

Tyson may beat Holyfield, but he's still a loser



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BY DAVE CHARBONNEAU

It's easy to tell who the jerks are in the sports world.

The sport of boxing — if it can be called a sport — has its share of jerks. But Mike Tyson gives the word new meaning.

Not long ago, Tyson was the new heavyweight machine of boxing. Everyone loved him because of his overwhelming power, which eventually earned him the heavyweight title.

But at the peak of his popularity, Tyson's career took a nasty turn.

The first blow hit Tyson like one of his own uppercuts. His managers Cus D'Amato and Jimmy Jacobs died.

Take a few seconds here to feel sorry for Tyson, because the events that followed are no one's fault but his own.

Enter Don King.

King became Tyson's man-

er shortly after the deaths of D'Amato and Jacobs. King not only took over the rights to Tyson, he took over Tyson.

Since King became his manager, Tyson has made an utter fool of himself during countless interviews, trying to sort out the phrases and big words that King obviously programs into his head.

Tyson rarely appears anywhere without King hanging over his shoulder, making Tyson look like he cannot speak for himself.

Result: Tyson looks like a fool.

Everyone has heard of Tyson's whirlwind marriage to Robin Givens. She allegedly tried to take his money; he allegedly beat her up on a regular basis. They eventually got a divorce.

Result: Tyson looks like a sucker and a wife-beater.

More than once, Tyson has taken his job outside the ring, physically attacking or coming to blows with someone. Result: Tyson looks like a brutish ma-

niac.

Finally, we come to his most recent catastrophe, the alleged rape of an 18-year-old beauty pageant contestant this summer.

This is by far the most serious offense Tyson has faced. Many people in boxing circles believe Tyson should be suspended until a verdict is reached some time next year.

Result: Tyson looks like a pervert.

This has turned into quite a list. Let's recap:

In his career Tyson has looked like a fool, a sucker, a wife-beater, a brutish maniac and a pervert. Sounds like a jerk to me.

Granted, these are all allegations; Tyson has yet to spend time in jail or pay any other penalty.

However, Tyson's dealings with the media (or should I say, King's dealings with the media) in these controversial situations have been a joke. And Tyson has not given the public any reason to doubt the allegations.

On Nov. 8, Tyson will finally square off with undisputed world Heavyweight Champion Evander Holyfield.

Holyfield is the complete opposite of Tyson. He represents what is good in boxing. He's extremely tough yet extremely classy. He's quiet and very intelligent.

But most of all, he is his own person.

Despite being the heavyweight champion, Holyfield has not let weasel managers and promoters take over his life.

When he talks, you know he's speaking his own mind; there's no one behind the scenes controlling him like a puppet.

Tyson and Holyfield have only one thing in common: They are both great fighters.

The upcoming fight at Caesar's Palace could be one of the greatest fights in boxing history. Yet some people believe the fight should be postponed until after a verdict is reached in Tyson's rape case.

This is a terrible suggestion because whether people like Holyfield or Tyson, the fact remains: Everyone wants to see this fight.

If Tyson is convicted and sentenced to the maximum 63 years in prison, the fight will never happen, and Holyfield will have to spend the rest of his career dealing with the doubters who will say, "You never would've beat Tyson."

As of right now, it looks as if the fight will go on as scheduled.

A best-case scenario is this: Holyfield knocks out Tyson in the seventh round, and Tyson is sentenced to a lengthy prison term to clean up his act.

Worst-case scenario: Tyson knocks out Holyfield, is acquitted of all charges and marches on through his own (and King's) little world as the heavyweight champion.

And heavyweight jerk.

Dave Charbonneau is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

Panel: Coaches want more influence over NCAA policies

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Coaches need more input into the rules-making process of the NCAA, Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski said Monday during a freewheeling panel discussion of the ills and issues in college sports.

"This is not just a problem, it is a big problem," said Krzyzewski, who led Duke to last season's NCAA championship. "Coaches are the voice of the athletes. We're not looking for a vote necessarily — just a

voice."

Maryland athletic director Andy Geiger, who has long been active at NCAA conventions, pointed out that each school has one vote at the annual policy-making sessions, but coaches have little influence over their school's decision-makers.

"I don't see how the NCAA can deal with inept governance on campus," he said.

Joining Krzyzewski and Geiger on the panel were George

Raveling, basketball coach at Southern California; Jim Walden, Iowa State football coach; Richard Lapchick, director of the Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern; and Dick Schultz, executive director of the NCAA.

The discussion was sponsored by *The Sporting News* and Adidas and moderated by John Rawlings, editor of *The Sporting News*.

Rawlings, Schultz and Lapchick all said more atten-

tion should be directed toward helping athletes adapt socially to their college environments, which can be entirely foreign to their background.

"We bring these kids in, and we tell them to start acting like everybody else on campus, but we do not instruct them on the skills that they need," Rawlings said. He, Walden and Krzyzewski said coaches are unfairly held entirely responsible for seeing to it that athletes get their degrees.

"Are we saying that these kids are failures if they do not graduate?" asked Walden, citing figures that indicate a widespread decay of the American educational system.

"The issue is a lot bigger than just sports," Schultz said.

Schultz said one of his goals as executive director of the NCAA is to reform the legislative process. Under the present system, he said rules sometimes work against the best interests of the athletes.

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