly, experience on their side this year. Returning are juniors Vance Lawhorn and Jimmy White, who are expected to lead the Warriors this season and on into the playoffs in February.

At 6-8, Lawhorn, who many feel may become one of the state's top players, will aid Western in towering over opponents with the help of the 6-5 White and 6-6 senior Martwez Daley. In addition, the trio will be joined by guards Anthony Jones and Dan Brigham who played on Western's state champion football team.

"We should be ready this year," said Western head coach Greg Bohls, who added the Warriors will be looking for Lawhorn and White to play like seniors. "We're real pleased with their progress."

On the Warriors' tails, though, says Bohls, will more than likely be Durango and Bishop Gorman.

Gone for Durango are 6-8 center and southern Conference MVP Ra'ouf Sadat (19 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks per game), all-conference guard Kevon Jones and three-year starting point guard Jared Call. Returning, however, are experienced starters Thomas McTyler at the point and Tyler Kidd at small forward.

"I don't see us being the force we've been in the past," says

Trailblazer head coach Al LaRocque, citing Western returning most of its players.

Bishop Gorman, which lost to Durango in the state finals last year, will be relying heavily on returning starters Shane Christensen at point, Mo Terry at guard and 6-5 forward Kendall Soares. Missing for the Gaels, though, will be the play — particularly the rebounding — of Jim Roban (19.7 points and 8.5 rebounds per game) and 6-8 David Sawyer (8.9 rebounds per game).

Also expected to make a little noise in the Sunset Division will be Clark High School who will be depending on the play of four returning starters. More importantly, however, for Clark will be the play of 6-2 sophomore guard Kevin Gaines, who some believe may be the best guard in the city.

Rounding out the division will be Cimarron-Memorial, who won the state crown three years ago, Cheyenne, Bonanza and Silverado.

In the Sunrise Division, all

eyes will be on Las Vegas High School. Returning seven of their top eight players, the Wildcats are an easy favorite to take the Sunrise crown.

Led in the backcourt by the duo of Mario Finley and Lucas LeCour, Las Vegas is also solid down low with forwards Robbie Cole and Corey Kauffman. Their only weakness, if there is one, is a lack of height.

"We have a chance to be very good and we have a good core of returning players — a very athletic bunch," said the Wildcats' head coach Tom Farnsworth. "But we have a lack of size and we have to overcome it with our athletic style of play."

Farnsworth added that it could possibly turn into a four-team race for the Sunrise Division title, with Valley hot on their heels, along with Rancho and Basic. Also joining in on the battle, according to Farnsworth, will be Green Valley High School.

"Our goal is to do better than we did last year," Farnsworth said. "We finished third in the

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## Pre-Season Prediction

### SUNRISE

1. Las Vegas
2. Valley, Rancho
3. Basic
4. Green Valley
5. Chaparral
6. Eldorado
7. Vo-Tech

### SUNSET

1. Western, Durango
2. Bishop Gorman
3. Clark
4. Cimarron-Memorial
5. Cheyenne
6. Bonanza
7. Silverado



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