

## The fury's gone, but Tyson's not



David Leahy  
Sportswriter

This week's Sports Illustrated posed an intriguing question on its cover: "Tyson: Is the Fury Gone?"

With a 40-1 record and 36 knockouts, it seems to me that Tyson's fury is still there. But for any of you hard-core boxing fans, you and I both know Tyson isn't fighting like he did in the glory days of his youth, when he was trained by Kevin Rooney and co-managed by Bill Cayton and Jimmy Jacobs.

As Tyson approaches the age of 25, this Friday's short-awaited rematch with Donovan 'Razor' Ruddock could be the biggest fight of Tyson's career. Tyson has not shown that controlled violence and ruthless disposal of opponents like he did three to four years ago. Instead, he has shown a willingness to give his opponents a chance, a lack of motivation, and deteriorating ring skills.

Most boxing critics and fans attribute this declination to one person: Don King. When Jacobs died in March of 1988, Tyson lost direction of his career, and in stepped King.

Almost immediately the worst move of Tyson's young career followed — the firing of Kevin Rooney, one of the last pupils of the late Cus D'Amato.

Rooney was the only man who could infuse Tyson with the fire and spirit that made him a champion.

One of Tyson's first fights under his new management and trainer came in February of 1990. Every boxing fan remembers that time — Tyson proved he was human.

Not only did James 'Buster' Douglas humiliate him in the ring, but Tyson (under the direction of King) humiliated himself outside the ring by carrying on about an earlier delayed count on Douglas.

Not one of Tyson's countless trainers have instilled that unquenchable desire and thirst that Tyson had under Rooney's direction. Since his defeat to Douglas, Tyson has defeated unworthy opponents Henry Tillman and Alex Stewart, and received credit for knocking out Ruddock (a fight that was prematurely stopped).

If Tyson defeats Ruddock this Friday night — and that's a big if — it's time for him to ignore what King says and get on to the real business: Evander Holyfield.

Forget about George Foreman or Riddick Bowe. A Tyson-Holyfield rematch is what boxing fans and critics have been wanting for years.

Evander Holyfield's promoter, Dan Duva, recently offered a record \$51.1 million for a Tyson-Holyfield fight, but due to King's greed and need to be in the limelight, the fight may never gel.

Why? Because Duva has the rights to a Tyson-Holyfield fight. King will allow Tyson to fight Holyfield only if he has the rights to the fight.

As former manager Cayton said in the Sports Illustrated article, "This Ruddock rematch just compounds the stupidity. He (Tyson) should have fought for his title by now."

## Aggie soccer alive and kicking

By Tim Schnettler  
The Battalion

In 1983, as a result of cutbacks in the Texas A&M athletic department, the Men's Soccer Club was formed.

Prior to 1983, soccer was a varsity sport at A&M, said team member and club president Mark Seeley.

"Soccer was a varsity sport before 1983, but Jackie Sherrill put an end to it after the '82 season," Seeley said.

The team, which consists of 22 active members, still competes on a varsity level.

Since 1983 the club has received the majority of its funding from the sports club department, but the club also has other sources of revenue, which gives them a limited amount of financial independence.

"Each year we sponsor a youth tournament to help offset our expenses," said Seeley.

The past year's tournament was the team's fifth, and was also the largest tournament to date.

"The first year we had five teams participate, and this year we had 72," Seeley said.

Among the 72 teams in the tournament were teams from Oklahoma and Louisiana.

The soccer club is a member of the Texas Collegiate Soccer League, which consists of members from the other Southwest Conference schools. During the fall season, the team competes within the league, and the top two teams at the end of the season advance to the national tournament.

The national tournament hosts teams from across the nation, including other conferences such as the SEC and the Big 10. Two years ago, the Aggie team advanced to the nationals, and finished second in the nation.

The highlight of last year's season came when Texas A&M defeated the 1991 national champions.

"Last year we beat t.u. 7-1, and they went on to win the national championship," Seeley said. "That was definitely the high point last year."

Seeley said the sport of soccer has a great deal to offer to spectators, yet the crowds for their games are relatively small.

"Soccer is fastpaced and exciting, but the crowds for our games usually consist of the members' girlfriends and friends,



Scott D. Weaver

Although the Texas A&M Soccer Club lost its varsity sport status in 1983, the club continues to play at a varsity level, defeating eventual national champion Texas last year.

and are not very large," he said.

The soccer club offers its members many opportunities to travel and make new friendships.

"We spend a lot of time together both on and off the field," he said. "We travel almost every weekend."

Seeley also said student interest in the

club is high during tryouts, held the first two weeks of each semester at Zachary field. That enthusiasm translates into team success.

"We usually have a large number of students tryout for the team each year," he said. "This gives us a better group to choose from."

## Miami athletes paid off by Uncle Sam

It appears that some University of Miami athletes may have been getting money improperly from a rich uncle, a fellow named Sam.

FBI and Department of Education investigators continued meetings Monday with Tony Russell, the former associate academic coordinator at Miami, who said he helped athletes file phony applications for federal student grants.

Russell also appeared at a secret hearing before U.S. Magistrate Linnea Johnson to consider the appointment of counsel for him. There was no report on the outcome of the hearing.

Russell was dismissed by the university three weeks ago after he was arrested by Fort Lauderdale police and charged with possession of cocaine and driving with a suspended license. Shortly after that, the Pell Grant scam came to light.

Russell said he began falsifying Pell applications 14 years ago when he was a high school football coach and that he had continued doing it when he came to Miami as an assistant to the athletic department's academic coordinator.

The scheme was simple. Russell said he merely checked a box on the Pell form, indicating that a student's parents were separated. That would eliminate a chunk of family income and make the student eligible for a larger award.

If a single parent's income was still too high to qualify for the grant, Russell solved that problem by reducing the reported salary. Sometimes, he made up fictional medical bills. "I made sure they qualified," he said.

Pell forms require no substantiation, although a warning at the top of the application says giving false or misleading information may result in "a \$10,000 fine, a prison sentence, or both."

At first, Russell viewed himself as something of a Robin

Hood character, helping students to get federal funds. Later, he began charging an \$85 fee for the service in order to support a cocaine habit.

In all, Russell said he filed perhaps 600 applications for the grants over the years, first at the high school level and later at West Virginia State University and finally at Miami.

NCAA regulations permit student-athletes to receive Pell Grants of up to \$1,700 per month in addition to the standard scholarship package of tuition, room, board and books. The size of the grants vary according to need but at a maximum, it could mean Uncle Sam handed out \$1.2 million to Russell's customers. How much of it was the result of false information is open to speculation.

Sam Jankovich, chief operating officer of the NFL New England Patriots, was athletic director at the University of Miami when Russell was hired there. Jankovich refused several requests to comment on the Miami situation Monday, saying he did not wish to say anything that might interfere with a pending investigation.

On Saturday, Jankovich issued a statement: "It's hard for me to believe this kind of thing could happen, given the structure of the financial aid system."

Russell said it was entirely possible, and really quite easy. What's more, he said, he believes the same thing routinely goes on at other universities.

Athletic director Dave Maggard, who succeeded Jankovich at Miami, said there would be no statement until the FBI and Department of Education probes are completed. Jim Marchiony, a spokesman for the NCAA, said he understood the university was conducting an internal investigation and would report the findings to the national governing body when it is complete.

## Scott Erickson silent on All-Star selection

NEW YORK (AP) — On July 9, Scott Erickson probably will be on the mound to start the All-Star game for the American League. Everyone seems to think that, except Erickson.

Erickson is the hottest pitcher in baseball and he's on the hottest team — the Minnesota Twins. He's 12-2 after winning his 12th consecutive decision, a 5-0, two-hit victory Monday night over the New York Yankees.

Erickson, the first 12-game winner in the majors, is scheduled to start Saturday against the Chicago White Sox and the following Thursday at Toronto. His next pitching assignment would be the day of the All-Star game in the SkyDome.

"He'd be in perfect position to start," Twins manager Tom Kelly said.

Erickson said he doesn't want to think about that. Kelly is willing to talk, but doesn't want to pressure Tony La Russa of Oakland, the American League manager.

"Whatever Mr. La Russa decides to do," Kelly said. "What he decides is going to happen."

Erickson doesn't want to think ahead and he doesn't want to look back. Monday's victory completed one year in the majors for him and so far he's 20-6.

"I really don't think that's going to help me with my next start," he said. "I have plenty of time the rest of my life to look back. Full steam ahead, I guess you can say."

His teammates appear to be pretty amazed. His concentration is tremendous. On days he pitches, he looks like a New York club kid, dressed in black, mean and dark.

"When he pitches, he sits by the end of the dugout by himself," Kirby Puckett said. "No one talks to him. He just mutters to talks to himself. It's almost scary. You're afraid to go near to him."

Erickson seems uncomfortable talking about himself. The words are soft, sparing and measured. He's not overpowering on the mound, relying on breaking balls and control. He's not overpowering off the field, either.

"I have to work on every pitch," Erickson said. "Every pitch can be hit out of the park so I work as hard as I can."

Twins catcher Junior Ortiz jokes that Erickson will have to take him along to the All-Star game.

"I might go for one inning," Ortiz said, laughing. "I don't mind."

Ortiz's eyes widened when asked how much movement Erickson has on the ball these days.

"Right now, he's the best in the game," Ortiz said. "It's like he's forty-two years old, or forty-four. He's only twenty-three years old. It's like he's been in the league for eighteen years."

He certainly impressed the Yankees. He allowed a single to Don Mattingly in the first inning and a leadoff double to Matt Nokes in the second. He then retired the next 15 batters before a leadoff walk to Kevin Maas in the seventh. Those were the only runners.

"This is the best game by a pitcher against us this season," Yankees right fielder Jesse Barfield said. "He kept the ball in and down and was moving it around. He's got good offspeed stuff. He's not a fastball pitcher. What he does, he does real well."

So well, that he'll probably get that All-Star start.

"You couldn't pitch too much better than that," Twins manager Tom Kelly said after Monday's game. "What more can a manager ask than that?"

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