

# Sports Hall of Fame inducts Riggs

By Tasha Pope  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The lights were low and the mood set when recently installed Hall of Famers spoke about their journeys to the top.

The five inductees into the Southern Nevada Hall of Fame were Dwaine Knight, who has transformed the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' golf team into a top competitor.

Also enshrined were former UNLV football coach Tony Knap, Jack Cason, a longtime sports sponsor in the Las Vegas Valley, Richie Clyne, who built the Las Vegas Motor Speedway and Gerald Riggs.

An African-American, some say Riggs is one of the best running backs ever produced in Nevada.

Riggs, wearing Black-tie with close family members by his side coming to pay homage to his guts and glory, explained his early struggles and his parents' inability to find him transportation to Western High. Not being able to attend the latter, he ended up at Bonanza High School. It turned out as a blessing in disguise.



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Bertha Lloyd presents her son, Gerald Riggs, the former Bonanza High, Arizona State and NFL standout running back with his Southern Nevada Hall of Fame trophy.

For sure, Riggs' football career would be the envy of most athletes. After graduating from Bonanza High School in 1978, he went on to become a top running back at Arizona State University (ASU). At ASU, Riggs was the first freshman to win a starting assignment as running back. He rushed for 2,097 yards and scored 17 touchdowns with a 5.2 per carry average.

He left the Sun Devils and put together three consecu-

tive 1,000-yard seasons in the NFL. He was formerly among the top 20 leading rushers in NFL history with 8,188 yards. Most of his yardage was gained as a member of the Atlanta Falcons and he remains that team's career leader, gaining 6,631 yards from 1982-88. A 6-foot-1, 230-pound running back, he played his first seven NFL seasons for Atlanta. He led the NFC and was second in the NFL with a career-high 1,719 yards in 1985.

# Jackson State announcer killed by father

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from the Jackson Advocate

JACKSON, MISS. (NNPA) The contributions of the late Edgar Maurice "Bob" Carpenter, general manager of Southern Urban Network, far exceed his relationship with Jackson State University as its longtime radio sports announcer.

Although his efforts led JSU to become recognized as a vital component to any radio station's sports programming,

Carpenter served the larger African-American community as a seasoned journalist at WOAD.

Carpenter died recently Greenwood at the hands of his father, 73-year-old Walter Carpenter, who was apparently unable to control his anger.

The deadly assault from a single bullet wound to the chest stemmed from the younger Carpenter shielding his mother, Jewell Carpenter, 69, from a physical confrontation with his incensed father.

"Bob" was able to do news and sports at the same time. I remember when I was teaching journalism at Tougaloo College, he was assistant

news director at Mississippi Network," recalls Lynnette Johnson Williams, now Director of Media Relations for the Global Health Council in Washington, D.C.

"I met Bob the night we were both covering the gubernatorial election of Bill Allain. That was November 1983. I was so impressed that a Black man was assistant news director in our state at that time. He was very professional and had this great voice. He helped me to learn how to cover news," said Williams, a former UPI reporter.

Carpenter covered several major campaigns during his broadcast career. Among those he interviewed were U.S. Senator Thad Cochran, former U.S. Senator Carol Moseley Braun, former Surgeon General Dr. David Thatcher, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, and every Mississippi governor.

He provided news coverage of Spike Lee during his release of "Four Little Girls, the film about the vicious murders of four Black girls, in the 1963 Birmingham, Ala., church bombing.

Williams says she and

Carpenter had mutual respect for each other. "I was in awe of him, and he admired me for my accomplishments. It's funny now, but I remember when I was working in Washington for Thad Cochran, Bob taught me how to unplug the phone line and connect a recorder to it so I could feed audio of the senator back to Mississippi. Sen. Cochran thought I was so efficient," Williams said.

Carpenter's long time-associate also has an appreciation of Carpenter's knowledge of sports. "I was with him in the booth at a football game, and was amazed at his knowledge of the coaches and players. He had notes in front of him, but you could tell he had all the facts in his head," Williams said.

Although most people who follow SWAC sports will remember Carpenter for his brilliance in being able to put his listeners at court-side or on the 50-yard line, his dedication to reporting news which impacted on the Black community, should not go unheralded.

His career in broadcasting began in his hometown of Greenwood in 1974.

Two years later, while still

Riggs played for three seasons with the Washington Redskins before retiring.

Over the years, Riggs has worked as a counselor in Chattanooga, Tenn., trying to prevent kids from entering the juvenile justice system. After a stellar career in high school, college and the NFL, Riggs holds high his induction into the Southern Nevada Hall of Fame as one of his top accomplishments.

"This means a lot," he said at the gathering on June 11 in The Cox Pavilion. "To have this honor, where it all started, means a lot."

The Class of 2004 aren't just contributors in sports. They have also made a difference in their communities.

"The guys aren't just selected because of their contributions to athletics," said Steve Stallworth, former chairman of the Hall of Fame. "We also look at what these guys do in the community. How they help young people."

Riggs' son, Gerald Riggs Jr., was one of Tennessee's top high school players. Now he is a 6-foot, 210-pound junior running back at the University of Tennessee.

# N.J. grants Tyson license to fight

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) - Mike Tyson was granted a boxing license Monday in New Jersey, a state he walked away from nearly six years ago after swearing at regulators during a licensing hearing.

"He's been behaving himself for quite some time," Athletic Commissioner Larry Hazzard said.

Gov. James E. McGreevey isn't so sure. Soon after Hazzard gave the former heavyweight champ a license on behalf of the state Athletic Control Board, the governor said he wouldn't allow Tyson to fight at any facility owned or operated by the state.

McGreevey also said he would ask the board to review the decision.

"The governor doesn't think Mr. Tyson has the temperament to engage in good sportsmanship," McGreevey spokesman Micah Rasmussen said.

The governor's decision limits the venues available to Tyson by rendering off-limits the Meadowlands, Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall and the Atlantic City Convention Center, Rasmussen said.

The board had been in talks with Tyson's camp for six months and the fighter filed the application last week, Hazzard said.

Asked whether New Jersey authorities were concerned about Tyson's reputation for violence — he bit Evander Holyfield during a 1997 prizefight — Hazzard said: "That was a consideration and it has been discussed."

Tyson, who has fought only three times in the last four years, was thrilled to learn New Jersey had approved his license, his manager, Shelly Finkel, said before the governor issued his statement.

The last time Tyson sought a boxing license in New Jersey, he withdrew it after his outburst in front of regulators trying to determine his suitability.

In the 1998 hearing before the board, Tyson apologized for biting Holyfield and presented character witnesses who urged regulators to give him another chance.

But at the end of the hearing, he got angry and refused to read a prepared closing statement.

"I don't want to say it now, 'cause I'm angry," he said.

When lawyer Anthony Fusco Jr., tried to calm him, he swore. Tyson withdrew his application the next day.

Finkel said the boxer hopes to fight former European champion Danny Williams on July 30 in Louisville, Ky., but that the date isn't official yet. After that, he would fight in New Jersey before the year ends, Finkel said.

Tyson's next fight will be his first since Feb. 22, 2003, when he knocked out Clifford Etienne in 49 seconds in Memphis, Tenn.

"He loves New Jersey. Atlantic City was great to him. He'll either fight in Atlantic City or at the Meadowlands," Finkel said.

His representatives haven't said when or where, or named an opponent.

Tyson's camp had been trying to set a July 31 date with journeyman Kevin McBride and has obtained a license in Missouri.

Hazzard said Tyson's return would be good for New Jersey's boxing industry, which recently lost promoter Don King. King, who withdrew his application for a promoter's license in April, is banned from doing business with casinos here for at least a year.

"Mike Tyson is still the biggest name in boxing," Hazzard said. "We are either in or out of the boxing business. Until somebody tells me otherwise, we are still in the boxing business. If that's the case, doesn't it make good business sense to have the biggest name in boxing competing in your state?"



MIKE TYSON