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Douglas, Holyfield ready for tonight's bout in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The heavyweight championship is on the line and nowhere to be seen are Iron Mike's scowling face or his promoter's wind-blown hairdo. James "Buster" Douglas will risk boxing's most prestigious title against unbeaten Evander Holyfield in a 12-round bout Thursday night outdoors at The Mirage.

The fight carries a \$28.1 million purse, one of the biggest in boxing history, with Douglas earning \$19.9 million and Holyfield \$8.2 million.

The only thing bigger than Douglas' purse in this fight is Douglas himself. The champion officially weighed-in Wednesday at a whopping 246 pounds, 14½ pounds more than he weighed when he beat Mike Tyson. Holyfield weighed 208.

It will be Douglas' first defense of the title since that shocking 10th-round knockout of Tyson on Feb. 11 in Tokyo.

THE MOMENT OF TRUTH DOUGLAS vs HOLYFIELD WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

And while Tyson and promoter Don King, dominant figures on the heavyweight scene for years, are out of sight, they have not been out of mind.

It seems Douglas has been asked about a rematch with Tyson almost as many times as he's been asked about fighting Holyfield.

King appears to have informed everyone within reach of a telephone that boxing's governing bodies insist Thursday's winner must fight Tyson next. Promoter Dan Duva, however, says Holyfield will fight George Foreman next — win or lose against Douglas.

Holyfield was a 7-5 favorite, which would make Douglas the 11th heavyweight champion to be an underdog in a title defense.

Tyson, in Atlantic City, N.J., training for a fight Dec. 8 against Alex Stewart, looks at the fight as an elimination bout for the right to fight him.

It is, however, an intriguing matchup built around the elements of size and psyche.

Much has been made about the size advantage the 6-foot-4 Douglas, 30, holds over the 28-year-old Holyfield, a former light heavyweight (175 pounds) and cruiserweight (190) champion.

Douglas' weight, however, seems much too high and could be a definite negative as he attempts to retain the title against the 6-2½ Holyfield.

Only two heavyweight champions, Primo Carnera and Jess Willard, have been both taller and heavier for title defenses than Douglas.

Permian attorneys add player to lawsuit

ODESSA (AP) — Attorneys for the Odessa Permian High School football staff have added an anonymous football player to a list of plaintiffs suing for reinstatement of the team in this year's playoffs.

Attorney T. Gerald Treece said the "John Doe" player was added to the lawsuit to help illustrate the "irreparable harm" the Panther players would receive if denied a playoff opportunity.

The Ector County Independent School District and its superintendent, Gene Buinger, were added Monday as defendants to the Permian High School football coaches' lawsuit against the University Interscholastic League.

"We hope to show through him, a senior member of the Permian football team, how these players' chances of receiving college scholarships will be damaged without the exposure and extra scouting that comes through an appearance in the playoffs," Treece said.

The original lawsuit was filed Sept. 28 in an effort to restore Permian's playoff eligibility this season and also to have UIL penalties against Panthers coaches Tam Hollingshead, Myron Schneider, Larry Morris and Nate Hearne lifted.

The case is expected to be heard in 261st District Court in Austin beginning at 9 a.m. Friday, The Odessa American reported Thursday.

The UIL ruled last month that Permian, the defending Class 5A champion, was ineligible for this year's playoffs because the school violated rules by holding organized practices before Aug. 20.

The Panthers were the top-ranked schoolboy team in the

country last year.

The anonymous player joins Hollingshead, Schneider, Morris, Hearne and eight other PHS football staff members as co-plaintiffs.

Defendants now include the UIL, executive director Bailey Marshall, executive committee chairman Bob Caster, Buinger and ECISD.

In a prepared statement Tuesday, Buinger said, "The plaintiffs claim that the ECISD superintendent 'erroneously interpreted the vague UIL rules' and that the UIL (executive committee) used these findings to render their punishment."

"All future action will be handled by the school district's attorneys," Buinger said. "Due to the nature of this pending litigation, neither the superintendent nor the (ECISD) board of trustees will have future comment concerning this matter."

Mike Atkins, an attorney for the district, said he was not surprised by the plaintiffs' 32-page amendment late Monday.

"This was expected in that the attorney for the Permian coaches had said that, if the school district chose not to participate in the suit, that they probably would add the district as a defendant," Atkins said. "As to why they're doing so, I'd really rather not speculate on that. That's up to the attorney who filed the amendment to decide."

That attorney is Treece, who said Tuesday he felt the vagueness of the UIL rules that led to the UIL state executive committee's Sept. 20 decisions left Buinger as much in the dark as they did the coaches involved.

San Antonio keeping hopes up for Olympics

PHOENIX (AP) — Phoenix's hopes of hosting the 1994-95 Olympic Festival have vanished, but San Antonio officials still can keep their fingers crossed, the Maricopa County Sports Authority said Wednesday.

Phoenix will be among several cities dropped from consideration for the festival by the United States Olympic Committee, the agency said in a prepared statement.

The festival helps amateur athletes prepare for international competitions.

"Sure we are disappointed, but we knew we were a long shot when we submitted our initial proposal," said Lamar Whitmer, chairman of the committee that was established to promote sports in the county.

Debate

Continued from page 9

rector of finance Wally Groff, Bryan-College Station would lose \$25 million if the University were to lose the football program.

Internally, A&M athletics bring in \$11.1 million per year in gross receipts, concession and sales, and media contracts, Bass said. No tax money is used in the program because it is self-supporting.

But Sharrick said that out of the 14 sports the University gives scholarships, football is the only one to have a positive impact. Sharrick presented figures from Groff's office showing \$4.5 million budgeted to football, which brings in \$6.1 million. The other two top-grossing sports, men's basketball and baseball, cost substantially more than they earn.

"It does not seem feasible to give an allowance or stipend to all varsity athletes when only one out of 14 has a positive economic impact."

sports for radio listenership. It's not too hard to follow a baserunner around his assigned path, or listen to the centerfielder go back, back, back, for a long fly ball.

Basketball with no video accompaniment is always stimulating. Trying to picture in your mind the events that are taking place can leave your head spinning. But just hearing the commentator shout with exultation, "It's good!" is enough to run a chill up the spine, and win the heart of a fan who couldn't see the game on the tube.

Whatever the game, radio can be an entirely exciting preference to the video phenomenon of today. Tune in for more details.

Scott Wudel is a senior journalism major and a sports writer for The Battalion. His column appears on Thursdays.

Wudel

Continued from page 9

example. The Cowboys had struggled through three quarters of the game, not giving fans much to get excited about.

But those who stayed with it were pleasantly surprised. Tampa Bay began to drive down the field and use up the clock.

The radio play-by-play guys were calling the action, explaining that the game was all but over with eight minutes left to play.

Tampa Bay quarterback Vinny Testaverde dropped back to pass. He looked to the sidelines and threw to what he thought was a wide-open receiver. Those listening to the play call were still resting comfortably in their chairs, reading the newspaper or doing some other activity.

All of a sudden the tone of the announcer's voice changed. The call went something like this:

"Testaverde back to pass. Looks right, throws ... intercepted! Isaac Holt steps in front of the pass. He's to midfield ... to the 40 ... the 35 ...

the 30 ... the 25 ... the 20 ... he's got one man to beat! To the 10 ... five ... touchdown!"

A lot of Cowboy fans were probably on their feet. But when they sat back down they tried to picture in their mind what had transpired.

Later, with 28 seconds to play, Troy Aikman found Michael Irvin in the end zone for the winning touchdown, again leaving fans trying to form an image of the play in their mind and tuned to their TV to see if fantasy was anywhere close to reality.

Radio to the sports fan is what the Great Gatsby is to the bookworm. It inspires the imagination, and the need for us to be able to see more. It could be thought of as a form of entertainment that stimulates the brain to conceive of the unknown.

Football and baseball are good

Lady Ags

Continued from page 9

into the second game. Michalke's booming serves gave A&M the early advantage, serving four aces in her first five attempts of the match.

"I was pretty excited about that, it felt good," Michalke said. "Sometimes it's on, sometimes it's not. Tonight it was on."

Her spikes also pushed the Lady Ags to the backline and threw the SFA defense off track. The kills almost got too easy as they started to land out and give SFA points. But the Lady Aggies settled down and concentrated on executing their play.

The Aggies rolled off 13 straight points to take a 13-2 lead in the final game. A&M held off a short Lady Ag rally and finished the quick match.

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