

## STEVE MARANTZ; IF THE OTHER SPORTS WERE MORE LIKE BOXING . . .

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### Document Text

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In a period of a few months, boxing fans have been jilted by Cooney- Holmes, Hagler-Hearns, Leonard-Stafford and Weaver-Cobb. All of these were supposed to be major title fights before they became postponements.

Cooney-Holmes is rescheduled for June 11, which leaves plenty of time for another postponement.

Boxing fans no longer talk about who is going to win the big fight. They talk about when it will be postponed.

Those less familiar with boxing must be terribly confused or amused. This is because boxing shares little common ground with other sports.

Imagine if other sports were run like boxing:

The Red Sox would have canceled their games with Kansas City this weekend because of Carl Yastrzemski's pulled groin. Dick Howser and the Royals' team physician would have demanded their own examination of Yaz.

NFL Comr. Pete Rozelle would refuse to license the Patriots to play football because of their 2-14 record. Rozelle would say, "The Patriots have taken too many blows to the head. One more knockout could be fatal."

The Patriots would change their name and go play in Rhode Island.

George Steinbrenner would get the Yankees into the World Series by making a phone call to Mexico or Central America and buying them baseball's No. 1 ranking.

As a condition of getting the top ranking, the Yankees would have to tour South Africa.

The Celtics and Los Angeles Lakers would play the NBA championship series in Malibu. This would be because Magic Johnson's mother said she was ailing and didn't like Boston's climate. The Celtics would agree because they were thrilled the Lakers would play them.

Emulating Bob Arum, Rozelle would sell the NFL television rights to the three networks for \$2 billion and then sell them to SelecTV for \$3 billion. When the networks proceeded to sue Rozelle, he would say, "I forgot."

Bjorn Borg would refuse to play John McEnroe unless McEnroe's weight was 160 pounds or less when he stepped onto the court.

Both the New York Islanders and Vancouver Canucks would claim to be Stanley Cup champion.

They would never play each other.

To match boxing's entourage ratio, each major league team would travel with 1000 bucket men, bodyguards and spiritual advisers.

All Toronto Blue Jays games would be stopped after one inning, their opponents awarded the victory.

The first time Fernando Valenzuela got shelled, he would walk off the mound saying "No Mas." Valenzuela would claim a stomach ache, explaining that he ate a five-pound burrito for lunch.

Val James of the Buffalo Sabres would sign a \$10 million contract even though he had yet to score an NHL goal. He would be known as the "Great Black Hope."

Howard Cosell's hairpiece would be knocked off as he interviewed the two coaches on "Monday Night Football."

The biggest stories in baseball, football, basketball and hockey would be the announcing of the schedules. The sports section would be full of headlines like: "Red Sox sign to meet Toronto July 26- 28."

Agents would get 33 percent of their clients' income. Dave Winfield's agent would demand \$8 million up front.

The Red Sox could build an undefeated record in spring training against Florida high school teams, and advance directly to the World Series by virtue of that record.

Half of the owners in each league would either have a prison record or be under investigation by the FBI.

Each league would have an equivalent of the WBA's Rule 19, which states that the WBA officers may overrule its constitution whenever they want. If Pete Rozelle couldn't keep Al Davis in Oakland under existing bylaws, he could create a new one on the spot. "The Raiders must remain in Oakland because Al Davis is lefthanded," Rozelle would announce.

Emulating Don King, Billy Sullivan would do his hair in a 'Fro, wear a diamond necklace in the shape of the Patriots logo and falsify the Patriots' record so that ABC would televise their games.

Emulating Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, Willie Mays and Mickey Mantle would announce their comebacks. Mantle would explain his inability to get around on a changeup by saying, "My diet pills affected my thyroid gland. I couldn't sweat." Mays would tire going from the dugout to the batter's box, and thereafter be known as "Say Gray" Willie Mays.

The World Series would be held in the parking lot behind Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Bowie Kuhn would say, "Major League Baseball is proud to be associated with a fine gambling casino like Caesars Palace."

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### **Abstract** (Document Summary)

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