

SPORTS

Judah earns suspension, fine

RENO, Nev. (AP) - Former junior welterweight champion Zab Judah was fined \$75,000 and suspended six months by the Nevada State Athletic Commission on Friday for throwing a stool and putting a glove to a referee's chin after losing a match last month.

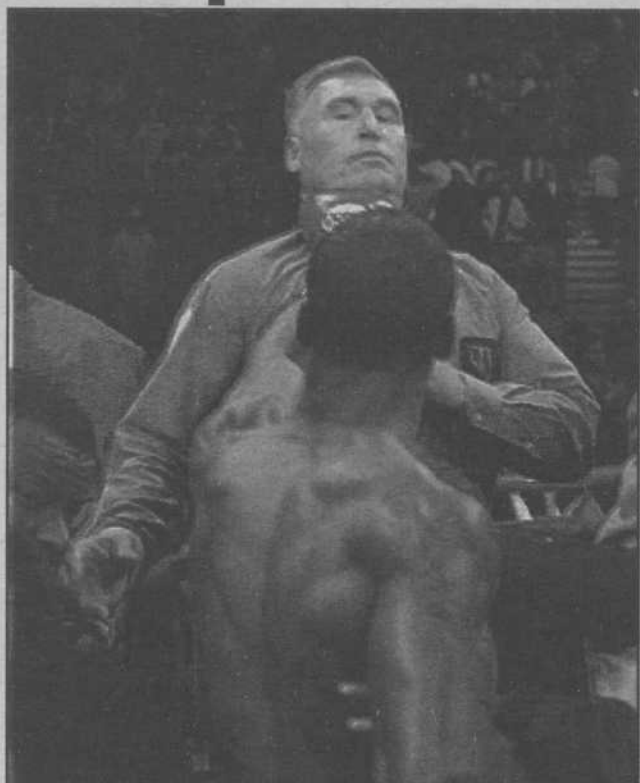
"It's fair," Judah said after pleading his case before the commission, which approved the sanctions 5-0. "It cost me a couple bucks, but in six months I'll be back in the title hunt," the Brooklyn native told reporters.

The 24-year-old fighter apologized for putting a glove to the chin of referee Jay Nady and throwing a stool in anger after Nady stopped his fight with Kostya Tszyu at the end of the second round Nov. 3 in Las Vegas.

The loss was the first for Judah, the IBF 140-pound champion who was fighting a unification bout with Tszyu, the WBA and WBC champion.

Judah went down from a right hand, then got up and went sprawling to the canvas again. He was infuriated that Nady stopped the fight after he was knocked down with a second left in the second round.

Judah put his glove to the chin of Nady and had to be restrained by Las Vegas police officers on several occasions from going after the referee. Commission Chairman Luther Mack was at ringside and helped Judah's father restrain the fighter. "I was scared. I was really afraid of the referee getting hurt,"



Showing dissatisfaction over an early knock down called by referee Jay Nady, Zab Judah jabs his glove at the ref after the fight was stopped at the MGM Grand Garden.

Mack said.

Judah said later he was sorry for his actions.

Said Nady, who spoke at the hearing Friday, "Boxing is the victim here. Our sport is diminished by this action."

Commissioner Tony Alamo said Judah would be held to a higher scrutiny in the future as a result of the violent outburst. "You probably won't be given a second chance after this," he said.

"I was wrong," Judah said. "I had no intent to put my hands on Jay Nady and no intent to throw the chair. I will swear on a stack of Bibles it will never happen again."

The \$75,000 fine will be deducted from Judah's \$885,000 paycheck, which

had been held up pending commission action.

Gary Shaw, Judah's promoter and a former member of the New Jersey State Athletic Commission, said the suspension would cause Judah to miss at least one fight estimated to be worth \$1 million.

"The penalty is not \$75,000, it's a lot more," he said.

Shaw, manager Shelly Finkel, lawyer Patrick English and Judah's father, Yoel, all spoke on Judah's behalf during the 90-minute hearing in a ballroom at the Reno Hilton hotel-casino.

"It was more or less the biggest fight of my life. Emotions took over," said Judah.

Williams honored as Olympic torch bearer

Special to Sentinel-Voice

When the Olympic Torch makes its way to Olympic Stadium on Feb. 8 for the Opening Ceremonies of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah's most celebrated female athlete will have an important role in that final journey. Utah Starzz forward Natalie Williams, who became the first female in the state's history to win an Olympic gold medal as a member of Team USA in Sydney, has been selected by the Salt Lake Organizing Committee to be an Olympic Torch Bearer.

"I am honored to have been chosen to participate in this piece of sports history," said Williams. "I am excited and look forward to the ex-



NATALIE WILLIAMS

perience."

Williams traveled to Athens, Greece, over the weekend with a delegation of about 150 people to retrieve the Torch, and the group delivered it to Atlanta today. Over the next nine weeks, it will make its way across the United States, and ultimately end up in Salt Lake City for the Opening Ceremonies.

Raised in Salt Lake City, Williams was selected as Utah's Female Athlete of the Century and USA Basketball's Female Athlete of the Year in 1999. She has been a WNBA All-Star and All-WNBA First Team Selection in each of her three seasons in the league. She joined the WNBA in 1999, selected third overall by the Starzz in the WNBA Draft.

SPORT BRIEFS

Jordan's mom trying to sell home

PHOENIX (AP) - Michael Jordan's mother has been trying to sell her 6,000-square-foot house for the past month with no bites.

That could change now that the family name attached to it is being publicized.

Jordan's mom, Deloris Jordan, is listing the home in Paradise Valley, an affluent Phoenix suburb, for \$3 million. It has been a family retreat for the Jordans since they bought it for \$1.1 million in 1995.

"I have always thought a pro ball player

would really enjoy this home," said Katie King of Realty Executives, who has the exclusive listing.

The four-bedroom house, on an acre spread, has a combination basketball/tennis court and lagoon swimming pool with waterfall.

Million-dollar home sales in the Phoenix area have slumped in the past year as many potential buyers lost money in the stock market or decided to cut back until the economy recovers.

Indiana football player's mom slain

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) - The mother of Indiana running back Levron Williams was fatally shot just hours after returning from watching him play his final collegiate game, police said.

The body of 37-year-old Brenda Dou-

glas was found in a driveway beside an apartment complex Saturday night.

Investigators said Douglas watched son play in Indiana's game against Kentucky on Saturday. Williams was the Big Ten's offensive player of the week twice.

Boxer De La Hoya reuniting with Arum

NEW YORK (AP) - Oscar De La Hoya and promoter Bob Arum are getting back together.

The two split up after De La Hoya lost the WBC welterweight title to Shane Mosley in June 2000. De La Hoya is now WBC junior super welterweight champion.

"This is not a traditional multifight agreement," Arum said Friday. "This is something unique. The lawyers have worked on a deal for us to work together for the rest of

Oscar's career."

The deal is still being put together by attorneys.

"It is not as binding as the old contract was. I'm happy with it and Oscar is happy with it," Arum said.

Arum said he expects De La Hoya to fight May 4 and the likely opponent is Fernando Vargas, the WBA 154-pound champion. De La Hoya has held titles in four weight classes.

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