

# THE LOCKER ROOM



## Terrell Brandon: Fighting Since Birth

## Tyson knocks out Stewart and HBO

by Aaron Fentress

Shortly after knocking out Alex Stewart, Mike Tyson made equally fast work of HBO. After three years and six fights the marriage between Tyson and HBO has come to an end.

Last year CBS and NBC made a major switch as the National Basketball Association left CBS for NBC and Major League Baseball did the opposite. Both were deals based on economics. Tyson's decision was based on pride.

When Tyson became the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world in 1987 he and HBO struck a fight deal that would take the Tyson knock out tour around the world. England, Japan and China were destinations on the itinerary as the Tyson bandwagon rolled on. Until it got busted.

James "Buster" Douglas knocked out Tyson in Tokyo Japan it not only shocked the world but put a dent in the relationship between Tyson and HBO. A dent that has now led to their separation.

Following the Stewart fight last Saturday, Tyson told HBO announcer Jim Lampley that he would not renew their contract. Lampley, in what seemed like desperation, tried to lengthen the discussion saying that HBO had hoped to renew the contract. Tyson merely said "They know what they did to me. No comment." Tyson then walked away and Lampley was left stunned as I'm sure the HBO executives were also. But they shouldn't have been.

Within days of the Tyson-Douglas fluke, HBO announced that

they would not renew their contract with Tyson. Although it is speculation, it seems obvious that HBO felt that a Tyson pact would be disadvantageous considering the fact that Tyson had just been knocked out. If that wasn't bad enough HBO poured salt in Tyson's wounds by airing HBO commercials exclusively showing Tyson being knocked on his butt. In the ads HBO proclaimed that they were the network that showed the great destruction of Tyson, not it's competitors, specifically Showtime.

Although Tyson kept quiet about the situation it had to have hurt his pride. After all the money he had made for HBO they now were using his failings for their gain instead of showing loyalty. The said part is that in big business the only thing people tend to be loyal to is the dollar.

Tyson did manage to finish out his HBO contract following the Douglas fight. In that time Douglas was embarrassed by Evander Holyfield, whom HBO is now going after. With Tyson's departure, HBO finds themselves left holding the gun that shot their own brains out. It is apparently obvious that Tyson has shaken off the Douglas fight and regained his form. And when he regains his title, which he will, HBO will be left with nothing, except a Holyfield contract that they will probably also tear up.

Over the year Tyson's judgement has been suspect. His failed marriage, his relationship with Don King, his reported treatment of woman and his lack-luster performance against Douglas has tarnished Tyson's accom-

plishments. Now it looks like all that is behind him. Including HBO.

When Holyfield and Tyson meet sometime in 1991 it will be the biggest boxing event in history. HBO will not be a part of it. When Tyson knocks out Holyfield it will be the final turn in the full circle Tyson has turned going from his defeat at the hands of Douglas to the regaining of the belts which are rightfully his. HBO will be on the outside looking in, probably still waiving their contract at Tyson.

Tyson doesn't need HBO's money. All Tyson needs is a piece of mind that he is his own man. By keeping his mouth shut and finishing off the HBO fights remaining on his contract, Tyson quietly put himself back in the spotlight. He didn't make a big deal over how HBO treated him. He simply went on about his business. Now he will take his business elsewhere.

What future athletes should learn from Tyson is that money isn't everything. Tyson turned down tens of millions of dollars, but stayed a man. Because as soon as you fall. All your so-called friends seem to disappear. If Michael Jordan breaks his leg and ends his career will NIKE still be there? If Michael Jackson lost his voice would Pepsi still be there? When Tyson got knocked out was HBO there?

For most people, when disaster strikes and the money grubbing hangers-on leave, there is no second chance. Much to my obvious delight Tyson has a second chance to spit in the face of HBO. And HBO will be feeling the sting for quite a while.

BY ULLYSSES TUCKER, JR.

In the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" featuring James Stewart, an angel came into his troubled life to give him a sense of purpose and strength in exchange for the wings he wanted to earn. If the theory holds true, Sister Ida Walker has earned her wings here on earth and will probably get a double bonus when she arrives to heaven one day. Had it not been for Sister Walker, of Walker Temple Church of God & Christ, Terrell Brandon of the University of Oregon might not be playing basketball today.

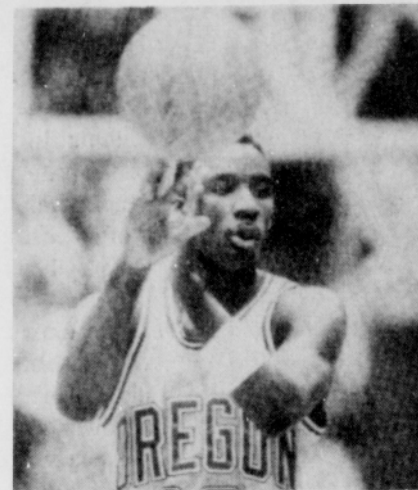
Few people know that Brandon was born with club feet. Both of them were turned to the inside and it went undetected until Sister Walker spotted the problem. According to church legend, Sister Walker sees all and she quickly brought it to the attention of his parents (Charles and Charlotte). Soon after the perceptive eyes of Sister Walker ascertained the problem, Brandon, a toddler, was fitted for braces and corrective shoes. Since the devices were removed, Terrell has been very difficult to catch up with, except for when he attended church with his family on Sundays. His speed and quickness are legendary in North/Northeast Portland.

"Charles said 'leave the boy' alone. My pain was his pain. It use to hurt me listening to him and it hurt me just as much. I'm very thankful for God sending Sister Walker into my life she is a beautiful person."

It's no secret that Terrell Brandon is a fighter. You would be too if you had to endure such pain as a youngster. His tolerance for pain and adversity was established at a tender age. Some folks close to him say that the roughest part of his life is over. It's just starting to get rough on opponents in the Pac-10 because Brandon is now inflecting pain on them. Last season, he averaged 17.9 points per contest and ranked among the league leaders in steals, assist, three-point field goal percentage, and minutes played. He is currently averaging 25 plus points per game for the Ducks. He was also named All-Conference last season. This year should be no exception.

Brandon has been described as a pesty fly on a hot muggy day. His ag-

gressive style of play is said to get on opponents last nerve and he never stops. He is a warrior and a scrapper. Brandon plays every basketball game like it is his last one. Brandon had to fight. Thats if he wanted to get the braces off his feet or walk properly. "I've always been intense", he said. "I can't say exactly where it comes from, but it is there."



playing in Irving Park (Northeast Portland), I learned to play hard and take no prisoners. It was all or nothing on the playground."

Though Brandon might be unsure of where his intensity of competitive nature comes from, mother Charlotte knows that the apple does not fall too far from the tree. "I'm like that too" she laughed. "I'm not intimidated easily of insecure. I was taught never to back down from a challenge. Terrell is the same way. He get's his strong will from his father, who is a leader and very dependable. Charles has always been there for him and there is nothing that he can't talk to us about. We're very open with each other. Can't is not in our vocabulary. We believe in trying and working hard. The rest is left up to God. I raised his sister (Tracy, 24) that way too."

A spiritually sound individual, Brandon knows the Bible inside and out. He attends church on a regular basis as well as studies scriptures. Brandon is comfortable as a student, after sitting out because of proposition 48, and with his growth as an athlete. One thing he is not comfortable with is losing basketball games. He's played in three state championships games with Grant High School (winning title in 1988 and 86) and has al-

ready lost more games at Oregon than he lost in his career. He was also a track standout at Grant.

"Our intensity level on the road has been real low," he said. "If we are going to be effective as a team, it is important that we establish or set some type of tone on the road. Its tough in our conference. All, the intensity, starts from within. We have got to be more consistent and keep our heads high. There are not many fans on our side when we play on the road and that is something we must get use to if we are going to be competitive, winning on the road, playing tough is a must."

Several NBA coaches, including Paul Silas of the New York Knicks, believe that Brandon might have an outside shot of playing in the league if he steps up his defensive intensity and strength. He has been compared to a young Tim Hardaway. Hardaway, a member of the Golden State Warriors, was named to the All-Rookie team last season. Like Brandon, he gets on the nerves of opposing point guards and opponents. "I think that's a great compliment," he said. "He is a real tough player."

Most players in Brandon's position are consumed in the glory, the lifestyle of an athlete on a college campus, and self. Terrell Brandon is selfless. Throughout the interview, when making reference to the Duck basketball team, he spoke about the "we" and the "us". Individual success does not mean much to him. He would rather turn in his twenty-five plus per contest for some victories. "Us winning is more important than my numbers. Hopefully, we will get things together," said the six foot junior.

When speaking about his family and church, the "we" and "us" word, again, comes up consistently as Brandon spoke. In this day and age of single parent households, dysfunctional families, and moral decay - Brandon is fortunate to have three solid support systems. Home, Walker Temple Church of God and Christ, and the Duck basketball team. He knows and believes that he is truly blessed, especially when you have an angel on earth looking out for you like Sister Ida Walker, who is truly the point guard for the Ducks. Sister Walker has great vision. All point guards do, whether they are running the show for Don Monson or God.

## Portlander Takes Second in Regional Golf Tournament

BY: ART ALEXANDER

Portland's Leisure Hour Golf Association was well represented in Las Vegas when member Sandi Wagner won the women's division silver trophy at the Western States Golf Association's Thanksgiving Tournament. The two day tournament was held at both the Dunes and the Painted Desert Golf Club was host for 144 golfers from all over the western United States.

Outstroking all but one of her 20 Women's Flight competitors Ms. Wagner, a 13 handicapper with a house full of trophies, was almost pleased with her performance. "I can't be altogether happy. I wanted to walk away with the first place trophy. I don't want to take anything away from my competitors, but I know I have the ability to win that tournament. There were some women in our flight who were just as capable of winning so I

do feel good about taking second place. However, next year I am coming back to Portland with the bigger trophy."

Ms. Wagner's second place represents more than might be discerned from her comments. She spent the several months in 1989 and 90 recovering from surgery on both hands. For a golfer, as with most athletes, the aftermath of surgery is an anxiety ridden time. Too often, despite therapy, the strength and timing are never quite the same and a career is over.

In Ms. Wagner's case it looks like her recovery has been complete and her competitors had better beware. Her second place finish in Las Vegas was preceded by solid first place 1990 wins in the Continental Airlines Colwood Tournament, the annual Leisure Hour Rippling River Tournament, and the Port of Portland's annual competition. Ms. Wagner will probably need to make room for a few more trophies in 1991.



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