

Tyson may get hit with fine

RENO, Nev. — A member of the Nevada Athletic Commission wants the panel to take a tough stand and fine Mike Tyson for his punch after the bell Saturday night.

The former heavyweight champion and his advisers also should get a "strong" letter from the commission condemning Tyson's actions against Orlin Norris, commissioner Luther Mack said Monday.

Norris went down from the late blow after the first round, hurt his knee and couldn't continue. The fight was declared a no contest, and Tyson's \$8.7 million purse is being withheld pending a commission hearing Friday.

"I would be in favor of some kind of fine based on what I saw and how the fight took place," Mack said. "I don't have a number in mind. It has to be a sum that he knows we're serious. We have to make sure we protect the integrity of boxing. We have to take a strong stand."

Mack, a Reno businessman, said referee Richard

Steele has the right to declare no contest. The ruling was made after a consultation between Steele, ring-side physician Dr. Flip Homansky and commission members.

Steele also called the punch an accidental foul, and that is why Tyson was not disqualified.

The commission released Norris' purse, but it withheld Tyson's share. Because of a managerial cut, an IRS lien and legal action, Norris was paid only a little more than \$200,000.

Another member of the five-man commission, Glenn Carano of Reno, said he won't make up his mind about what action should be taken until the matter is brought up in public.

"I'm about as displeased with the outcome of the fight as any other fan," Carano said. "You wish a Mike Tyson fight would not end with a controversial situation. ... Things just seem to follow Mike Tyson around."

The Associated Press

Bliss

Continued from Page 7

missed the entire 1996-97 season due to an inflamed arch and a torn tendon in his knee.

And so another season passed with Bliss unable to prove his worth to Dellinger. Some athletes would get discouraged by such misfortune and look elsewhere, but not Bliss.

"The thought of transferring never crossed my mind," Bliss said. "I was going to run for the Ducks, and during that summer following my injury, I stayed in town and trained hard with other runners and was determined to make the team."

In the fall of 1997, during his sophomore year of eligibility, Bliss finally opened up Dellinger's eyes with his 10th-place finish at the Willamette Invitational. He was immediately thrust into the top seven and gained valuable experience from competing in big events such as the NCAA Championships.

The following season, Bliss fell

short of Dellinger's expectations with a poor early-season performance and was held out of the Pre-NCAAs.

"I had raced with a bad back, and to get the axe like that pissed me off and got the fire burning," Bliss said. "For the Oregon Invitational a couple of weeks later, Dellinger held out the varsity guys and said that whoever wins the race will get to run varsity. I knew it had to be me, and it was."

Bliss went on to finish fourth for the Ducks at the Western Regionals and then impressively finished 48th at the championships, where he nearly became an All-American.

Which leads right back to this fall, Bliss' senior-season finale.

"Andrew has stepped up really well this year and has really improved over the years," said Fein, the Ducks' other co-captain. "It's a great feat for him to work his way into the top 25 in the country."

"Andrew is an example of someone who has worked hard and, like all good athletes, is willing to persevere," Smith said. "His consistent and gradual climb

through the past five years is a clear-cut example for the younger athletes of what can be accomplished."

Oregon's freshmen are clearly taking notice of Bliss' habits.

"He's a great runner and leads by example," Jason Hartmann said. "All of the guys respect him for all he's done and really look up to him."

Bliss also runs track in the spring for the Ducks, but when asked to compare the two sports, a telling smile appears on the face of a man who clearly loves what he does in the fall.

"I live for cross country," Bliss said, smiling all the way through. "I just love everything about the sport and running around over different surfaces. It's definitely my favorite."

His unquestioned appreciation for the sport has him less than a month from securing an All-American berth, a feat he still can't imagine is within reach.

"I don't know if I'll be able to describe in words what it would mean to accomplish something I've wanted for such a long time," Bliss said.

Pac-10

Continued from Page 7

ter reaching the Rose Bowl.

Be assured, Toledo's trying his best to avoid that scenario.

"I've yelled at them, I've screamed at them, I've worked their tails off. I've done all those things," Toledo told the Los Angeles Times. "What I'm going to do as the head football coach is I'm going to tell them all that we need to stick together, we don't need to point fingers, we need to get better."

For real, though.

UCLA currently ranks eighth in total offense and ninth in total defense among Pac-10 teams. The only team that's worse defensively is, fittingly, Stanford, which gives up more than 470 yards a game.

Regardless, the Cardinal could earn the Rose Bowl berth this season — although that's something the other Pac-10 teams have yet to concede. If it does, it will be the fourth team in seven years to do so after having a losing record the season before.

The Cardinal would also be the Pac-10's sixth different Rose Bowl representative in the past six seasons.

Oregon State on a roll, sort of

For all of this season's surprises, Oregon State is about where it was expected to be.

The Beavers (4-3, 1-3) got their first conference win last Saturday and remain convinced that they are in the middle of a wonderful season.

They've won more than they've lost. And for the second time ever, they've drawn more the 30,000 fans for three different home games.

Now they're convinced that they're going to win at Washington State (2-5, 1-3) this weekend.

Oregon State is 0-8-1 in Pullman since 1978. And those eight losses haven't exactly been of the

close variety either.

In those nine meetings, the Cougars have outscored the Beavs 309-95. In 1989, Oregon State lost 41-3. In 1991, it was 55-7. And 51-6 in 1993.

Of course, the situation is a little different this season. The Beavers have Dennis Erickson, once Washington State's coach, at the helm.

And they are coming off the 55-7 blowout of UCLA. So naturally, confidence is higher than ever — even if they have to play without star tailback Ken Simonton, who was injured in the first quarter against the Bruins.

Again, that's not so surprising because the Beavers confidence has been almost illogically high most of the season.

"Before every game [defensive line coach] Michael Gray asks us, 'What do you think the final score will be?'" Beavers' senior defensive tackle Shawn Ball told the Corvallis Gazette Times after the UCLA game. "I put down 42-0, so I was relatively close."

Sun Devils try to avoid loss

Arizona State coach Bruce Snyder watched Reuben Droughns run all over Arizona last Saturday and shuddered.

A few hours earlier he'd watched his top defensive lineman, Junior Ioane, go down with a knee injury that could possibly knock him out of action for several weeks.

Add that to the list of the Sun Devils' other ailing defensive players, including safeties Brandon Faulkner, Alfred Williams and Willie Daniel, and it's obvious that Snyder has a legit reason to worry.

Arizona State is ranked ninth in the Pac-10 in rushing defense while the Ducks are ranked first in total scoring.

Snyder is left hoping that his standout tailback J.R. Redmond and a walk-on freshman, Patrick Wilson, will be able pick up enough slack in the secondary to limit the Ducks' attack, which is also the 16th-best in the nation.

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