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LAS VEGAS (AP) - Roberto Duran wears the pride of his accomplishments for everyone to see. He tries to cover his disgrace with a verbal blanket.

That blanket, however, has grown ragged with use. Thursday night, outdoors at the

Mirage, Duran, 38, will try to put a final bright patch on his crazy quilt career by beating Sugar Ray Leon-

ard. "Hey, Sugar Ray Robinson (the late welterweight and middleweight champion) and Roberto Duran are the two greatest fighters ever to step into a ring," Duran said.

"I get tired of people asking me about New Orleans."

In the eighth round at New Or-leans Nov. 25, 1980, Duran, who had beaten Leonard on a close but unanimous decision in 15 rounds six months earlier at Montreal, waved his right fist in resignation and mut-

"After the New Orleans fight, I won two more titles," Duran said. "I beat Davey Moore (for the World Boxing Association junior middleweight crown) and Iran Barkley (for the World Boxing Council middleweight championship), but all that people talk about is 'no mas.'

'The two words became part of boxing's lexicon. They were used in routines by late night television hosts and standup comics.

Duran, who had ruled the lightweight division for eight years during the 1970s and was known as "Hands of Stone," was ridiculed as "Belly of Jelly." He claimed at the time he suf-

fered stomach cramps. Now he says, "I'll tell the press af-

ter I beat Leonard why I quit." Leonard, 33, has said, "I think I just frustrated him."

That is the generally accepted the-

ory. Leonard, who had gone toe-to-toe with Duran at Montreal, used his speed and had Duran lunging and lurching at New Orleans. In the round before Duran surprisingly quit, Leonard taunted and mocked the king of machismo.

The victory, however, was a hol-low one for Leonard, whose pride has been fired by five world cham-pionships and his position as the premier fighter of the 1980s despite three retirements.

"I was never given credit for that," Leonard said. "I beat him fair and square. He was the star. He got more play than I did. It was Duran's doing, not Ray's doing. That's what ticked me off.

"That (Duran's act) robbed me of

my accomplishment." Leonard is a 2-1 favorite to win the rubber match.

Spurs topple Golden State

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — David Robinson scored 22 of his 28 points in the second half Wednesday night, including two free throws that broke a tie in the final minute, as the San

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Irish still in title picture

NEW YORK (AP) - Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz said Wednesday that the fourth-ranked Fighting Irish could make a "strong case" for the title by beating top-ranked Colorado in the Orange Bowl even if No. 2 Miami defeats Ala-bama in the Sugar Bowl and No. 3 Michigan beats Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl.

According to Holtz, the biggest argument in Notre Dame's favor is its backbreaking schedule. Colorado is the ninth bowl team the Fighting Irish will play in their 13-game season.

"We've had as big a mountain to climb as any-body in a long time," Holtz said via speaker-phone from his vacation home in Orlando, Fla.

'We played four teams who were ranked in the Top 10 (at the time of the game) and we were ranked No. 1 for 12 straight weeks. ... But we're not going to campaign for No. 1. This is the last time I'm going to talk about it." Colorado coach Bill McCartney, who attended

NBC's Orange Bowl news conference, knows his 11-0 Buffaloes can clinch the national title by beating Notre Dame. But he thinks Notre Dame

may need help to win its second straight title. "If Miami beats Alabama and Notre Dame beats us, I'd have to go with Miami because they beat Notre Dame," McCartney said. "However, I agree with Lou that Notre Dame played the most difficult schedule." difficult schedule.

"Coach McCartney was in a lot of big games (as an assistant coach) at Michigan," Holtz said.

"And Colorado has done well in big games this season. They beat Oklahoma, they beat Nebraska and they beat a pretty good Illinois team 38-7.

Thursday, December 7,1

by Jeff Millar & Bill Him

"Let's face it, no team is involved in games of this magnitude very often. We didn't have that much experience last year when we won the national championship." Colorado, the only major undefeated team in

the country, will be playing for its first national title

"This is a new experience for us," McCarney said. "It would be easy for us to say, 'We're going to the Orange Bowl,' and be satisfied with that But that's not going to happen because we realize what's at stake.

"This is a very special time for Colorado. We haven't been in this position before. The entire state and the city of Boulder are electrified."

The Buffaloes have dedicated their season to Sal Aunese, who was their starting quarterbackin 1988. Aunese died of cancer on Sept. 23 after watching Colorado's first three games from the sidelines

Sal wrote a letter to the team the day before he died, and the last words were, "Bring back the Orange Bowl," McCartney said.

"Notre Dame is the class of college football," he said. "They recruit the best student-athletes and they demonstrate great character. ... To beat Notre Dame is the ultimate conquest. It doesn't get any better than that.

Super Mex' checks into Seniors

KAANAPALI, Hawaii (AP) — Lee Trevino knows what to ex-pect in his debut on the Senior PGA Tour this week.

"I'm going to be nervous. I'm going to be pressured. I'm going to be trying too hard," Trevino said before a practice session for the Kaanapali Classic, the last official event on the 1989 Seniors schedule and Trevino's first as à member of the over-50 set.

His arrival on the Seniors scene -Trevino was 50 last week - is one of the most heralded since the Tour started 10 years ago. "Lee is one of the most popular and accomplished players in the

history of the game as well as one of the great gate attractions,' PGA Tour commissioner Deane Beman said. "I expect him to have an immediate and positive impact on the Seniors Tour."

Trevino has been preparing for the Seniors for nearly three years. He left a job as a television commentator to return to a playing role. He's lost 20 pounds. For three seasons, he's played in tour-naments in which he was not competitive, playing simply to keep the competitive edge he needed for the start of a new career

But his first start is not what he had expected. Wife Claudia and their baby daughter are not with him. They remained in Connecticut to be with Claudia's mother,

who is recovering from surgery. "I'm here by myself," Trevino said. "I'm not used to that. It's distracting. I'm trying to keep my mind on what's going on here this week, but it's tough.

And he attempted to play down the importance of his de-

but, "This is just one tournament," he said. "All the other guys know I'm here and they're going to be gunning for me.'

He talked of putting problems on the Bermuda greens of the Royal Kaanapali course. "I missed eight putts of five feet or less yesterday (Tuesday)," he said. "I haven't played on Ber-muda greens in five years."

He said he was looking beyond this first start to the beginning of the 1990 Seniors schedule in February.

"I expect to play well this wel, but if I don't, it's no big deal won't be too disappointed. "What would disappoint mes if L play four to provide the second

if I play four tournaments in Feb ruary and don't win, that would disappoint me.

lar tour this year, but now w concentrate on the Seniors Tour

he said.

where I belong now.

"I play best when I play a lot And I'm going to play a lot maybe 30 a year. It's a whole new life, a whole new career for me.

"It's hard to say what I expect But I think I can win five or si tournaments a year. I'll be sur prised and disappointed if I don't do that."

"I'm looking forward to that more than I am this one," he said

Trevino, a Hall of Famer wh won two U.S. Opens, a pair of PGAs and scored consecutive British Open triumphs in 1971-72, played 20 times on the regu-

"About all I'm going to play of the regular tour are the Master. British Open and PGA. May Hartford. Maybe the Bob Hope

"I don't want to play against those flat-bellies. I'm out here

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Antonio Spurs defeated the Golden State Warriors 121-119.

Robinson's free throws with 41 seconds left broke a 114-114 tie. After a Golden State turnover, Willie Anderson's 10-foot jumper with 15 seconds left made it 118-114.

Terry Cummings, who scored 25 points, added a pair of free throws with 10 seconds left, making it 120-

After Sarunas Marciulionis' 3point shot brought the Warriors within three, Anderson hit a free throw to seal the victory, extending the Warriors' road losing streak to 13 games dating back to last season. Golden State is 0-9 away from home this year.

The Warriors were led by Chris Mullin with 31 points.

NFL: Oilers had extra timeout

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Na- time out, thereby leaving the Oilers rarely result in any action. tional Football League has told the Pittsburgh Steelers that referee Ben Dreith's crew mistakenly awarded Houston an extra timeout in the first half of the Oilers' 23-16 victory last Sunday in Pittsburgh.

Dreith didn't record the third and last timeout called by the Oilers after Bubby Brister completed a 4-yard pass to Merril Hoge on a third-down play with 1:14 remaining in the half and Pittsburgh leading 10-7.

Hoge did not get out of bounds and the clock would have continued running if Houston had not called

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little time to mount a potential scoring drive after the Steelers' fourthdown punt.

Afterwards, Dreith told a pool reporter that official timer Lou Rossi stopped the clock on his own and that the on-field officials did not stop the clock because there wasn't a timeout.

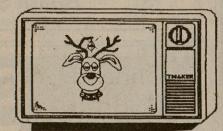
Steelers coach Chuck Noll told reporters Monday he planned to file a report on the officiating to the league office, although such reports and studied videotape.

Noll was also upset tapes she Oilers' receiver Haywood Jet failed to get both feet in-bounds key 37-yard reception that set up renzo White's game-winning, 1-7 touchdown run with 21 second maining. The reception was up by the instant replay official at 41/2-minute delay.

NFL spokesman Pete Abias said the league admitted the time error after officials supervisor McNally interviewed crew mem

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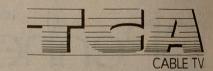


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