

Tyson sentenced to 6 yrs in jail

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Mar 27: Mike Tyson was sentenced to six years in prison for rape and led away to jail on Thursday after prosecutors said the former heavyweight champion would rape again if given the chance, reports Reuter.

The boxer, wearing a dark grey suit, was frisked, handcuffed and then led away to a state prison processing centre near Indianapolis, smiling slightly and carrying his overcoat atop his arms.

Judge Patricia Gifford sentenced Tyson to 10 years on one count of rape and 10 year each on two counts of deviate conduct, but suspended four of the years and ordered the sentences to run concurrently. She also fined him 30,000 dollars.

Tyson's lawyers asked for and were denied an emergency order to release him on bond pending an appeal, and a full hearing on the request was set for today.

Special prosecutor Greg Garrison told reporters the 25-year-old fighter could be a "marked man" once in the prison system and warned that he could be behind bars for as much as 10 years if he did not behave himself.

Other experts said he could be out in as little as three.

Marion county prosecutor Jeffrey Modisett told the sentencing hearing that Tyson still does not realise the seriousness of his offence and is an "opportunistic rapist" who would take advantage of similar situations again.

Tyson, who arrived at the court in a red limousine, slumped slightly behind a desk when the sentence was announced but otherwise was expressionless.

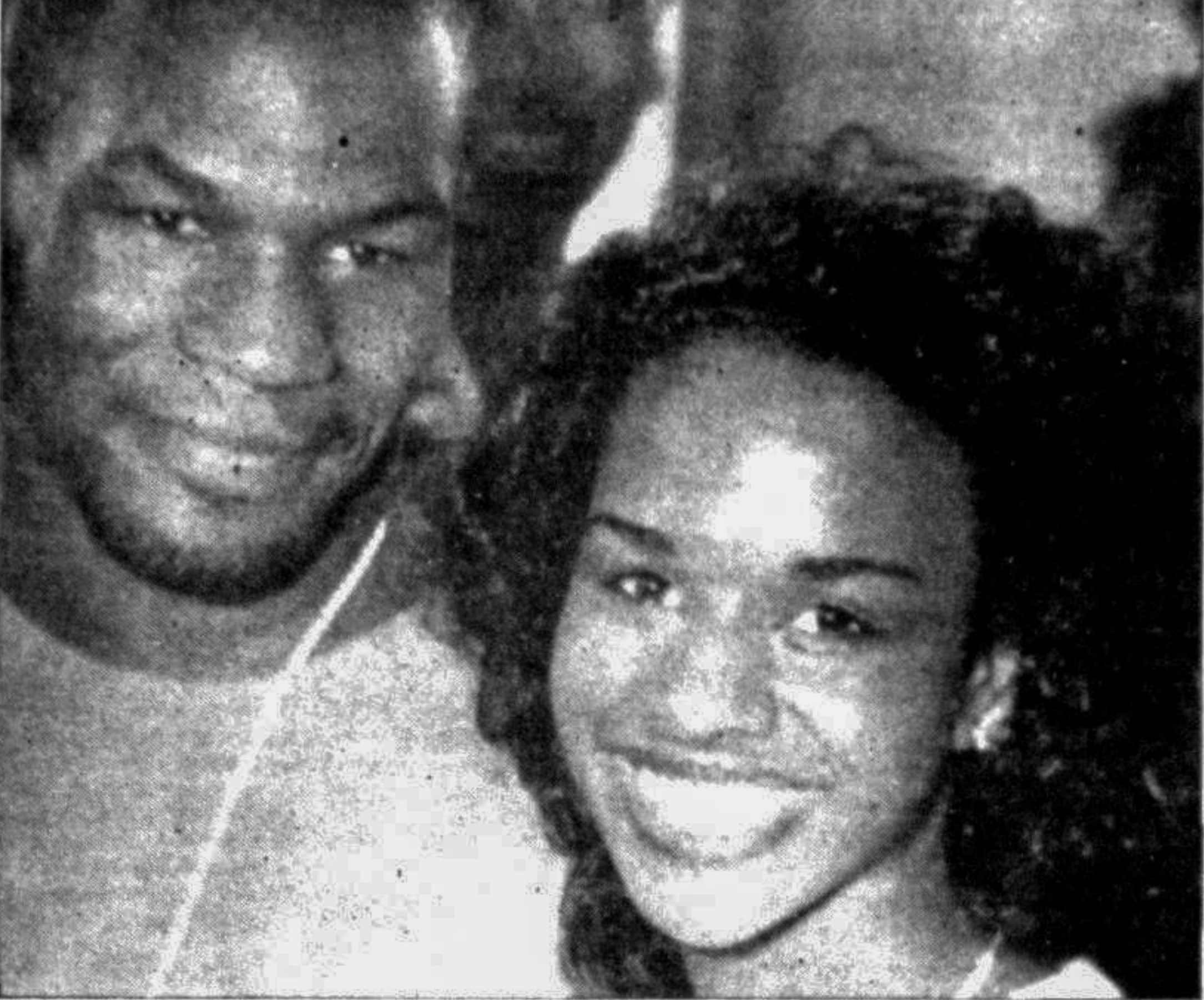
The fighter, who in 1986 at the age of 20 became the youngest man ever to win the heavyweight crown only to lose it four years later, was immediately led away by guards.

His victim, 19-year-old college student and former beauty

pageant contestant Desiree Washington "was disappointed that there was no real regret or remorse expressed by

would be back. "He will come back," Sugar told CBS radio. "Judging by his following, and he is the most

prosecutors had said they would ask for up to 10 years and the judge has a reputation for handing down sentences in



Mike Tyson and Desiree Washington photographed in a happier mood hours before Tyson allegedly raped her. — Star file photo

Tyson", a member of the prosecution team said.

"She is in prison herself for the rest of her life because of the crime committed against her," the prosecutor, Barbara Trathen, told reporters after talking with Washington by telephone.

The rape occurred last July in Indianapolis, where Washington was taking part in the Miss Black America beauty pageant.

Some observers said Tyson's jail sentence could effectively end his boxing career. But veteran boxing journalist Bert Sugar said Tyson

popular boxer since Muhammad Ali, he is sure of being a multi-million-dollar card again.

Gifford said she was denying bond for Tyson while his sentence and conviction were appealed because she believed he might flee the country and there was a risk he might rape someone else.

It was not immediately clear where he would be sent to serve his full term, but officials said one of the two Indiana state prisons were the most likely destinations.

The length of the sentence was not a surprise because

the six-to-seven-year range in rape cases such as Tyson's.

But the fact that Tyson went immediately to jail was not expected. Court observers had suggested that his lack of an adult criminal record would make the Brooklyn-born fighter a safe bet for release on bond pending appeal.

In a rambling 12-minute statement before sentencing, Tyson told the court: "My conduct was kind of crazy, I agree." But he added, "I didn't rape anyone. I didn't attempt to rape anyone. I'm sorry. I did something but I didn't mean to... my conduct was kind of crazy, I agree."

Price of victory

KARACHI, Mar 27: Cricket fans celebrating Pakistan's World Cup victory by firing weapons in the air killed at least five people, police and residents said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Stray bullets killed three people in Pakistan's largest city, Karachi, on Wednesday night, including a young woman watching the celebrations from a window, police said.

Two people were killed in the Peshawar area of North West Frontier province, scene of most of the celebratory firing after Pakistan beat England by 22 runs in the Melbourne final.

Overjoyed fan Ghulam Hussain died of a heart attack in a village near Islamabad while watching a live broadcast of the award ceremony on television, his son said.

"My father loudly shouted 'Pakistan Zindabad' (long live Pakistan) when Imran Khan was receiving the trophy, and collapsed," son Mohammad Hussain said.

Trigger-happy Pashtuns in Pakistan's semi-autonomous north-western tribal area fired off rockets and anti-aircraft guns to celebrate the win, newspapers said.

The victory also brought a rare message of support from rival and neighbour India.

Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman congratulated Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the national team's "resounding success."

Ishaq Khan's response was not immediately available.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947 and their rivalry is often reflected in their cricket and hockey matches.

Experts expect a return to ring

NEW YORK, Mar 27: A judge may have delivered a knockout blow to Mike Tyson on Thursday, but many boxing insiders agree that the former heavyweight champion will be back earning millions of dollars after serving his prison sentence, reports Reuter.

"If he serves his time and is out in three or four years, he will certainly be able to resume his career," said boxing promoter Dan Duva, who represents heavy-weight champion Evander Holyfield. "(Tyson's) 25 now, 28 is not too old to come back."

The former champion on Thursday was sentenced to 10 years in jail by Judge Patricia Gifford in Indianapolis, Indiana, for raping a beauty pageant contestant in his hotel room last July. Gifford suspended four years of the sentence and Tyson was immediately led away to begin serving a six-year prison term.

Duva said he felt the heavy-weight division would remain exciting in Tyson's absence.

"We have a great championship fight coming up between Holyfield and (Larry) Holmes and there will be other great championship fights after that."

But Bert Sugar, a boxing historian and editor of Boxing Illustrated magazine, disagreed.

"I think the heavyweight division will suffer. Tyson taken from the equation takes away the sport's biggest gate attraction," Sugar said. "Right now it's Evander Holyfield and the seven dwarfs."

With time off for good behaviour, Tyson could be out of

prison in three years and Sugar said he will be as big a draw as ever.

"I see million-dollar purses," Sugar said. "I think in three years he will be even more of an attraction when he comes back. Society will make him a quasi-reclamation project. I think he will be all the more popular the second time around."

Sugar said it remained to be seen whether Tyson can regain his old form, but his appeal will never be in doubt.

"His boxing skills have already started to erode. I don't know if the skills will still be there, but he will still be a marquee name and a kind of perverse popularity will be there."

Boxing promoter Bob Arum, who handles former champions George Foreman and Larry Holmes, both over 40, says there is no way Tyson is finished, even if he serves his full sentence.

"To say that Mike Tyson is lost to boxing forever is baloney," Arum said. "He's like a baby compared to my fighters."

Manager and promoter Butch Lewis, who handled former heavyweight champion Michael Spinks, said Tyson will definitely be back.

"When he comes out, Mike Tyson doesn't know anything else to do. It's not like he's going to practice law," Lewis said.

"Certainly he returns to the sport. From what I read about his financial situation, he won't have a choice."

Lewis said it was up to Tyson to remain a viable title contender while in jail.

"If he's strong-minded enough, he will say 'Let me at least make good use of this

time. Even if I can't practise my skills I can keep them honed and stay in condition."

Sugar said he was only worried that Tyson will be forced to practise his skills in jail.

"I do know people behind bars well enough to know that there will probably be someone who will want to prove that he, not Mike Tyson, is the baddest man on the planet and how (Tyson) deals that situation could determine his future."

However, Rock Newman, manager of heavyweight contender Riddick Bowe, said he did not see Tyson having a dramatic impact on the heavyweight picture upon his return.

"It's a fantasy that a lot of people like to have... a triumphant return," Newman said.

"His skills had eroded immensely two years ago and now the will be shut down for three years or so. I just don't think he has it," Newman added.

Lewis expressed particular outrage that Tyson was not allowed to stay out of prison pending appeal.

"I could not understand why or how the judge... refused to allow him due process to exhaust all his appeals," Lewis said.

"What if the appeal takes one to two years and let's say he's acquitted on appeal, they can not give him that time back."

But Lewis said boxing will survive and added the sport should not be allowed to suffer from Tyson's tarnished image.

"The sport itself will go on as it always has," Lewis said. "Too many people mix the crime with the sport."

Chronology of case

INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 27: A brief chronology of former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson's rape case:

1991:

- July 18 — Tyson meets Desiree Washington, a Miss Black America contestant, at pageant rehearsal.
- July 19 — Tyson and Washington go to the boxer's hotel room in the early morning hours.
- July 20 — Washington calls 911 and says she was raped by a celebrity.
- July 22 — Washington files a complaint with police alleging Tyson raped her.
- Sept. 9 — Grand jury returns four-count indictment after hearing 36 witnesses.
- Sept. 11 — Tyson booked and released on \$30,000 cash bond.
- 1992:
- Jan. 21 — Judge denies motion to delay trial.
- Jan. 27 — Trial begins with jury selection in Marion Superior Court.
- Jan. 30-31 — Washington testifies.
- Feb. 4 — Prosecution rests its case.
- Feb. 7-8 — Tyson testifies.
- Feb. 9 — Defense rests its case.
- Feb. 10 — Tyson convicted on rape and criminal deviate conduct charges.
- March 26 — Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford sentenced Tyson to six years in prison, denied him bail and ordered him to serve the term immediately.

Lawyers hope to win appeal

INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 27: Mike Tyson's attorneys hoped to persuade an appeals panel Friday to release the boxer from prison while they try to get his rape conviction overturned, reports AP.

"A case isn't over until an appeal is finished," said attorney Alan M Dershowitz, the Harvard law professor known for taking on celebrities' appeals. "That lady in the opera hasn't sung yet."

Within an hour after Tyson was ordered to serve six years in prison, Dershowitz asked the Indiana Court of Appeals to intervene on an emergency basis and set the former heavyweight champion free pending an appeal.

A three-judge Court of Appeals panel was to consider the request at a hearing scheduled to start at 1900 GMT Friday.

"This is a very, very serious appeal," Dershowitz said. "The great tragedy is if we win this appeal a year down the line and Mr Tyson would have spent that time in prison."

Dershowitz hopes to convince the appellate court that Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford "was simply wrong" when she decided Tyson should be put in jail immediately after his sentencing Thursday.

Tyson was convicted Feb 10 of one count of rape and two of criminal deviate conduct. On each count, Gifford handed Tyson 10 years with four years

suspended. The terms are to run concurrently.

"Every moment Mr Tyson spends in confinement is a moment of injustice," Dershowitz said.

The attorney said Indiana law allows people convicted of felonies such as rape to be set free pending an appeal. Dershowitz said his client is willing to accept any conditions the appellate panel might want to attach in letting Tyson free on bail.

Dershowitz said it was preposterous to think Tyson might flee.

"If there's one human being on the face of this Earth who couldn't flee, it's Mr Tyson," said Dershowitz, noting his client's celebrity status. "He just wants to be vindicated. He wants to appeal, and he wants to go on with his life."

Indiana legal authorities said Dershowitz was using a rare legal maneuver to try to get the Court of Appeals to make its own ruling on whether a person can remain free pending an appeal.

"It's very normal on the part of the trial judge to order a person to jail," said Richard P Good, executive director of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council. "What she did was what she does in most cases. That's the norm."

The unusual thing is for the Court of Appeals to get involved," he said.

Good said the appellate panel has the power to make its own ruling on an appeal bond without finding that the trial judge acted improperly or

abused her discretion.

Dershowitz initially tried to get a hearing Thursday afternoon, but Chief Judge Wesley W Ratliff of the Court of Appeals denied a motion for a stay of Tyson's imprisonment and assigned the case to the court's 2nd District panel.

Once the issue of whether Tyson remains in jail is resolved, attorneys will pursue an appeal of his conviction. That will probably take at least a year, Good said.

In an affidavit filed with the appellate court, Dershowitz said the appeal "will raise substantial issues of law that are likely to result in a reversal of the conviction and a new trial."

He charged that Gifford incorrectly instructed the jury at Tyson's trial and that she improperly denied a defense request to put three witnesses on the stand.

Those witnesses, Dershowitz's affidavit said, would have said Tyson and Desiree Washington, the 19-year-old beauty pageant contestant he was convicted of raping, "were all over each other, kissing and hugging" in the back seat of Tyson's limousine en route to his hotel.

The barred testimony also would have shown Tyson and Washington were holding hands when they entered the lobby of his hotel. She said he raped her after they went to his hotel room. Tyson said she consented to sex.

Prosecutors objected to the testimony because the witnesses weren't on the original list of people expected to testify at the trial.

Insists on his innocence

INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 27: Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson told a court on Thursday he was not guilty of raping a beauty queen but described his conduct as "kind of crazy... kind of crazy," reports Reuter.

He said he expected the worst when he was sentenced for the crime later in the day.

"My conduct was kind of crazy, I agree," the boxer said in a rambling 12-minute statement.

"I didn't rape anyone. I didn't attempt to rape anyone. I'm sorry," he added.

"I did something but I didn't mean to... my conduct was kind of crazy, I agree," he said.

"I'd like to apologise to her but she's not here," Tyson said of 19-year-old Desiree Washington, who pressed the rape charges against him.

"I expect the worst. I don't know if I can deal with it but I expect the worst," he said.

At times, pounding the podium with his ham-sized fists, Tyson, dressed in a dark grey suit, told the court "I'm not coming here to beg for mercy. I've been humiliated."

A tempest dogged by troubles

INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 27: Trouble and Mike Tyson have been a team for most of the fighter's life and until Thursday his talent in the ring overcame his problems in the outside world, reports Reuter.

But Tyson, the self-styled "baddest man on the planet" is now in jail — sentenced to six years for rape. The 25-year-old former world champion's career could be over.

It is a career that will not soon be forgotten, but one always accompanied by the fighter's off-stage difficulties.

His punching power and pit-bull ferocity in the ring pumped a rush of new excitement into boxing, a sport that lives and breathes from the very violence outlawed elsewhere.

Former champ Larry Holmes was perhaps the most prophetic when he said of Tyson before they fought in 1988 that Tyson would end up either dead or in prison within five years.

"He's going down in history as an SOB. If he does happen to win the fight, down the line he'll destroy himself," said Holmes, who was knocked out in the fourth round.

The Brooklyn-born Tyson has been confined before, arrested for purse snatching as a 12-year-old in New York, and sent to a reform school.

He was expelled from school for a series of transgressions, most of which were smoothed over by his mentor

and surrogate father, legendary fight trainer Cus D'Amato. He took the young fighter out of New York to the quiet of his upstate training camp and taught him how to channel his fury.

But Tyson propositioned a female clerk in a nearby town and was tossed out of a movie theatre for similar behaviour.

D'Amato didn't give up, spending long hours discussing the power of the mind to turn fear into an ally, and Tyson became at 20 the youngest heavyweight champion of the world, knocking out Trevor Berbick in November 1986 in Las Vegas.

Tyson is a winner. Tyson is more blatantly self-serving and aggressive (than we are). He has been fascinating because he's brutal and extremely successful with it," said Dr Bill Hoffman, a psychiatrist in Providence, RI.

After beating Berbick, Tyson rattled off nine straight victories, while adding more titles.

By then, however, D'Amato was dead, his soothing influence gone. And when Tyson married television starlet Robin Givens, the merry-go-round of trouble outside the ring started again.

Tyson threw things at Givens, police were called to their home. Givens went on national television with the champion and claimed he abused her. A docile Tyson, drugged on a tranquilizer, sat by her side, his wife petting him.

In March 1988, Jim Jacobs, who had replaced D'Amato

as Tyson's closest mentor, also died.

On June 27, Tyson fought the biggest-grossing fight of his career, knocking out Michael Spinks in 91 seconds.

The next day he sued his manager, Bill Cayton, to break their contract.

Tyson then rammed his car into a tree, threatened a reporter and chased Givens and her mother from his house. In October Givens filed for divorce and Tyson counter-sued for divorce and annulment.

Tyson exploded again, calling Givens and her mother, "the slime of the slime."

With all the troubles in the outside world Tyson was unbeatable in the ring until February 1990 in Tokyo, when James "Buster" Douglas staged one of the biggest upsets in boxing history by knocking out in the 10th round the man said to be invincible.

Tyson won four bouts since then, raising his record to 40-1 setting the stage for a title fight against champ Evander Holyfield, the richest bout in the sport's history.

But before Tyson could get in the ring again he was charged with raping Desiree Washington, 18, in Indianapolis.

Tyson said the post-midnight encounter in his hotel room was consensual. The 108-pound (49-kg) Washington said the 220-pound (100-kg) fighter thrust himself on her, ripped off her clothes, performed oral sex on her, then raped her.

Judge known as stern but fair

INDIANAPOLIS, Mar 27: The judge who sentenced Mike Tyson to prison on Thursday has a reputation as a fair but stern law-and-order jurist who in her 13 years on a bench has ordered four murderers sent to the electric chair, reports Reuter.

Judge Patricia Gifford, 53, is also a former prosecutor who helped draft an Indiana rape law that prohibits defence lawyers from questioning rape victims in court about their past sex lives.

As an assistant prosecutor for Marion County she won convictions in 48 of 52 rape trials she handled. She was one of the first women prosecutors in the United States to handle sex crimes.

Over the years she has earned a reputation of being tough but fair.

She has been considered especially tough on men convicted of sex offences — as Tyson was — and has a record of handing out long sentences to sex offenders who attack women and children.

She is the mother of a daughter who is about the same age as Tyson's rape victim, Desiree Washington, 19.



Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson walking into the courthouse for sentencing in Indianapolis on March 26. Tyson was found guilty of raping a beauty queen and was sentenced to six years in prison. — AFP photo

Volleyball results

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Rifles won their respective matches of the M V Eagle Independence Day volleyball competition at the Outer Stadium volleyball court yesterday.

Navy beat Air Force 15-7, 15-9 and 15-5 while Rifles outplayed Titas Club 15-4, 15-6 and 15-10.

Organised by the Bangladesh Volleyball Federation, five teams are taking part in the meet which is scheduled to complete on March 30.

Grant, who is Hong Kong's No. 2, defeated Sri Lanka's No. 1 Jayendra Wijeyesekera 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 in 90 minutes Hong Kong star Michael Walker swamped Dishan Herath 6-0, 6-0 6-0 the opening singles.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Girl's name

5 Greek cheese

9 Summer need

12 TV's Norman

13 Isles off Ireland

14 Yellow bugle

15 Piece of burning wood

17 Blushing

18 New Mexican resort

19 Setting for Pavarotti

21 Allude

24 Stumble

25 "Exodus" author

26 Frightens suddenly

30 Malay gibbon

31 Plant and animal life

32 Two-time

33 Raises in rank

35 CAT follower

36 Anger

37 English

help

2 Island garland

3 Deface

4 Mountain crests

5 Gambling game

6 Special times

7 Beach bonus

8 Pyrenees republic

9 Early home-heater

10 Affirm

11 Nothing, in Madrid

16 Legal profession

20 Word with bull or

21 Regulation

22 Of an epoch

23 Large, bright meteors

24 Makes lace

26 Scene

27 Water tester?

28 Common catchall

29 Having good sense

31 Sinister

34 Energy

35 Scorched

37 Luau dish

38 Baseball's Ruth

39 Charge against property

40 Goody-goody

41 Soaks flux

44 "Sentimental Mood"

45 WWII org.

46 Hair or drag follower

47 "The Old Man and the —"

Solution time: 21 mins.

ABET ARU OMAR
BREAKS IN DOVE
BALLROOM EDEN
LAR ASSERT
BATON BIAS
AROW BALLAST
GARBERET PAD
BALLARD MORO
EURE METER
REDSEA AIM
EXIT BALLOONS
NAVE LIVEITUP
OMER ELA ROTA

Thursday's answer 9-24

CRYPTOQUIP

TK BRLZK BQZVYZD LZ Y

NQSDTDUYSUEC ELUY

URYCY WQNVYW

Thursday's Cryptoquip: DULL MUSICAL COMPOSITION CALLED FOR THE PROFESSIONAL SINGERS TO HO-HUM.

Cryptoquip clue: Z equals R

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.