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By Feb. 12

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Fiction, Feb. 12; Essays,
Feb. 16; Graphic Arts,
Feb. 21

MSC LITERARY ARTS



ABC, ESPN refuse USFL's replay offer

Associated Press

The United States Football League can't count on television if it wants to use "official" instant replays this season.

Both ABC and ESPN, the networks which televise USFL games, indicate they won't go along with the idea.

During Saturday night's exhibition between Tampa Bay and New Jersey, the USFL experimented with an instant replay.

Cal Lepore, the league's supervisor of officials, viewed a replay of a questionable fumble and upheld the field officials' call.

New Jersey was charged with a timeout since the call was upheld. If the call had been reversed, no timeout would have been assessed.

Lepore said the experiment would continue next Saturday in Birmingham when the Stallions play the Houston Gamblers and that if Commissioner Harry Usher approved, it would be used during the regular season.

But Jim Spence, senior vice president of ABC Sports, and Bill Fitts, executive producer of ESPN, said Sunday their networks had no intention of crossing the line between televising games and officiating them.

Spence said ABC had been approached 15 months ago by Chet Simmons, Usher's predecessor, about providing instant replays in order to review officials' calls.

"We stated then that we thought there should be a clear difference between our responsibility as a broadcaster and any role we might have in game decisions," Spence said. "Although our involvement would be indirect, we didn't feel that was a proper role for us as a broadcaster."

"Harry Usher has asked us to take another look at the use of our replays for the '85 season. I expressed negativism when he put that request to us late last month (shortly before officially succeeding Simmons)."

Spence said ABC has not officially responded and will view the situation again before doing so.

"We have not given him an official response, which we will be doing very shortly. We're going to look at it again as a courtesy to Harry, but my guess is the decision will be the same."

Fitts said ESPN had never been formally approached by the USFL to provide replays.

However, Fitts said he didn't want to get involved.

"I'm against it," Fitts said. "Television shouldn't get involved in the officiating of a game."

"We'd be happy to give them a line feed, but no special replays. We're not going to mess up our tele-

Nuggets' English helps Ethiopians

By HAL BOCK

Associated Press Sports Writer

Athletes too often are looked on as some sort of disembodied creatures, supermen operating in their own private stratosphere.

Most make enormous salaries. They have awesome abilities. It is easy to forget that beyond their formidable athletic skills, these are but human beings, sharing the same frailties and emotions as the rest of us — fear, joy, sadness, anger.

Many of them, like Alex English of the National Basketball Association Denver Nuggets, are moved by the human condition.

Last October, at the start of the NBA season, an 82-game long grind that challenges the minds and bodies of the men who play this demanding sport, Alex English was enjoying a rare night off at home with his family. He turned on the television set after dinner and in the next few moments, his life changed.

Denver's Public Broadcasting station was airing a special on the famine in Ethiopia, produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation. English, a sensitive man who writes poetry to pass his idle time, was touched by the newsfilm.

Touched and horrified. "It was pitiful," he said. "There were kids who were starving. Kids! It was a terrible situation."

Alex English has two small children and another on the way. He could relate to the vacant stares of the hungry children of Ethiopia.

"I wanted to help," he said. "I felt a need to do something about it. I think every person has an obligation to do his share."

English, who is a vice president of the NBA Players Association, called the union's executive director, Larry Fleisher. "He had seen the horror," Fleisher said. "He felt we had to do something for those people. It evolved from there."

Within a day, with the help of some of the NBA's very best players, human beings like Bernard King, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Julius Erving and Larry Bird, the All-Star fund raising plan was developed.

"I had the idea," English said. "But it took all of the All-Stars to say they would do it. I wanted to reach out and do something to help. But I'm just one person, and how much impact can one person have?"

Not much, unless he has a number of tall and talented friends willing to contribute a day's pay for a good cause.

Fleisher polled the Association's officers — Junior Bridgeman, Quinn Buckner, Jim Paxson and Norm Nixon — and about a half dozen of the league's top players, the likely All-Stars. They all endorsed English's idea.

It called for the 24 NBA players in Sunday's game to contribute their cash shares — \$2,500 for winning team players, \$1,500 for losers — to Interaction Ethiopia, which is coordinating relief activities for that stricken country.

The NBA agreed to supplement that \$48,000 with \$52,000 more for a total \$100,000 donation.

The idea received such a positive response from the public that the players hope to do more.

"We've got to produce and create ideas," Fleisher said. "The guys are willing to do things. They give tons of time to charitable causes."

For Alex English, though, the Ethiopian crisis and those starving children have become a top priority item.

"The amount we are giving can only sustain them for a short time," English said. "So we have it on the (union) agenda to discuss more All-Star games this summer."

"I'd like to see the relief fund continue beyond this game and become the No. 1 NBA players' charity."

When you reflect on the West's 140-129 victory Sunday and the remarkable performances of players like MVP Ralph Sampson, Magic Johnson, George Gervin and Isiah Thomas, remember they played for free because of Alex English's human emotions for his fellow man.

That might make him the biggest All-Star of them all.



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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

THIS PICTURE OF AN AVERAGE BLITZ WAS TAKEN WITH THE CAMERA AT HIS EYE LEVEL...

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