

Foreman says he wants Tyson

The heavyweight champion wants to fight the former champ in the next year.

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — George Foreman wants a shot at Mike Tyson, but says such a bout will literally be out of reach by next year. "I intend next summer for my stomach to be so big that the only punch I could land on Mike Tyson is going to be a belly bump," Foreman said. "I lost a lot of weight (to fight) and I intend to get my weight back." The robust 46-year-old for-

mer champion, during a stop Tuesday at a bookstore to promote his autobiography, said repeatedly that 1995 is his last year in the ring. Foreman said he waited around for a shot at Tyson, who in 1986 became the WBC's youngest heavyweight champion at age 20. Tyson is now preparing for a comeback after his two-year prison term on rape charges, but Foreman apparently isn't in his plans.

"Mike Tyson is supposed to be the toughest man on the planet," Foreman said. "He said he would get out of jail one day and whip me the next. He got out of jail and started hiding from me." The world's oldest heavyweight champion said boxing is no longer a challenge and that it's time to get out because "the toughest guys in the planet are hiding" from him.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Quarterback suspended eight games for gambling

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Maryland quarterback Scott Milanovich has lost a chance to win the Heisman Trophy and the multimillion dollar NFL contract that usually follows, all because of a handful of bets totaling \$200. Milanovich, the most prolific passer in school history, has been suspended for eight games by the NCAA for gambling on college sports, according to sources. It is the most severe penalty handed to a Division I athlete for such a violation. The school has appealed the suspension, one of five given to Maryland athletes by the NCAA on Monday. The school also will appeal the 20-game suspension of reserve basketball guard Matt Raydo.

Mantle expresses thanks at press conference

DALLAS (AP) — Just over a month after receiving a new liver, Mickey Mantle said today he was thankful for the transplant that saved his life. "I'm not well yet. I'm getting a lot better, they say — but I'm not really well," he said at a news conference at Baylor University Medical Center. Mantle said the donated liver saved his life. "I can barely remember coming in. I was chilling so bad that they had like four or five blankets on me. I was at the hospital and didn't know it," he said.

Austin residents to vote on baseball stadium

AUSTIN (AP) — Thousands of Austin residents are trying to force a voter referendum on whether the city should fund part of a \$22 million minor-league baseball stadium. City leaders have already decided to pay \$10 million for the stadium, but as of Monday about 5,000 area residents had signed a petition to take the issue before voters. A group called Save Austin From Extravagance, which is leading the petition drive, must collect about 15,000 voter signatures by Sept. 1 to block the city's plans to issue bonds for stadium's construction. A vote could then come as early as Nov. 7, city officials say. "Conservatives who sign the petition are saying that the city shouldn't spend that money on a baseball stadium, and the liberals are telling us that the city should spend it on something different like health and human services," said Bob Larson, a SAAF founder who served on the Austin City Council from 1990 to 1993.

Strawberry moves to Yankees' Triple-A team

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Darryl Strawberry, taking another step toward the major leagues, will report to a New York Yankees' Triple-A affiliate in Ohio on Wednesday. Dick Williams, the former manager who is now a Yankees scout and assigned to monitor Strawberry's progress, said the former slugger will join the Columbus Clippers of the International League for an afternoon workout. Strawberry, who starred with the New York Mets in the 1980s, is trying to make a comeback after serving a 60-day suspension for cocaine use. He also received a suspended sentence for tax evasion.

Emotional Blades describes cousin's death

The Seattle Seahawks' wide receiver was in the room when his cousin was shot.

PLANTATION, Fla. (AP) — In an emotional news conference today, Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Brian Blades said the fatal shooting of his cousin Charles was an accident. "Neither Charles nor I thought Charles would be shot," he said, his voice breaking as he added, "I loved Charles and he loved me." It was Blades' first public appearance since the July 5 shooting, though he had said

Another question was raised Monday when police said two shots, not just one were fired. Plantation police Sgt. Michael Price said Monday that one bullet entered 34-year-old Charles Blades' head below his chin and continued upward, killing him. Police found a second bullet lodged in a wall of the room the cousins were in. "It's nearly impossible in an accident situation for a gun to go off twice," Price said. "So it brings on new concerns." Blades has refused to talk to police, canceling two scheduled interviews with investigators because his agent said he was too upset. His agent, Drest Rosenhaus, said Monday the player still was distraught. "I don't think there's any difference of one or two accidental shots, an accident is an accident," Rosenhaus said. Police have confirmed that the .380 caliber gun belonged to Brian Blades. Two frantic telephone calls to 911, one from Brian and one from a friend, shed little light on what might have happened. Sobbing, Brian Blades told the dispatcher, "I went down to stop my brother from, uh, fighting his girl, and the gun went off and shot my cousin." Police believe the player was referring to the former girlfriend of Brian Blades' brother, Bennie.

"Neither Charles nor I thought Charles would be shot."

— Brian Blades, Seattle Seahawks wide receiver

previously, through his agent, that his cousin's death was an accident. Blades said he would join his teammates soon. Training camp begins this month. He praised police investigating the death, though he has yet to meet with them. Blades did not take questions after the news conference, and a number of questions remain unanswered. While he said he owned the gun that fired the fatal round, he did not say who was holding the weapon when Charles was shot. He also did not discuss circumstances surrounding the shooting.

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