

SPORTS

Portland to Host Mexican Legends

Former players from Mexico's most popular clubs, Chivas de Guadalajara and Club America will collide at PGE Park on Friday, Aug. 10, at 7 p.m. in the "Super Classic of Legends"

The international exhibition will be played with players who have recently retired from both teams, including several former Mexican National Team members. Among those representing Chivas will be Ramon Ramirez, who has over 100 appearances with the Mexican National Team, and midfielder Alberto Coyote, who played on

the international stage for Mexico from 1994-2001.

The Club America Legends will feature former Mexican National Team midfielders Gonzalo Farfan, who earned 34 caps with Mexico from 1994-2001, and Isaac Terrazas, who played for Mexico in the 1998 World Cup in France.

Tickets, starting at \$10 are available at the PGE Park box office, area Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at 503-224-4400 or online at ticketmaster.com. Gates open at 4 p.m. for a pre-game tournament championship match.

Due Process Urged for Vick

NAACP sees premature punishment

(AP) -- NAACP leaders urged public restraint Monday in judging Michael Vick before he has his day in court.

R.L. White, president of the Atlanta chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the Atlanta Falcons quarterback has been vilified by animal rights groups, talk radio and the news media and prematurely punished by his team and corporate sponsors.

"If Mr. Vick is guilty, he should pay for his crime, but to treat him as he is being treated now is also a crime," White said at a news conference. "Be restrained in your premature judgment until the legal process is completed."

On Monday, Tony Taylor, a co-defendant in the case, pleaded guilty in Virginia to federal dog-fighting conspiracy charges in a plea agreement with prosecutors.

But Vick has pleaded not guilty and for now looks like he will spend the next four months defending himself instead of mastering a new



Georgia NAACP President Edward Dubose (left), Atlanta NAACP President R.L. White and executive board member Dr. Martha Plowden at a news conference in Atlanta. (AP photo)

coach's playbook.

The Atlanta Falcons quarterback's elite five-member legal team doesn't expect it to be easy, and his career could be in jeopardy.

Businesses have been quick to recoil. Nike suspended its lucrative

contract with Vick and Reebok stopped sales of his No. 7 jersey. In addition, two trading car companies withdrew Vick items.

On the other hand, Georgia NAACP President Edward Dubose thanked Vick for his community service and the money and excite-

ment he has brought to Georgia as a Falcon. Dubose said Vick is being prosecuted in the court of public opinion before he has had a chance to defend himself.

"We're not condoning bad behavior, but Michael Vick is innocent until proven guilty," Dubose said.

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Influential Football Coach Dies

Creator of enduring innovations

(AP) -- Bill Walsh, the groundbreaking football coach who won three Super Bowls and perfected the ingenious schemes that became known as the West Coast offense during a Hall of Fame career with the San Francisco 49ers, has died of leukemia. He was 75.

He spent just 10 seasons on the San Francisco sideline, but he left an indelible mark on the United States' most popular sport, building the once-woebegone 49ers into the most successful team of the 1980s with his innovative techniques.

The soft-spoken native Californian also produced a legion of coaching disciples that's still growing today.

"The essence of Bill Walsh was that he was an extraordinary teacher," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement. "If you gave him a blackboard and a piece



San Francisco 49ers coach Bill Walsh is hoisted on the shoulders of his team after they defeated the Miami Dolphins 38-16 in Super Bowl XIX, Jan. 20, 1985. (AP photo)

of chalk, he would become a whirlwind of wisdom. He taught all of us not only about football but also about life and how it takes teamwork for any of us to succeed as

individuals."

Walsh created the Minority Coaching Fellowship program in 1987, helping minority coaches to get a foothold in a previously lily-

white profession. Marvin Lewis and Tyrone Willingham are among the coaches who went through the program, later adopted as a league-wide initiative.

Walsh also is widely credited with inventing or popularizing many of the modern basics of coaching, from the laminated sheets of plays held by coaches on almost every sideline, to the practice of scripting the first 15 offensive plays of a game.

The long-suffering 49ers went 2-14 before Walsh's arrival. They repeated the record in his first season. Walsh doubted his abilities to turn around such a miserable situation—but earlier in 1979, the 49ers drafted quarterback Joe Montana from Notre Dame.

Walsh turned over the starting job to Montana in 1980, when the 49ers improved to 6-10—and improbably, San Francisco won its first championship in 1981, and championships followed in the postseasons of 1984 and 1988.

Walsh left the 49ers with a profound case of burnout after his third Super Bowl victory in January 1989, though he later regretted not coaching longer.

Blazer Preseason Games Scheduled

The Portland Trail Blazers has unveiled their NBA preseason schedule, which tips off Wednesday, Oct. 10, at the Rose Garden against the Los Angeles Clippers.

On Oct. 19, the Blazers face off against Sacramento in Portland. On Oct. 24, the Trail Blazers host divisional rival Seattle in a matchup that will feature the top two picks in this year's NBA Draft, Portland's Greg Oden and Seattle's Kevin Durant.

The Blazers will once again bring a home game to others fans around the state, capping their seven-game preseason at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in the Bend-Redmond area on Oct. 26, with a game against the Denver Nuggets.

Tickets for Portland's three preseason games at the Rose Garden are now on sale at trailblazers.com, TicketsWest outlets or by calling 503-797-9600.

Oden Olympics Unlikely

(AP) -- Greg Oden is leaning toward skipping U.S. training camp next month, possibly ending his chances of playing in the 2008 Olympics.

The No. 1 NBA draft pick had a tonsillectomy July 14 and was forced to miss the Americans' minicamp last weekend in Las Vegas. He has an invitation to join the team when it reconvenes for training camp on Aug. 15, but said Friday he probably wouldn't be there.

Oden was invited to practice with the Americans last summer but couldn't play because of his broken wrist. USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo said he is unlikely to



Greg Oden

be a candidate for the roster in Beijing without playing either of the two previous summers.

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