

Mike Tyson comes face to face with his next opponent Buster Mathis Jr (R) during a press conference at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Friday. The two are scheduled to fight on November 4. — AFP/UNB photo

'Magic's' moment of truth!

MANILA, Oct 7: American basketball legend Earin "Magic" Johnson will only be welcome to visit the Philippines if he promises immigration officials he will not spread the disease, reports said Saturday, reports AP.

Immigration Commissioner Leandro Verceles said that though existing laws bar people with AIDS from entering the country, Johnson will be allowed in if he promises not to spread it.

Johnson must guarantee he will "take precautionary measures to prevent untoward incidents," before he can visit the country, Verceles was quoted as saying by several local newspapers.

The former LA Lakers superstar, who retired after learning he carried the AIDS virus, is scheduled to arrive in Manila on Oct 27 to talk about life with the disease. He was invited by Health Secretary Hilarion Ramiro.

Johnson will also play an exhibition game with fellow former NBA stars while in Manila.

Verceles' statement, reported by local newspapers on Saturday, followed reports that Johnson was barred from visiting Taiwan because he carries the virus.

Johnson's team was to visit Taipei on Oct 30 from Manila for two exhibition games against Taiwan's Hung Fu Rams basketball team.

Courier in semis

TOULOUSE, France, Oct 7: Former world number-one Jim Courier took another step towards his fifth title of the season on Friday when he swept into the semi-finals of the 400,000 dollar ATP tournament here by overwhelming Karol Kucera of Slovakia, reports AP.

The hard-hitting top-seeded American, currently ranked eighth in the world rankings and winner in Basel last weekend, scored a 6-2, 6-1 win.

French hopes of a title winner were also kept alive when both Cedric Pioline and Arnaud Boetsch won their quarterfinal matches.

The other semifinalist will be Olympic champion Marc Rosset of Switzerland.

Majoli stuns Novotna

ZURICH, Oct 7: Croatian teenager Iva Majoli put aside defeats in all five of her previous meetings with Jans Novotna to upset the top-seeded Czech 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 in the European Women's indoor quarter-finals on Friday, reports Reuters.

It was a great triumph for the 18-year-old world number 13, who had to survive a lapse of concentration in the second set before winning the third.

Second seed Mary Pierce of France, the Australian Open champion, duly took her place in the last four when she beat big-hitting Dutchwoman Brenda Schultz 7-6 (7-3), 6-4.

Phillippoussis faces Rios in final

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7: Australian teenager Mark Philippoussis played a solid service game to upset fourth seeded American Patrick McEnroe 6-3, 6-3 today to reach the final of the Salem Open ATP Tour Championships, reports Reuters.

Garri half a point away

NEW YORK, Oct 7: Garri Kasparov and Viswanathan Anand agreed to a second successive quick draw in Friday's 16th game of the Professional Chess Association World Championship, reports Reuters.

Title holder Kasparov, coasting to the fifth successful defence of his crown, offered Anand the draw after his 20th move with the white pieces and with not much more than an hour on the clocks. The Indian challenger immediately accepted.

Kasparov leads the best-of-20 game series by 9-1/2 points to 6-1/2 points after four wins and 11 draws since the contest that began September 11 in a glass bo-

oth on the observation deck of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Anand has won one game. Friday's quick draw, similar to Thursday's 16-move game, leaves Kasparov one draw away from retaining the title and two draws or a win from winning the match outright and almost one million dollars from sponsor Intel Corp.

The victor will be the first to reach 10-1/2 point, but under the rules, Kasparov would keep the title in the event of a 10-10 tie. The loser collects 500,000 dollars.

Although grandmaster experts believe the 25-year-old Anand's chances of catching Kasparov are hopeless, he still put on a brave face at the

post-game news conference.

"Actually I think I might have one more shot at him," He said when asked whether he should resign the match. Four more games are scheduled next week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Kasparov chose a king's pawn opening and Anand replied with a variation of the Sicilian defence the pair had played with opposite colours in game 7 on September 21. Kasparov departed from that game by placing a bishop in the centre of the board on his 16th move.

The game slipped into equality after the exchanged of a black knight for a white bishop on move 18 and two moves later the draw was agreed with a handshake.

WORLD CHESS NOTEBOOK

NEW YORK, Oct 7 (AP): For six months, Per Andreassen's chess opponents found a novel way to intimidate him — they carried machine guns.

While the burly Danish police officer was working as a United Nations peacekeeper in the former Yugoslavia, he helped rebuild a chess club near Vukovar and used the game to connect with soldiers from all sides of the war.

"Sometimes I said take your guns off the table when we play chess and they respected that," said Andreassen, who was required by the UN to be unarmed at all times.

Andreassen, who came to New York City for a week to watch the Professional Chess Association World Championship, said he faced opposition in former Yugoslavia who fired machine guns into the air between moves. Others brandished knives or pistols, or were just plain drunk.

"From time to time I had to lose for good relations," he said.

Back in Denmark, Andreassen, 40, patrols the streets of Aalborg, a city of 150,000 that has only two murders a year. When a New York cop asked what calibre of gun he used, Andreassen said he wasn't sure.

"I said in the 16 years that I've been a police officer I've never had to take out a gun

and use it," Andreassen explained. "He said 'Oh come on, you must be kidding. But I wasn't. It's true.'"

As Inna Koren watched world champion Garri Kasparov win the tenth game against Viswanathan Anand, she saw a face from the past.

"That look hasn't changed since he was a kid," she said of Kasparov. "It was the same expression. He was very sure of himself."

Koren vividly remembers meeting Kasparov for the first time 20 years ago in their home town of Baku, Azerbaijan. The 12-year-old Kasparov was taking on an 11-year-old Koren — and 14 other players simultaneously.

"He was already a celebrity, a young prodigy," said Koren, who shared a chess teacher with Kasparov.

Koren emigrated to America at 15, became a citizen, graduated from Yale and now devises investment strategies for Prudential Securities. She crossed paths again with Kasparov in 1988, after she helped a former top Soviet female player defect during a competition in Greece.

Koren, a member of the US team, got into a fight with a KGB official when he tried to snatch a letter she had received from the defector.

Kasparov, who had engaged in several bitter battles

with the former Soviet sports establishment, came over. Koren recalls him saying, "I am pleased that a person from my hometown did this."

The match has provided another addicting experience for British Grand Master Daniel King, who is co-anchoring coverage on the American cable television sports network ESPN.

Kasparov's last title defence, in 1993, was against Britain's Nigel Short in London. Chess was suddenly fashionable in Britain, and King caught the public's eye as a TV commentator.

King, a bohemian 32-year-old who resembles actor Daniel Day Lewis, says he received "a sackful" of letters from female admirers. Six months later, he appeared in national newspaper ads trumpeting the latest Audi as "The Car That Thinks."

"I've been fighting all my life against the image that chess is a boring game for gray-haired old men," he said. "And finally I was vindicated."

King, who has done more TV work since then, says it's important to keep being recognised in perspective.

"Fame is a drug, it's extremely addictive," he exclaimed. "But if you take it too seriously it's extremely dangerous."

Reality bites Simpson

LOS ANGELES, Oct 7: OJ Simpson began to pull the pieces of his life together on Thursday as reality set in after the euphoria of being cleared of murder charges and returning home from 15 months in jail, reports Reuters.

Simpson's lead defence attorney, Johnnie Cochran, appealed to the families of the victims — Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman — to drop wrongful death civil lawsuits against the American football legend.

Talking to reporters in Cleveland Ohio, where he had a speaking engagement, Cochran said, "At some point there should be closure on this. The jury has spoken and I have said to the families' rethink this — You should look at what the jury said and not pursue these suits."

He also praised the family of Nicole Brown Simpson for its 'integrity' in the way it is handling the child custody issues regarding Simpson and his ex-wife's children, Sydney, 9, and Justin, 7. The Browns have said they will not fight to keep court-

ordered custody of the children, which they have had since shortly after Simpson's arrest last year.

Simpson was reunited with his children at a private rendezvous on Wednesday night but it was not clear when they would come to live with him.

Meanwhile, in the continued bickering among the football hero's dream team of defence lawyers, F. Lee Bailey accused colleague Robert Shapiro of trying to arrange a plea bargain in which Simpson would have pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of his ex-wife and Goldman, with his pal Robert Kardashian admitting to being an accessory, according to People magazine.

"My God, Shapiro wanted OJ to plead guilty, in fact he tried to have him plead guilty to manslaughter, in which Bob Kardashian would be an accessory," Bailey is quoted as saying in an interview to be published in next week's edition.

The magazine, which released portions of its article on Thursday, quoted Kardashian, an attorney, as backing

up Bailey's claim. But Shapiro, also quoted by People, denied it. "From Day One, OJ told me he was innocent. I never asked him to plead anything other than not guilty."

Shapiro also criticised Cochran's closing arguments, which Shapiro said "patronised the jury."

In Washington, Attorney General Janet Reno said the Justice Department's civil rights unit had begun investigating allegations of police misconduct raised at Simpson's trial. Officials said the conclusion of the trial meant the Justice Department could now evaluate all available evidence and conduct future investigations as warranted.

With legal costs reportedly estimated at more than 6 million dollars for his nine-month trial, Simpson needs to generate cash. Kardashian has said the football legend is considering an interview on pay-per-view cable television as a way of doing it, and there could also be books, personal appearances and film deals in the works.

ESPN comes to India

NEW DELHI, Oct 7: Global sports network ESPN has launched a special free-to-air preview for India, one of the hottest television markets in Asia, a company release said here today, reports AFP.

The special service, aired since mid-September, will be unencrypted until the end of the year after which the round-the-clock service will be available only through authorised cable or affiliated operators, it said.

"There has been an enormous demand for the service," ESPN Asia Ltd managing director Alexander Brown said. "India's millions of sports fans can now see the entire Indian cricket season and other original sport programming, live, 24 hours a day."

India only has one sports channel, Prime Sports, aired by Rupert Murdoch's Star TV Network. It brought live coverage of several sport championships and competitions including golf, motor racing and boxing to India for the first time.

Jackson's threat

LONDON, Oct 7: World 110 metres hurdles record holder Colin Jackson of Britain said on Friday he would boycott domestic meetings next year, reports Reuters.

Jackson's insistence he would not run in events organised by the national federation while Peter Radford remained executive chairman re-kindled his row with the athletics chief.

Radford chastised Jackson three months ago for pulling out of the national championships with a groin injury, then competing the following day in Padua, Italy.

Jackson said: "I have made up my mind after the way Radford spoke to me in his office."

"He lectured me like a schoolboy, virtually accusing me of lying. He had the nerve to insult me in front of people."

"I went to Padua not for the money but to find the right race in urgent circumstances."

"Never again will I compete in a BAF (British Athletics Federation) meeting while Radford is in his present job. I have lost any respect I might have had from him. From now on, I do what I do."

Jackson said he would compete during the indoor season in Australia. In the English summer he would run in Europe and for his Welsh club.

His only major British appearance would be at the national championships — to gain selection for the Olympics.

BAF spokesman Tony Ward said: "We are happy to sit down face-to-face with an athlete and thrash out any problems."

No more options

FRANKFURT, Oct 7: FIFA is set to ban defenders heading the ball into the hands of their goalkeepers, in a further tightening of football's rules on back-passes, reports AFP.

Players have been banned from kicking the ball back to their keeper's hands since 1992, but have been allowed to head it back to them or flying it from a throw-in.

Now the game's ruling body worldwide want to outlaw the two latter options, according to the official newsletter of the German Football Federation (DFB).

FIFA will take a decision at its meeting in Belfast on March 9 next year, when it will also discuss sudden-death, instead of penalty shoot-outs, and kick-ins, instead of throw-ins.

Bosman's goal 'like the fall of the Berlin Wall'

By John Perlman

European football reacted with shock to a court recommendation limiting the right of clubs to charge transfer fees for players. But, as Gemini News Service reports, the game could benefit as a new system of player movement evolves.

As a young boy bursting with talent, Jean-Marc Bosman must have often dreamed that one day everyone in the world of soccer would know his name. In September that dream came true — except that when the photographers flashbulbs popped and the TV interviewers pushed forward, he was wearing a suit and tie and there wasn't a football in sight.

Bosman, a Belgian footballer who once captained his country's youth team, had spent five years mounting a legal challenge that called into question one of the fundamental practices of modern soccer — the right of clubs of buy and sell players.

tract came up for renewal, they offered him a derisory salary — hardly one quarter of what he had been earning. When a French second division club, Dunkerque, showed an interest in buying him, RFC Liege set a price of about \$462,000 — they had paid little more than \$100,000 for his services — which scared the buyers off.

Bosman decided to go to court claiming "restraint of trade", that his rights to pursue his profession were being illegally impeded. His litigation began in Belgium, but made its way to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Lenz was asked to investigate the case and deliver an opinion.

than crack. There are, after all, some critical issues at stake. For the smaller and less glamorous clubs, the revenue generated by the grooming and subsequent selling off of young players is essential to their survival.

They will be looking to offer younger players contracts that will ensure they cannot simply be poached and that this lifeline is not cut. And any football administration with half an idea about the future will know that the health of the game will depend on the lower divisions retaining an incentive to look for gems and polish them.

There is no way the Manchester United, AC Milans and Real Madrids of European can depend solely on their own nurseries, or provide the experience and on-the-job training offered by life in the tough lower divisions.

For example, English midfielder David Platt, whose combined transfers have been worth £22.15 million, cut his teeth with one of Britain's smallest clubs, Crewe Alexandra, before moving on to greater glory.

The Bosman case may well force soccer administrations to look more closely at the role of the little clubs.

If the importance of this role is recognised, and if the harsh abuse to which Bosman fell victim is curbed, then much good will have come out of the case. But whatever the final ruling of the European Commission, money will still continue to dominate the game.

The big question will be who gets the biggest slice of it. Players' agents have been a growing influence for years, and they certainly would have an interest in seeing top signing shorter contracts. When these expired, the agents would press for huge signing-on fees at new clubs, and massive salaries — revenue that would go to the players, rather than their previous clubs, and via that route to the agents.

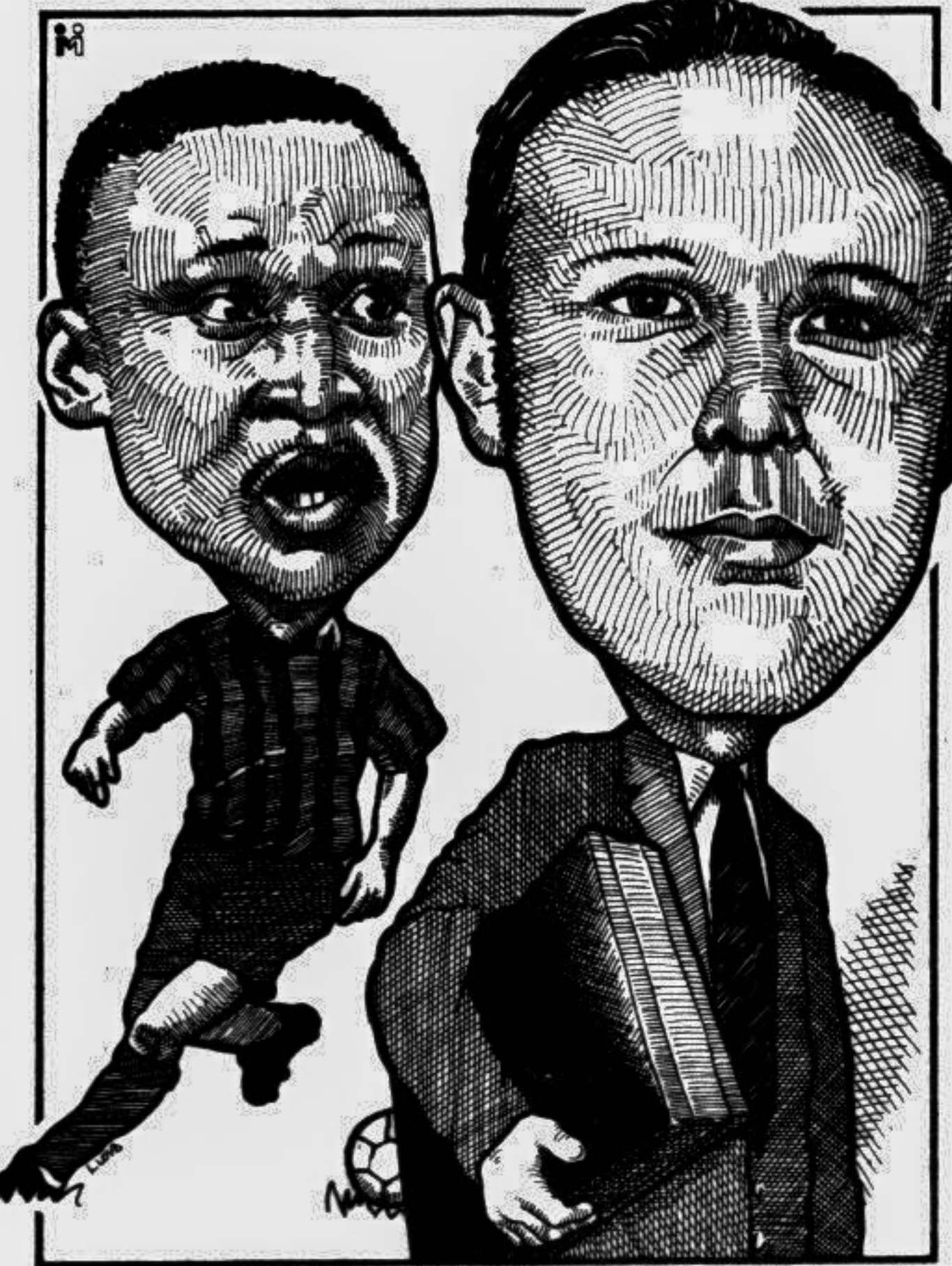
Free agency — the right of players to choose their next move and benefit from the profits once contracts expire — is an integral part of sports in the United States. But it is not a perfect system, and recently spawned a damaging eight-month baseball strike.

Soccer is unlikely to hit on a perfect system, but whatever takes shape it will be by evolution and not by prescription. The wellsprings of talent are too diverse, the needs and resources of each country, each league and each club too different. Transfers are likely to become more complex; contracts more detailed. But through all of this, the shrill sound of money talking will continue to resound as loud as the roars of the fans who care little about courts and even less for agents. — GEMINI

About the author: JOHN PERLMAN is a South African freelance journalist based in London. He was a reporter on the Weekly Mail, Johannesburg, and chief reporter on The Sunday Star.

Unstoppable Verdy

TOKYO, Oct 7: Brazilian Alcindo slammed in a pair of goals Saturday as Verdy Kawasaki came from behind to beat Jubilo Iwata 3-2 in the Japanese Professional Soccer League, reports AP.



Tony Yeboah, Jean-Marc Bosman: Soccer in turmoil

He finally found an ally in the most powerful court in Europe.

Otto Lenz, an advocate-general of the European Court of Justice, found that the Treaty of Rome, which governs European Union affairs, prohibits a football club "from being able to demand or receive payment... when one of its players whose contract has expired is engaged by another club".

For Bosman, Lenz's finding meant personal vindication and a giant step closer to the £650,000 in damages he is claiming from his former club RFC Liege.

But the soccer world was shocked by the ruling, which Bosman himself likened to the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Football would never be the same again, said some. The smaller clubs, which depended on selling the talent they had nurtured, would soon go to the wall. The bigger clubs, which had spent heavily on the stars, would find their asset balance slashed. Soccer clubs in South America and Africa, which have supplied Europe with stars such as Ghana's Yeboah and Romario of Brazil, would find themselves pillaged by the agents of European clubs.

Bosman's campaign in the courts began in 1990 when RFC Liege decided that he was not going to deliver on the promise he had shown as a youngster. When his con-

Despite the hysterical reaction from some quarters, his ruling is specific and narrow in focus. For a start, he is dealing only with players whose contracts have expired. So the Bosman case does not spell the end to all transfers.

Lenz has merely made a recommendation. While most observers say it is likely to be accepted by the European Commission, this will not be done before the transfer systems which apply in all European Union countries have been studied, since these differ widely.

England and France, for instance, already have domestic rules which prevent out-of-contract players from being held hostage to unreasonable demands, as Bosman was. In France, transfer fees can be asked for out-of-contract players only in specific circumstances: when they are leaving their first club or moving abroad. In England, players whose contracts have expired must be offered either new terms as least as good as those at which they were engaged, or they must be released for free.

The European Commission is expected to take the state of affairs in individual countries into account before implementing European Union-wide rules. This process will take at least a year.

What seems likely is that the system will shift rather



Creator of "The People vs O.J. Simpson Trivia Game," Bill Zuckerman poses with the game in Beverly Hills, California on Oct 6. — AFP/UNB photo