USFL policy outlawed

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Football League's policy against drafting college underclassmen violates federal antitrust law, a judge ruled Wednesday in a decision that could alter the structure of professional sports.

Although the National Football League and Canadian Football League were not involved in the case, their college eligibility rules are identical to the contested USFL policy against drafting a collegiate player before his four years of eligibility have expired.

Officials of the NFL and CFL had no immediate comment.

The opinion released formalized a decision U.S. District Judge Laughlin Waters announced after hearing arguments Jan. 30 in the case of Bob Boris, a former punter with the University of Arizona.

Don Meyers, a USFL attorney, said the decision could clear the way for the signing of collegiate star running back Marcus Dupree, 19, who has reportedly agreed to a five-year, $5 million contract with the New Orleans Breakers.

"Marcus Dupree is now in a position where he can say to the USFL, or the NFL for that matter, 'I'm good enough, I'm mature enough. The court says your eligibility rules are a violation of the antitrust law. I want to play,'" Meyers said.

Waters consented to a USFL request to allow an immediate appeal of the ruling while other issues raised in the suit await trial later this year. A league attorney said papers would be filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal within 10 days.

Boris left Arizona in 1982 and signed with an agent, which made him permanently ineligible for college sports. Ignored by the CFL, Boris became frustrated when the USFL signed college standout Herschel Walker after his junior season and then said it would make no more exceptions to its eligibility rule. Boris sued the league and its Arizona Wranglers' franchise. The Phoenix team had the option to select Boris in the January 1985 USFL draft, after

his theoretical college e
expired.

In a brief su
judgment, Laughlin ru
USFL's eligibility rule
plied to Boris, "consi
'group boycott' and wa
fore a per se violation"
trust law.

Laughlin said the rea
USFL gave for the e
rule — its use by the N
CFL as well as promot
cient operation and the
tance of a college educ
"may have had varying
of merit."

The judge said, h
"the eligibility rule of th
... involved combining
primary purpose of coe
excluding" certain colleg
ers.

Horns, Ponies vie for titl

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Southwest Conference swimming and diving championships open Thursday with the Texas Longhorns and SMU Mustangs — as usual — expected to battle for the title.

Only twice in 52 championships has a team other than Texas or SMU won, when Texas A&M took the title in 1945 and in 1956.

SMU won the league title 23 straight years beginning in 1957, but in 1980 the Longhorns broke that domination. They have now won the crown four times in a row.

"Texas is the favorite," said SMU coach George McMillion. "But it should be a much closer meet this year than last."

The Longhorns won
by 98 ½ points, but 66
came from diving. SMU
field a diving team in th
last year, but this year th
tangs have a number of
divers.

Arkansas is expected t
third behind the two
powerhouses.

Wheelchair team to p

Texas A&M football coach Jackie Sherrill, Baltimore Colt running back Curtis Dickey and Denver Bronco quarterback Gary Kubiak will lead the Texas *All-Star Wheelchair* basketball team in an exhibition match against the Texas A&M Association of Handicapped Athletes.

The game will be held
Rollie White Coliseum a
prior to the Texas A&M-
Tech Thursday. The p
of the game is to p
awareness of the Texas
Wheelchair Basketball
and to spotlight the
icapped Athletes on the
campus.

Leonard schedule month of light wo

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Former welterweight champion Sugar Ray Leonard said Wednesday he plans another month of light exercise before he begins heavy workouts for his May 11 return to the boxing ring.

Leonard was scheduled to fight Kevin Howard last Saturday, but the fight was postponed when Leonard developed eye problems. Minor surgery Feb. 13 corrected the problem and the fight has been reset for May 11 in Worcester, Mass.

"I have plenty of tim
won't get back into hard
outs until about five
weeks before the fight,"
ard said. He appeared W
day at a U.S. Olympic tea
motion.

Leonard needed the su
on his right eye after scar
was found during a physi
amination leading up t
original fight date. Dr. E
Ryan performed the surg
the Massachusetts Eye an
Infirmary in Boston.

Surgery nearly two yea
to repair a partially det
retina in Leonard's le
forced him to retire fro
ring in November 1982. B
December, he decided t
sume his career.

Dr. Ronald Michel o
Wilmer Eye Institute at J
Hopkins University, who
formed the retina surgen
amined Leonard two week
Michel said Leonard cou
sume training in early Ma
"Having the scar tissue l
when it was and having i
rected is probably a bless
disguise," said Leonard. "I
good having the whole thi
hind me.

"Getting a clean bill of h
from the doctors is gratif
It's just too bad for the p
promoting the fight that i
to happen when it did."

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