

Nothing Like Old Times

As Sparky Lyle was saying: "It would be good if George came in and chewed us out to make us feel at home."

Under his sweeping, upturned mustache, Lyle laughed at the recollection. It was Oldtimers Day, 10 years after the great comeback of '78, and only the names had changed. Nearly every day on the way to work in Atlantic City, Lyle drives into the circulation range of the New York papers and chuckles at the ranting and ravings of the owner.

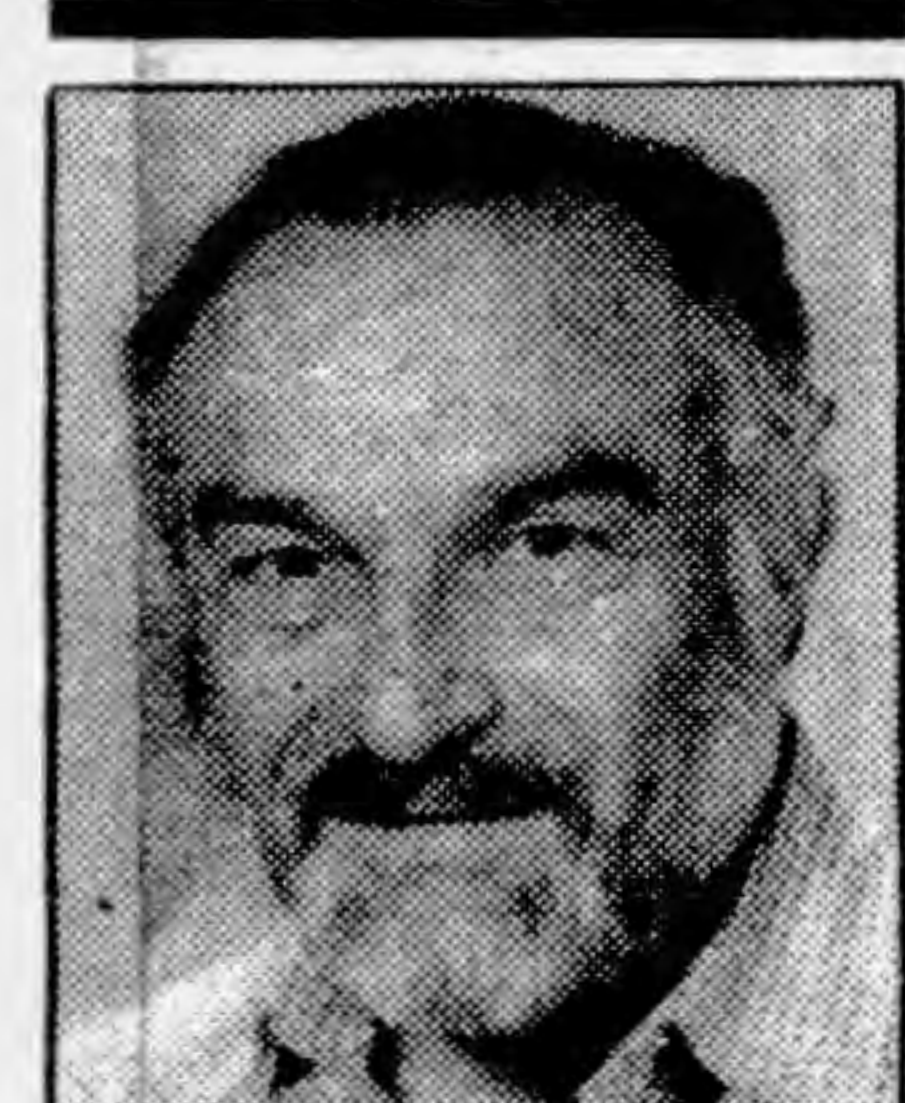
"It just makes me homesick," Lyle said.

The recollection is so fresh. After all, 1978 wasn't so long ago, was it?

When the Yankees weren't running away the way Steinbrenner insisted — it could have been '77 or '78 as well as '88 — he'd give his "down on the docks" speech about the demanding life of the dockworker. "As if he'd ever worked on the docks," said Lyle, the Count of relief pitchers.

And when they'd messed up a game, someone — usually Graig Nettles — would say, dripping with sarcasm: "Oh, jeez, George is going to say something about this or that." And they'd be fully prepared — or even overprepared.

George hasn't changed and he's never going to change. Emotional conditions on that team were more trying than on this



Steve Jacobson

one because there was lateral conflict among the players — "Mutterers' Row" — as well as vertical, from master to servant. But that 1977-78 team was made up of the toughest players you ever saw. Not just the stars; Dick Tidrow, a utility pitcher, was as unyielding a competitor as there was.

"No matter what was said, you didn't let it distract you; not a guy didn't know his own capabilities," recalled Paul Blair, a skilled reserve outfielder who had been a star on the Baltimore teams led by Frank Robinson. He saw similar traits in Thurman Munson and Reggie Jackson. "Only one thing mattered: Playing up to your capabilities," Blair said.

"No matter what George says or what the distractions are, it has nothing to do with your performance. Obviously, this team cannot handle that. Obviously, it bothers them."

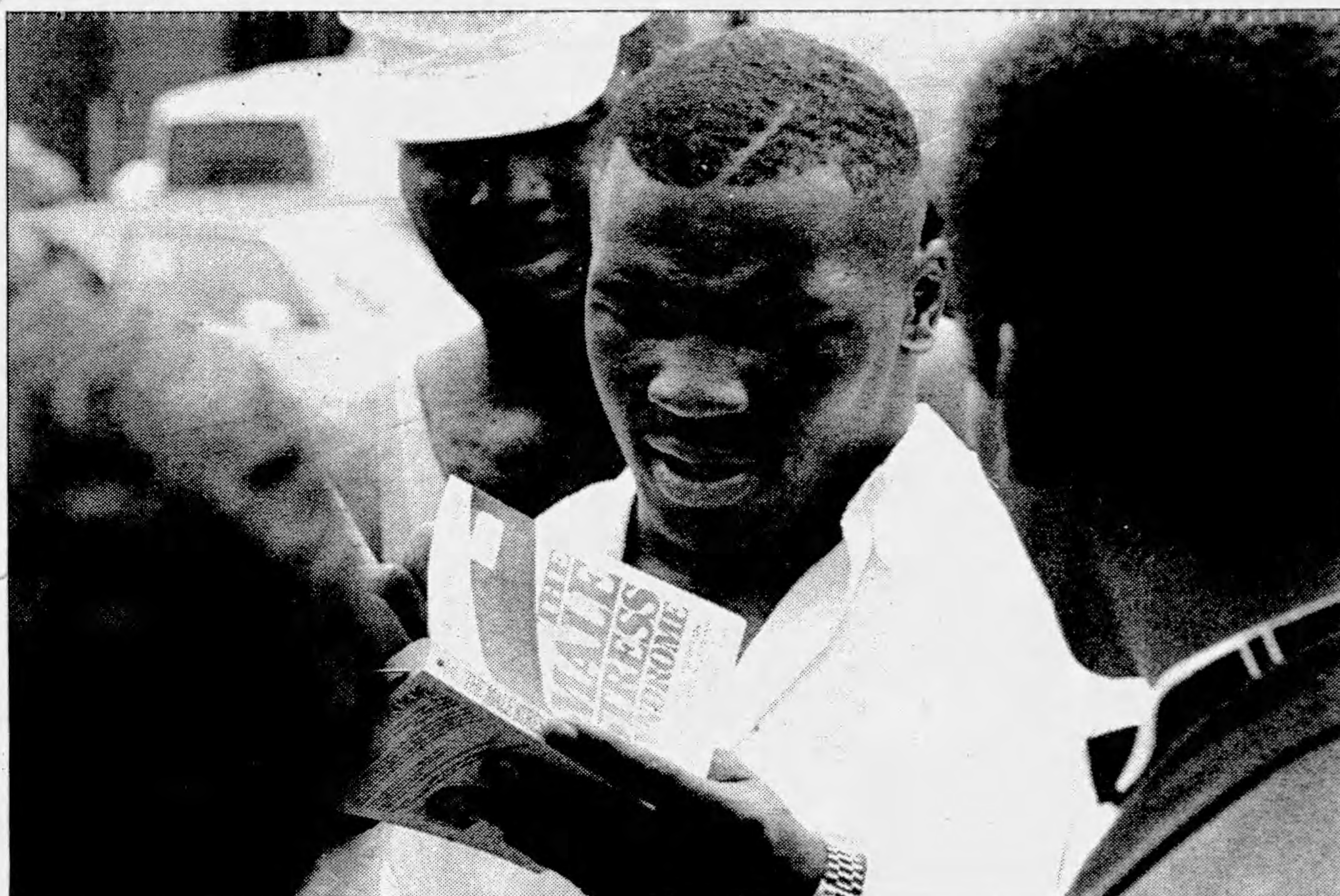
Obviously, it does. That team was a special assemblage of players who were veteran enough to know what they could do, young enough to do it and capable of drawing their focus so tightly on the job that the conflict was relegated to the clubhouse, the bar after the game or the newspapers. "That's what this team has to learn," Blair said. "I don't know how to learn that, but you have to."

Obviously, Steinbrenner hasn't learned that this team isn't made of the same stuff, and he hasn't won anything since 1981. He hasn't learned that demeaning these players doesn't improve performance.

But then these players haven't learned that he's the same old tyrant, just a little bit older and more self-centered. He is trying to win even if he goes about it the wrong way. And he is right that the leadership hasn't emerged from Dave Winfield, Don Mattingly and Rickey Henderson to shove Steinbrenner's comments into the darkness. That team had 10 players with leadership strength.

"When we were going bad, we could win a game or two; they don't," Blair said. "They don't think in their hearts and minds that they can win regardless. Thurman would do some-

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Newsday / Magdalena Zavala

Heavyweight champion Mike Tyson signed autographs before lunching in Long Island City yesterday

Tyson's, Cayton's Lawyers Spar

By Wallace Matthews

Lawyers for heavyweight champion Mike Tyson and his estranged manager, Bill Cayton, met in State Supreme Court in Manhattan yesterday, and instead of arguing motions, negotiated for six hours.

"The only thing that happened today was that we agreed to preserve the status quo," said Peter Parcher, an attorney for Tyson.

Parcher and Michael Winston will meet again today with Thomas Puccio, Cayton's attorney, in an attempt to clear the way for a Tyson-Frank Bruno title bout in September, and to insure that neither Tyson nor Cayton could touch any of Tyson's approximate \$20 million purse from his 91-second KO of Michael Spinks last month. If those two issues are not resolved

by the time court reconvenes at 10 a.m. tomorrow, both sides are prepared to proceed with a lawsuit brought by Tyson to dissolve his managerial contract with Cayton, which runs until 1992.

"I am pleased to report that progress has been made," Justice David H. Edwards said at 5:08 p.m. yesterday, more than six hours after the hearing had begun. But court was in session for a total of less than a half-hour, Tyson did not appear, and no testimony was heard. Instead, there was a series of private meetings between the lawyers, and twice, both legal teams met with Edwards in his chambers. While all this was going on, Tyson was lunching on sushi with his wife and mother-in-law in a Long Island City restaurant.

"The issues are not as narrow nor as simple as they seem," Edwards said. According to Puccio and Winston, the issues being discussed are not those in the lawsuit, but to make arrangements for Tyson to fight Bruno on Sept. 3 in London "without prejudice to either side," and to insure that neither Tyson nor Cayton can collect money from the Spinks fight until the lawsuit is settled, either in or out of court.

"If we can settle those two points [by tomorrow], then the litigation can go forward, or they'll settle it," Parcher said. Cayton has insisted he will not accept an out-of-court settlement.

"I have a contract, and I intend

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UPI Photo

Mike Tyson's manager Bill Cayton and Loraine Jacobs, widow of Jim Jacobs, at the courthouse.

The Tyson Ledger

According to documents released by Bill Cayton and his attorney, Thomas Puccio, Mike Tyson's net worth as of Dec. 31, 1987, was \$5,187,097. Tyson earned \$7,056,082 in 1987 before taxes and expenses, from which he netted \$3,363,134. As of Dec. 31, 1986, Tyson's net worth was \$1,823,963.

Tyson's Assets:	
Cash — Forman Account	\$79,526
Cash — Marine Midland Bank	\$25,551
Cash — Irving Trust	\$113,063
Cash — Irving Trust Money Market Acct	\$15,860
Cash — Apartment Account	\$31,886
Merrill-Lynch Cash Management Acct.	\$1,213,552
Investments — Tax-Exempt Securities	\$1,466,652
Investments — Life Ins. Policy	\$2,000,000
Automobiles	\$241,000
Net Worth:	\$5,187,097
Among Tyson's \$1,430,412 expenses in 1987 were:	
Cash drawings:	\$332,545
Jewelry:	\$219,819
Clothes:	\$178,314
Settlement of Lawsuit:	\$105,000
Limousine and Car Rental:	\$71,708
Rory Holloway (friend):	\$17,330
Robin Givens (girlfriend at time):	\$7,560
Shar-Pei (dog):	\$864
Food:	\$55

Not listed are Tyson's 1988 earnings, which include a \$26.5 million deal with HBO for eight; \$4 million for his fight with Larry Holmes, \$8 million for his fight with Tony Tubbs, or the approximately \$20 million he earned for fighting Michael Spinks.



Photo by Jon Naso

Rookie tackle John Elliott is taken off the practice field after suffering from cramps and dehydration

Elliott's Weighty Issue

Madison, N.J. — John Elliott, the Giants' second-round draft pick from Lake Ronkonkoma, was taken to Memorial Hospital yesterday after suffering from dehydration and stomach cramps during the afternoon practice.

Elliott, 23, received fluids, then was released last night, according to nursing supervisor Judy Wall.

"It's typical of a guy who has been dieting to make weight," coach Bill Parcells said. "He makes it through the morning, then starts getting stomach cramps in the afternoon."

Earlier in the day Elliott told reporters he had hardly eaten in the previous two days to make his reporting weight of 297 pounds, a weight Parcells said he imposed to see if Elliott, whose college playing weight hovered around 310 pounds, "had any discipline."

Elliott even got up at 5:30 yesterday morning and

ran around the FDU-Madison campus to shed a few more pounds before weighing in. But 40 minutes into the afternoon practice, he was on one knee with his head down. Eventually, a cart was summoned to carry the rookie tackle to the dressing room where he was picked up by an ambulance an hour later and taken to the hospital.

* * *

Top draft choice tackle Eric Moore remained unsigned and out of camp yesterday with no indication when he would be signed. . . Parcells plans to practice Karl Nelson only once-a-day until the veterans report Friday. Nelson missed last season with Hodgkins disease. . . The troublesome left hip of quarterback Mike Perez apparently has healed enough for him to practice. Perez donned full gear during the afternoon practice but seemed rusty throwing the ball.

— George Willis

White A Force Of One

Giants say he's too aggressive

By George Willis

Madison, N.J. — The condition of Adrian White's face after yesterday morning's first session in full gear was a good indication of the fervor he brings to the football field.

White, a safety, looked as if he'd just gone three rounds with Mike Tyson. There were deep bruises around both eyes and a purple welt over the bridge of his nose, products of what the Giants call the "Force Drill." That's when defensive backs crash helmet-to-helmet with oncoming blockers.

"It was pretty physical," said cornerback Wayne Maddix, one of White's closest friends. "But Adrian was dishing out more than he was getting."

Dishing out punishment is what White does best. But the significance of yesterday's workout was that White did all of his punishing with his helmet and not his fists.

Last season, White came into training camp as the Giants' second-round draft pick out of Florida. He had a reputation as a tough, aggressive hitter — a Jack Tatum clone. True to form, White spent his first few days in camp scuffling with guard Billy Ard and wide receiver Stacy Robinson. He had other battles with teammates throughout the year and was flagged for several personal-foul penalties during the season.

Now a year later, the Giants are wondering if White's aggression is more than they can tolerate. "He's got to be tempered a little bit," said secondary coach Len Fontes. "Last year he had five fights in the first five practices. At least he made it through the first day this year."

White figures to be the heir apparent to Kenny Hill as the Giants' strong safety. Hill, who turns 30 Monday, has had ankle surgery the past two offseasons and is on the downside of his career. But before the Giants can count on White, his over-aggressiveness must be controlled.

"My job with him is to get him to understand the team concept," Fontes said. "Right now he's running all over the field trying to make all of the tackles. He's got to learn to just do his job."

White, 24, reported to camp with the rookies mainly because he missed much of last season with injuries. He had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee after the first preseason game at New England, then injured his left knee during the final strike game at Buffalo. He played in just six games, making 21 tackles.

Off the field, White also had problems. He was part of a group of athletes who admitted signing with sports agent **Norby Walters** while in college and had to testify before a federal grand jury last summer. He reportedly has agreed to pay back part of his scholarship to avoid federal prosecution.

Then this past May, White was involved in a scuffle with an off-duty police officer outside of an East Orange, N.J., nightclub. White was not prosecuted for the incident and figures what's past is best left in the past.

"That's all a part of growing up," he said this week. "That's a part of being a man. I was the one who got myself into those things. I just have to live with it."

As for his on-the-field aggressiveness, "That's just the way I play," he said. "I don't think I can change that."

The Giants only hope that he tones it down a bit.

The Sparring Continues

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to exercise for the entire four years," Cayton said.

According to the 11-page lawsuit, filed on June 24 and served to Cayton as he sat in a ringside seat at the Atlantic City Convention Hall on June 27, minutes before the Tyson-Spinks fight, Tyson alleges that he was **fraudulently** induced to sign new managerial agreements with Cayton and his late partner, Jim Jacobs, when both managers knew Jacobs was terminally ill. Jacobs died March 23 of pneumonia, less than six weeks after the new contracts were signed. After Jacobs' death, Cayton became Tyson's manager of record and Jacobs' widow, Loraine, inherited her husband's share of Tyson's purses — half of the standard 33 1/3 percent cut.

In the suit, Tyson says he would not have signed the new contracts had he known of Jacobs' illness. The contracts provided for the share of either manager to be passed on to his wife in the event of death. At the time, Cayton, 70, had recently been released from a hospital after a bout with endocarditis, a heart ailment, and Jacobs was recovering from colon surgery for an ailment he said at the time was not life-threatening. The contracts were signed on Feb. 12, five days after Tyson secretly wed actress Robin Givens in Chicago. The suit says Tyson never read the contracts, nor had them read to him, before signing them.

Last week, lawyers for Tyson applied for a restraining order preventing Cayton from doing any business for him, and an injunction freezing the purse from the Spinks fight to insure that Cayton and Mrs. Jacobs could not be paid their shares. Monday night, Tyson's attorneys filed an amended complaint seeking to have Tyson's share of the Spinks purse released.

Cayton and Puccio responded yesterday morning with a 46-page document, alleging that Jacobs himself did not know he would soon die; that Tyson's interests at the

contract-signing were protected by New York State Athletic Commission chairman Jose Torres, who approved the contract; that Tyson's failure to read the contract before signing it does not excuse him from being bound to it, since Tyson is not claiming to be illiterate; that Tyson was told by Jacobs that the purpose of the new contracts was to protect the wives in the event "something happens to us"; and that "Tyson [now] hopes to renege on his promise to protect Loraine Jacobs."

The Cayton-Puccio document cited earnings by Tyson "in excess of \$11,000,000 from boxing alone," \$2 million of which was invested by Cayton and Jacobs in a life insurance policy that will pay Tyson \$250,000 annually for life. Also included were documents showing Tyson to have earned more than \$7 million in 1987. This year alone, Tyson signed a reported \$26.5-million contract with Home Box Office in January, earned approximately \$4 million for his Jan. 22 bout with Larry Holmes, \$8 million for his March 21 bout with Tony Tubbs in Tokyo and about \$20 million for the Spinks fight. The document also cited a May 13 television interview in which Tyson said "[Cayton is] my manager from the beginning to end. . . . As long as I'm boxing and he's around, he's my manager."

According to court papers, Cayton and Puccio allege that Tyson's dissatisfaction with his managerial contract is the product of "interference" from Givens, her mother, Ruth Roper, and promoter Don King, who "told Tyson he did not have to go through with the Spinks fight and offered Tyson a five-fight deal at \$5 million a fight" instead. Cayton and Puccio allege that Winston, who was introduced to Tyson by Roper, demanded an audit of Tyson's accounts in a letter that Tyson denied authorizing, and that the audit revealed "all was in order."

"Mike Tyson is disgruntled, not disadvantaged," reads a footnote to the document. "This lawsuit represents Tyson's belated attempt to rid himself of his obligations under a contract which he now wishes he had not signed."

