

# Tyson complaint over car damage dropped

PHOENIX (AP) — A complaint against former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson for damaging a car was dropped after the vehicle's owner was reimbursed.

Tyson was cited Tuesday on suspicion of criminal damage for allegedly jumping on the hood of Asaf Alikadich's vehicle outside a nightclub in suburban Scottsdale on Nov. 27. Alikadich told police he had stopped his car to let Tyson cross the street

when the boxer started screaming and yelling and then jumped on the hood of the car on his hands and knees and began to pound on it.

Alikadich said he contacted police the following day and an auto body shop estimated the damage to his car at \$1,400.

"I've been compensated for my damages and those were my only intentions," Alikadich said Saturday, adding that officials with the nightclub reimbursed him for the damages.

Scottsdale police said that without a complaint, it will be difficult to move forward with the case but it'll be up to the city prosecutor's office to decide that.

Tyson's attorneys said they are conducting their own investigation and have declined further comment on the case.

The 38-year-old Tyson is beginning to train for a fight in March, his first since being knocked out by Danny Williams in July.

# Willingham accepts post to coach at Washington

SEATTLE (AP) — Tyrone Willingham agreed to become Washington's third football coach in four seasons, just two weeks after being fired by Notre Dame.

"I am excited about being here," Willingham told reporters Sunday evening before meeting with players on campus.

Willingham was 21-15 in three seasons at Notre Dame — but after an 8-0 start in 2002, the Irish went 13-15. Willingham is familiar with the Pac-10, going 44-36-1 and reaching a Rose Bowl with Stanford from 1995-01.

He refrained from answering questions — including what he would say to the team — until Monday's news conference.

"As you know with me, it always stays within the locker room," he said with a grin. "What you say to the team is really important, so I'll make sure it's their ears and my ears."

Washington athletic department spokesman Jim Daves announced the hiring in a statement earlier Sunday.

The Huskies are coming off a school-worst 1-10 season, and Keith Gilbertson stepped down after two years as coach.

He replaced Rick Neuheisel, who was fired for gambling on NCAA basketball.

Willingham served the shortest tenure of any full-time Notre Dame coach in 70 years. He had three years left on his initial contract. Notre Dame had made a tradition of allowing its coaches to at least work through the length of their first contract.

Last week, outgoing Notre Dame president Rev. Edward Malloy criticized Willingham's firing and expressed concern over a growing trend of schools that are searching for "messiah

coaches."

Washington athletic director Todd Turner and new university president Mark Emmert met last week with Boston College coach Tom O'Brien. He and Willingham were the only known candidates interviewed for the position, but O'Brien withdrew Friday.

Willingham's firing also drew criticism from the Black Coaches Association. He was one of only five Black head coaches in Division I-A last season. That number dropped to two after Tony Samuel was fired at New Mexico State, Fitz Hill resigned at San Jose State and Willingham was let go.

The hiring makes Washington the only I-A school with Black head coaches in the two major sports. Men's basketball coach Lorenzo Romar is in his third season leading the Huskies.

Willingham's connections on the West Coast should be an asset to a Washington program rebuilding from the bottom of the Pac-10.

Turner, hired last summer, and Emmert hope to restore national prominence to Washington's football program, which shared a national championship in 1991 but has fallen to the conference cellar since Neuheisel's dis-

missal in 2003.

Neuheisel spent four seasons at Washington, going 33-16, including an 11-1 record in 2000, when the Huskies beat Purdue in their first Rose Bowl appearance since the 1992 season.

Neuheisel has sued Washington and the NCAA over his firing. The NCAA did not impose sanctions against him, saying a former school compliance officer had written erroneous memos that said such gambling was allowed.

Gilbertson was Neuheisel's offensive coordinator and stepped in after the midsummer firing, just weeks before the 2003 opener. Former athletic director Barbara Hedges didn't have many options for finding a coach.

The Huskies went 6-6 in Gilbertson's first season, then fell to 1-10 and 0-8 in the Pac-10 this year. Turner announced Nov. 1 that Gilbertson would step down at the end of the season.

Turner is also moving to initiate an ambitious stadium renovation that could cost up to \$150 million by some preliminary estimates. Emmert knows the importance of a successful football program — his last job was as president at last season's national co-champion, LSU.



Sentinel-Voice photo by C. J. Cansler

Danny Williams, right, lands a power punch on Vitali Klitschko during their fight Saturday.

## Fight

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he spoke to the crowd and relayed the support of his brother.

"I'm really proud of the people in Ukraine," Klitschko said. "This game they are playing is very dangerous."

So is heavyweight boxing, of course, though Klitschko was never in any danger when he administered a beating to Williams in the first defense of the WBC heavyweight title he won in April against Corrie Sanders.

Klitschko dominated from the start, knocking Williams down in the first round and landed 52 punches to the challenger's four. Klitschko knock him down three more times

before the fight was finally stopped at 1:26 of the eighth round.

Klitschko is only one of four champions recognized by the various boxing organizations, but the win helped him stake his claim to being the best of the bunch. Williams, who came back to knock Tyson out in his last fight, was beaten to a pulp and his face was bloody and swollen. Still, he never gave up, even getting up after the final knockdown and seemingly wanting more. He was later taken to a hospital for precautionary tests.

"He didn't hit as hard as Mike Tyson, but he was more consistent with his punches," Williams said.

## Bryant

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with Malone.

The second-leading scorer in NBA history, Malone opted out of his \$1.65 million Lakers contract following last season, making him a free agent. He and Gary Payton, hoping to win their first league championship rings, took significant pay cuts to join Bryant and O'Neal in Los Angeles before last season.

Despite having four future Hall of Famers, the heavily favored Lakers lost to Detroit in the NBA Finals. Then the breakup began.

Jackson was let go, O'Neal demanded a trade and was dealt to Miami, Gary Payton was dealt to Boston, and Bryant tested the free agent market before signing a new seven-year, \$136.4 million contract.

Despite his obvious anger toward Malone, Bryant said he would be willing able to separate his personal feelings if Malone rejoins the Lakers.

"If he could come back and play for us and help us out, I'm happy to embrace him as a teammate," Bryant said. "But only as a teammate."

Bryant is the defendant in a civil lawsuit accusing him of rape. The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages for pain, scorn and ridicule the woman says she has suffered since her encounter with Bryant at the Vail-area resort where she worked in June 2003. Bryant claims they had consensual sex.

After the win over Orlando, he again was asked about Malone, and said, "It has been difficult to deal with, but I've been through a lot and my family's been through a lot, and we're just trying to put it behind us and move on."

## • PUBLIC NOTICE •

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT & HEARING

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, acting as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Clark County, is seeking public comment on a proposed amendment to the 2004-2006 Transportation Improvement Program.

As required by federal regulation and the RTC's adopted public participation policy, the proposed amendment will be available for comment for 30 days starting on Monday, Dec. 13, at 8 a.m. until Wednesday, Jan. 12, at 5 p.m.

The proposed amendment is posted on the RTC website at [www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/mpo/documents/](http://www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/mpo/documents/). Copies may be downloaded or obtained free of charge.

Members of the public and interested parties are encouraged to submit comments by fax at (702) 676-1713, online at [www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/contact/](http://www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/contact/) or by writing to us at 600 South Grand Central Parkway, Suite 350, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106-4512.

A public hearing will also be held on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2005 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the RTC Administration Building, conference room 108. Staff will be present to answer questions.

Anyone seeking additional information may contact Maria Rodriguez of the RTC planning staff at (702) 676-1500, or visit the RTC offices weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Our offices will be closed on Dec. 24th and 31st.

<p>Jacob Snow, General Manager Regional Transportation Commission 600 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Ste. 350 Las Vegas, NV 89106</p>	<p>Phone: (702) 676-1500 TDD (702) 676-1835 <a href="http://www.rtcsonthernnevada.com">www.rtcsonthernnevada.com</a></p>	
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