



# Metro/Sports

## So close, yet so far

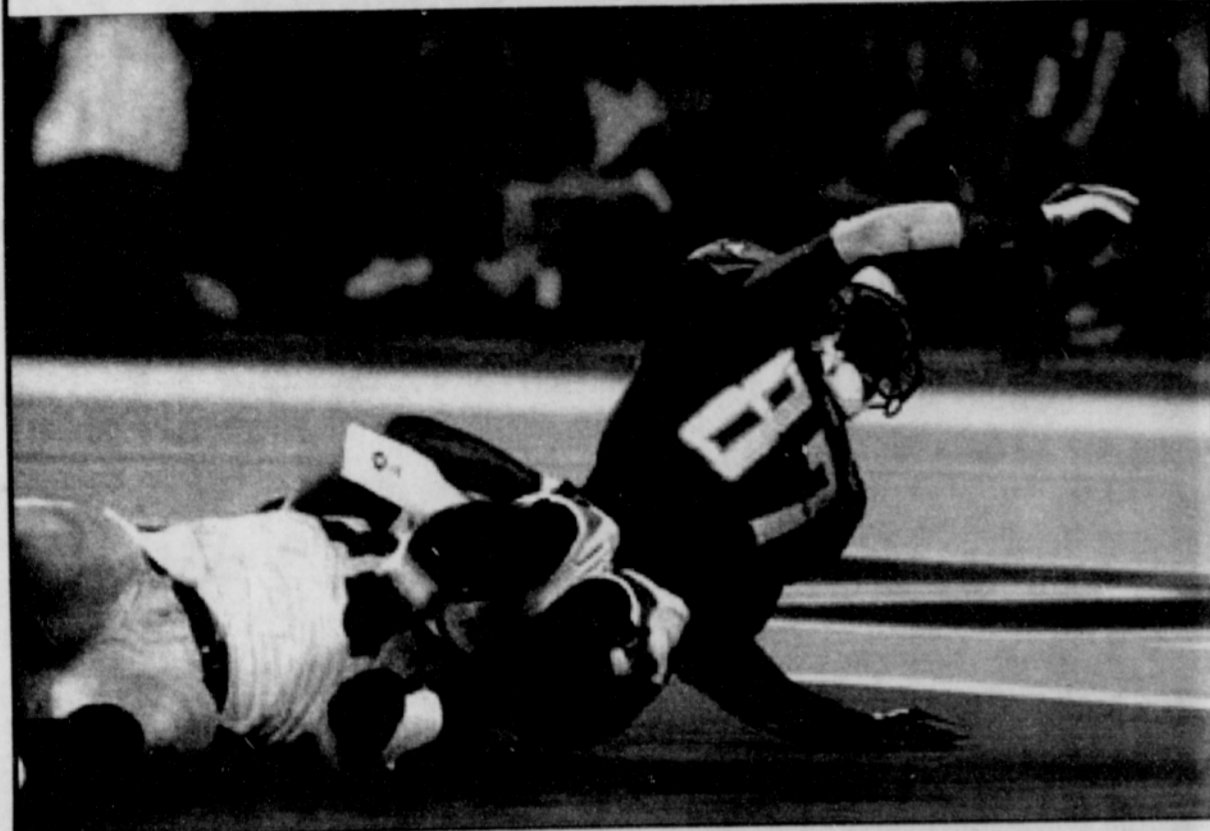


PHOTO BY ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Tennessee Titans wide receiver Kevin Dyson (87) is tackled just short of the goal by St. Louis Rams' Mike Jones, left, on the last play of Super Bowl XXXIV at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta Sunday, Jan. 30, 2000. St. Louis defeated Tennessee 23-16.

## Evidence released in IBF boxing scandal case

Grand jury tapes, transcripts and other evidence unsealed by a federal judge appeared to show what prosecutors called a pattern of bribes and corruption by leaders of the International Boxing Federation, the Star-Ledger newspaper reported on Saturday.

In testimony released on Friday, included in videotapes and thousands of pages of transcripts, boxing promoters and others described how they made payments to IBF President Robert Lee Sr. and other officials at the boxing sanctioning organization in order to secure bouts, the newspaper reported. Lee, his son Robert Lee Jr. and two other IBF leaders were indicted on Nov. 4 on 32 counts of bribery and

other charges. A civil racketeering suit against the four was filed on Nov. 22.

Prosecutors say the four accepted \$338,000 in bribes over a 13-year period. Lee, on unpaid leave from the IBF, has been replaced by a court-appointed monitor.

Among the material unsealed on Friday was a secretly taped FBI video of IBF ratings chairman Doug Beavers apparently removing from his leg a cellophane-wrapped package containing \$5,000 and Lee picking it up after Beavers placed it on a table, the Star-Ledger reported.

In affidavits, Beavers, who turned informant when confronted by federal authorities in 1997, said Lee called bribes "Christmas turkeys."

Legendary promoter Don King was among those who made regular

payments, sometimes to gain bouts for unknown fighters, the Star-Ledger said Beavers told authorities.

The newly unsealed evidence also indicated that promoter Bob Arum said he was coerced into paying Lee. President of Top Rank in Nevada, Arum said he sought a ruling from the IBF to have heavyweight champion George Foreman, whom Arum represented, fight German fighter Axel Schulz in 1995.

The bout involved an exception to the rule that champions are only supposed to fight leading contenders. The Star-Ledger said the newly released documents quoted Arum as saying the exception "came at a price" — a \$200,000 payment demanded by Lee in a hotel room.

Arum told authorities he paid

## Lewis charged with murder

ALL-STAR Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis, arrested on murder charges in the killings of two people, made a brief court appearance Tuesday then returned to jail to await a preliminary hearing later this month.

Lewis was the second National Football League player charged with murder in six weeks. On Dec. 14, Carolina Panthers receiver Rae Carruth was charged with first-degree murder in the death of his pregnant girlfriend, who was wounded in a drive-by shooting on Nov. 16 and died three weeks later.

Lewis, 24, who had been scheduled to play in the Pro Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii, Sunday, instead appeared in Atlanta Municipal Court for a hearing that was postponed until Feb. 24. He was held without bail. Prosecutor Larry Gardner asked for a delay in formally charging Lewis to have more time to gather information in the case. A court spokeswoman said Lewis will likely be charged with two counts of felony murder, which carries a mandatory life sentence if

convicted.

Lewis, who already faces an assault charge in Maryland, was arrested and charged with murder Monday after two men were found stabbed to death following an early-morning fight outside a nightclub in Atlanta.

Richard Lollar, 24, of Decatur, Georgia, died at the scene. Jacinta D. Baker, 21, also of Decatur, was taken to Grady Hospital and later pronounced dead. Lewis' lawyer was unavailable for comment. Police were investigating reports Lewis was among a group of passengers in a black limousine seen speeding away from the murder scene in Atlanta's fashionable Buckhead district.

## PIL Standings

SPORTS STANDINGS					
WINTER 1999-2000					
<b>BOYS BASKETBALL</b>			<b>GIRLS BASKETBALL</b>		
Jefferson	9	0	Wilson	10	0
Benson	8	1	Grant	8	2
Cleveland	7	2	Lincoln	8	2
Lincoln	5	4	Jefferson	7	3
Grant	4	5	Benson	6	4
Madison	4	5	Franklin	5	5
Wilson	4	5	Marshall	3	7
Roosevelt	2	7	Madison	2	8
Franklin	1	8	Roosevelt	1	9
Marshall	1	8	Cleveland	0	10
<b>BOYS SWIMMING</b>			<b>GIRLS SWIMMING</b>		
Grant	4	0	Lincoln	6	0
Wilson	6	1	Grant	4	0
Lincoln	5	1	Wilson	5	2
Cleveland	3	2	Cleveland	3	2
Benson	1	2	Franklin	3	3
Jefferson	1	3	Jefferson	1	3
Madison	1	3	Benson	0	3
Franklin	2	4	Madison	0	4
Roosevelt	0	7	Roosevelt	1	6
<b>WRESTLING</b>			<b>WRESTLING</b>		
Madison	4	0	Madison	4	0
Grant	4	1	Grant	4	1
Benson	4	2	Benson	4	2
Roosevelt	4	2	Roosevelt	4	2
Cleveland	3	2	Cleveland	3	2
Jefferson	3	3	Jefferson	3	3
Wilson	2	3	Wilson	2	3
Lincoln	1	3	Lincoln	1	3
Franklin	1	5	Franklin	1	5
Marshall	0	5	Marshall	0	5

## Wizards coach Gar Heard fired by Jordan; Higgins hired

Gar Heard became the first victim of Michael Jordan's new career as the Washington Wizards coach when he was fired halfway through his first season.

The announcement came just minutes after the Wizards held on for a 103-98 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers Monday. Heard had guided the Wizards to only a 14-30 mark but the team was 2-3 since Jordan became president of basketball operations.

"I think they had their mind made up when he got here," Heard said. "I never got an opportunity to talk to him."

Heard is believed to have two-plus years left on a three-year deal he signed last June. He was chosen by Wizards general manager Wes Unseld, who no longer has the final say on personnel decisions.

"It was not predestined. It was not Michael's decision alone," Unseld said. "Myself and Mr. (Abe) Pollin had input. The final say-so is Frank, as far as basketball is concerned with Mike."

Rod Higgins, a teammate of Jordan's on the Chicago Bulls from 1984-86, was named interim coach. Higgins had been an assistant with the Golden State Warriors.

Unseld made tonight's announcement, which also included the firings of assistants Butch Beard and Mike Bratz. Assistant Tree Rollins was retained and will assist Higgins, who gets his first head coaching job.

Higgins has spent 13 seasons with the Warriors, playing seven and coaching six. After a 13-year playing career with seven teams, he joined the Warriors as an assistant in the 1994-95 season.

"I watched him as a kid playing with the Bulls," said forward Juwan Howard, a Chicago native. "I look forward to working with him."

"It's going to be a rough period," guard Rod Strickland said. "Things can't get any worse."

Higgins turns 40 on Monday and figures to make his coaching debut Tuesday at Cleveland.

Jordan apparently is at the Super Bowl, making an endorsement appearance. He released a statement through the team.

"I mentioned that when I became a member of the Washington Wizards that I would evaluate the team and the coaching staff," Jordan said. "I felt it was necessary to make a change at this time."

## Tyson wins in second round

Calzaghe Outpoints Starie to Retain WBO Title on a Showtime Championship Boxing Doubleheader from the MEN Arena in Manchester, England.

Former undisputed heavyweight champion Mike Tyson made short work of Julius Francis, flooring the British heavyweight champion five

times on his way to a second-round knockout tonight on SHOWTIME.

In the semi-main event, unbeaten Joe Calzaghe won a unanimous 12-round decision over David Starie to retain his World Boxing Organization super middleweight title. The fights aired on SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING at 10 p.m. ET/PT from Manchester, England.

The card was promoted by Frank

Warren in association with America Presents.

Tyson (47-3, 1 NC, 41 KOs) of Catskill, N.Y., thrilled the sold-out crowd of 21,000 at MEN Arena by twice decking Francis (21-8, 11 KOs) of London, England, in the first round. Tyson was making his highly anticipated European debut.

## Housing from page 1

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on an "aggressive but not crash schedule." He added, "You can't be a construction worker today without a boom box that's slightly smaller than a pickup truck. They turn them on as soon as I leave the site."

To deal with these and other issues, "I ask you to join our team. So far it's been one-way communication. We're trying to guess what you want. We need to hear you say, 'You got it almost right except...'"

"I think everything the neighborhood wanted is in the M.O.U.," he said. "If not, we can get it into the contract - that's what partners get to do."

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