

# Boxing oversight body welcome, feds not

There are still a few readers around who remember George Orwell's book "1984" which concluded that big brother would be watching every action of this country's citizenry, at some period in time. Big brother in this case was the Federal government.

Orwell's prediction was off by a couple of decades but with the latest inventions like the Internet, laptops, and cell phones, the government can just about monitor everyone who is a legitimate citizen of this nation and now Congress wants to take over the sport of boxing.

There are a number of organizations like the World Boxing Council, the World Boxing Association, the International Boxing Federation, and the World Boxing Organization currently with champions in various weight divisions. Each has a president or leader.

So, instead of Congress voting on a bill that would establish a federal commission that would create a national organization that would standardize boxing in all of



## SPORTS PACE

By Huel Washington

the 50 states, the current organizations should get together and form their own combined commission and elect a commissioner like the other professional sports.

Historically, the baseball leagues American and National, the National Football League: American and National Football Conferences, and the National Hockey League, started out as separate ventures but decided to combine their efforts and form one organization with a commissioner overseeing the entire operations.

Boxing really became recognized as a sport in 1719 when James Figg, claimed to be the title holder in the heavyweight division at 185 pounds in England. He challenged quite a few others and held the title until 1734. He is internationally recognized as "the Father of Boxing." for

popularizing the sport.

In 1867, the Marquess of Queensberry Rules established three minutes rounds with a minute rest in between and the use of gloves instead of bare knuckles. John L. Sullivan as the American champion from 1882 to 1892 was the last bareknuckle champion and the first heavyweight champion to be recognized under the Marquess of Queensberry Rules.

And while the sport was legal in England, the bouts were illegal in America for a number of years when Sullivan was fighting but the police often looked the other way when bouts were staged.

Tom Molineaux, born a Virginian slave, was the first American to fight for the heavyweight title, and should have been declared the champion in 1810. A bit of skull-duggery by his opponent Tom

Cribbs, cornermen cost Molineaux the championship in the 33rd round but boxing had become a sport that captured the fancy of the many lovers of athletic events.

Now, two centuries later, the Congress of the United States of America is trying to find a way to reform boxing in this country. In 1996, a federal bill was passed that required each state to form a boxing commission to oversee all boxing matches.

These commissions should get together periodically and attempt to standardize the rules with a commissioner being elected as the principal person that sees that the regulations are enforced.

However, Clifford Stearns, Republican from Florida, has introduced a bill that would establish a federal government commission that would do the job of enforcement.

Stearns's idea of a commission is sound. But the commission being run by the federal government has not gained supports by any of the current state commissions.

Marc Ratner, the executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission, supports more uniform state to state regulations but has some real concerns about Nevada paying an unfair share of the cost of a federal commission.

This new bill is similar to one introduced by Arizona Senator John McCain a few years ago that got lost in a subcommittee and a vote was never taken.

If a commission is ever formed for boxers, a few experts would like a pension plan and an observation of some of the managers and trainers who have used

fraudulent tactics on medical forms to get bouts for their fighters.

Stearns said he definitely wants to eliminate the "unsavory characters" that are exploiting the young men who are trying to make a living in the sport. He want get any argument there.

A good government watchdog yes, but a government commission, no. If

Orwell was around, he would probably say the same thing. Big Brother is already watching everything that goes on in this country.

Perhaps, the WBC, WBA, WBO, WBU, IBF, and the NABU, could all get together like President George W. Bush's cabinet and become a boxing commission that has all of the boxers interest at heart.

## EMPLOYMENT

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NOTE: This recruitment is limited to the first 50 applications received, and will close without notice upon receipt of the 50th application, even if it is prior to the posted closing date.

## Woods tops Mickelson, new No. 1

MIAMI (AP) - Tiger Woods won a dramatic duel with Phil Mickelson Sunday to win the Ford Championship at Doral and regain the No. 1 ranking.

Woods made a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole to take the lead, then a 6-foot par putt to close with a 6-under 66 and win the Ford Championship at Doral, making him the No. 1 for the first time since September.

Mickelson, coming off dominant victories in his last two stroke-play tournaments, had a chance to force a play-off or possibly win on the 18th. His 30-foot chip looked good all the way, but caught the lower lip. He closed with a 69.

"The whole day, we were going at each other," Woods said. "It was fun to be a part of that."

This Sunday showdown exceeded the expectations of a battle between two of the biggest names in golf. A sell-out crowd was buzzing from start-to-finish, especially during wild momentum changes on the back nine of the Blue Monster.

Woods reached the 603-yard 12th hole for the second time in two days for an eagle to take a two-shot lead. Mickelson answered with

back-to-back birdies to catch him.

Lefty looked like he had control of the tournament until he missed a 5-foot par putt on the 16th, and then Woods delivered like he usually does with two clutch putts.

Woods, who earned \$990,000 for his second victory of the year, finished at 24-under 264 to break by one shot the tournament record at Doral, previously held by Jim Furyk (2000) and Greg Norman (1993). This is the sixth PGA Tour event where Woods has at least a share of the 72-hole record.

Vijay Singh, who had been No. 1 the last 26 weeks after beating Woods in a Labor Day duel outside Boston, closed with a 66 to finish third, five shots behind, along with Zach Johnson (67).

Mickelson's streak of 10 consecutive rounds in stroke play atop the leaderboard ended, but not without a gutsy fight. Most players would have buckled when Woods surged into the lead, but

Mickelson came right back at him.

Woods took the lead for the first time all week in spectacular fashion. From 293 yards away in the 12th fairway, he took a big crack with his 3-wood, bowed his head and started walking, waiting for the cheers to tell him he hit the green for the second straight day. Woods holed the 25-foot eagle putt, taking two steps to the right throwing a big uppercut when it fell, giving him a two-shot lead.

## LEGAL NOTICES

Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas

**PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE**

The Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas will hold a Public Comment Period March 7 thru April 20, 2005 for the revision of its Five Year Plan, which includes the Public Housing Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy. The draft of the proposed policies to the Five Year Plan are available at the Howard Cannon Center located at 340 N. 11th Street between the hours of 8 a.m. to 12 Noon or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday starting March 7th. You are "not" required to pick it up to continue your tenancy in the Low Rent Public Housing program.

Written comments must be submitted by 5 p.m. on April 20, 2005 to LVHA's Operations department, Attention: Zelda Ellis, Acting Director of Operations at 340 N. 11th Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101.

The Public Hearing Meeting will be held on Monday, April 25, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in HACLV's Commission Chambers located at the Howard Cannon Center, 340 N. 11th Street, Las Vegas, NV. You are not required to attend in order to continue your tenancy in the Low Rent Public Housing program.

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