

## Sports briefing

### Athletics finish sweep of Twins



Oakland Athletics' Marco Scutaro, left, celebrates with coach Ron Washington, after Scutaro hit a three-run double in the seventh inning of against the Minnesota Twins during Game 3 in the American League Divisional Series Friday. The Athletics won 8-3 to sweep the best-of-three series. **Playoffs roundup, 2B.**

### Prep football

## South Panola sets record

BATESVILLE - Darius Barksdale scored two touchdowns Friday as South Panola set a Mississippi High School record for consecutive victories at 52 with a 42-0 win over Columbus.

"It takes everybody to accomplish this," South Panola coach Ricky Woods said. "This streak is a tribute to the players, the coaches, the administration and the community."

It was the 52nd consecutive victory for the top-ranked Tigers, breaking the 23-year-old state record of 51 set by the Hamilton Lions from 1979-83. George Washington Carver of Picayune holds the state record at 64 for games without a loss from 1958-64, blemished by a tie after 50 consecutive wins.

### Local golf

## Jones makes hole in one

Richard Jones used an 8-iron to make a hole in one on the 163-yard, par-3, 15th hole at the Hattiesburg Country Club Friday.

Witnesses were Bob Helfrich, Roger Bickford, Craig Best and Bill Mason.

### On TV

#### TODAY

#### Auto racing

■ 11 a.m. - NASCAR, Nextel Cup, pole qualifying for UAW-Ford 500, at Talladega, SPEED.

■ 1:30 p.m. - NASCAR, Craftsman Truck Series, John Deere 250, at Talladega, SPEED.

#### College football

■ 11 a.m. - Arkansas at Auburn, WHLT-CBS 22.

■ 11 a.m. - Clemson at Wake Forest, ESPN.

■ 11 a.m. - Texas A&M at Kansas, FSN.

■ Noon - VMI at Army, ESPN CLASSIC

■ 1:30 p.m. - Stanford at Notre Dame, NBC.

■ 2:30 p.m. - Texas vs. Oklahoma, at Dallas, WLOX-ABC 13.

■ 2:30 p.m. - LSU at Florida, CBS.

■ 2:30 p.m. - Washington at Southern Cal, FSN.

■ 3:30 p.m. - Michigan St. at Michigan, ESPN.

■ 6 p.m. - South Carolina at Kentucky, ESPN2.

■ 6 p.m. - Missouri at Texas Tech, TBS.

■ 6:45 p.m. - Tennessee at Georgia, ESPN.

■ 7 p.m. - Nebraska at Iowa St. or Oregon at California, ABC.

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## AGGIES KNOCK OFF POPLARVILLE

# Forrest County AHS remains unbeaten



Forrest County Agricultural High running back Bryant Liddell tries to slip past Poplarville High's Chansler Houston during Friday night's game in Brooklynn.

## Players trying to 'stay humble' after impressive homecoming win

### By Kareem Copeland

American Sports Writer  
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BROOKLYN - There was something special floating around Forrest County AHS on Friday night.

That was obvious as soon as you pulled into the school and cars were stacked in every conceivable spot.

Fans overflowed out of the stands, covered the neighboring hill like a blanket and nearly spilled through the gate into the parking lot.

Homecoming festivities were in full effect.

And two football teams with a combined one loss were battling on the field - a decidedly one-sided battle.

Forrest County ran

### Next games

The Forrest County AHS Aggies return to action Friday night at home against East Central, while Poplarville hosts Pearl River Central.

roughshod through Poplarville 27-7 on a beautiful evening that seemed to have an extra something in the air.

"I've been here when it's been bad," FCAHS coach Larry Dolan said about his 7-0 team. "You hope this continues. You hope it's something special."

Adding to the uniqueness of the event were the postgame interviews with Dolan and his players.

Coaches are quick to go into "coach-speak" after big wins

with phrases like, "It's just another win" or "We just take one at a time."

Most players say similar things.

But there was none of that Friday. Beating Poplarville (5-2) was a big deal for the 10th-ranked 4A school in the state.

"This just means we need to stay humble," FCAHS running back

■ See AGGIES, 3B

# Laurel halts Petal's undefeated streak

### By Stan Caldwell

American Sports Writer  
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LAUREL - Most football fans are quite familiar with Washington Redskins' star tailback Clinton Portis.

Not many fans are familiar with Ladarius Portis. But if the Laurel High sophomore has a few more games like he had Friday night, he'll soon be a household name, and not just in Mississippi.

Portis looked a lot like his famous step-brother Friday, running 31 times for 297 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Tornados to a shocking 35-7 upset of previously-undefeated Petal.

Laurel improved to 5-2 overall and 3-1 in Region 5-4A,

### Next games

The Petal High Panthers return to action Friday night at home against Quitman, while the Laurel High Tornados will travel to Prentiss.

while Petal dropped to 6-1 and 2-1.

"I talked to him last week," Portis said when asked if he stays in contact with his step-brother. "I told him about the yards I got against Northeast (Jones) last week. He told me he'd try to match it on Sunday."

Clinton Portis will have his work cut out for him if he hopes to match Ladarius' output this week. The 5-foot-9, 155-pounder ground the

Panthers down all night long, leaving their No. 5 ranking in Class 4A in shambles.

"Laurel was scary when we watched them on film," Petal coach Bubba Davis said. "We knew they were a big old giant waiting to erupt. If they play like that the rest of the year, they'll do well."

In fact, the Tornados had their way with the Panthers in the trenches from start to finish, rushing for 426 yards for the game. Fullback Kendrick Kennedy added 100 yards on eight carries.

"(Portis) was faster than we expected," Petal junior tackle Ricky McLemore said. "He'd send his tackles wide, then

■ See LAUREL, 3B

■ HHS, Oak Grove win, 3B



Petal High defensive back Michael Arrington grabs the facemask of Laurel running back Ladarius Portis during Friday night's game in Laurel.

# Are the Saints for real? Skepticism turning to optimism

OK, I'm an idiot.

A little over a month ago, I wrote a column that was all but a eulogy on the New Orleans Saints' upcoming season.

I sat in Veterans Memorial Stadium on Aug. 26 in Jackson and watched the Indianapolis Colts carve up the Saints with deadly precision in a preseason game.

Ugly was a kind adjective to describe the Saints team that played that night.

But I have now seen the light. The Saints have the potential to have a very special season.

After winning their first three games, the Saints suffered their first loss against

Carolina Sunday. But with a play here and there, the Saints could have easily pulled off a big win against one of the NFC's best teams on their home turf.

### Aaron who?

Quarterback Drew Brees' numbers aren't those of someone who dislocated his shoulder in the final game of the 2005 season for the San Diego Chargers. He has completed 65.7 percent of his passes for 1,063 yards with 4 touchdowns and only 2 interceptions.

Brees' decision making makes Aaron Brooks look like a third string junior high quarterback. Well... let's be fair,



Patrick Magee

Brooks could at least be an Arena League dynamo - but I'm guessing the New Orleans Voodoo would fall over laughing if he ever showed up for a tryout.

It's so unusual to watch relatively mistake-free football being played by the Saints' quarterback.

If someone would have told me prior to the season that the Saints would be 3-1 at this

point, I would have guessed that Reggie Bush would be playing as if he is the next coming of Jim Brown.

But Bush has only had average success going into the fifth game. He has shown flashes of brilliance, but he needs to realize that every player has first-class speed at this level. He won't be able to turn the corner with the ease that he did at USC.

Deuce McCallister and Bush provide a running game that is the envy of many teams in the NFL.

### Rookie can play

Marques Colston is good, really good. At 6-foot-4 and 231 lbs., NFL teams typically drool

over a receiver of his size and speed. Yet he still fell to the seventh round, where the Saints picked him up. He doesn't just have the tremendous physique to be a receiver, he also has other-worldly hands. I haven't seen him drop a decent pass yet.

The biggest surprise for me so far is that the Saints have a very stout defense.

Linebacker Scott Fujita and company have shown the ability to absolutely dominate in the early going. The no-name defense is the fourth-ranked unit in the NFC thanks to blanket coverage by defensive backs and intelligent play by the defensive front and linebackers.

Falcons quarterback Michael Vick had grown accustomed to treating the Saints defense like a practice squad.

But the Saints showed they were on a mission that Monday night when they returned to the Superdome to throttle the Falcons.

The Saints' play has truly been inspiring and the team's mission, with postseason as their destination, will only gain believers throughout the season - including me.

■ Patrick Magee is a sports writer for the *Hattiesburg American*. He can be reached by phone at 601-584-3116 or e-mail at pmagee@hattiesburgamerican.com

# Hattiesburg, Oak Grove grab division wins

From staff reports

JACKSON – Hattiesburg High's defense clamped down to easily defeat Jim Hill 27-0 in Jackson Friday night.

Hattiesburg's defense provided the first points for the Tigers as they forced Jim Hill to fumble through the end zone in the first quarter to get a safety.

Colin Crowson added the first points of the second quarter on a 25-yard field goal.

Derrick Virgil hooked up with Donovan Tate on a 32-yard touchdown to make it 9-0 at halftime.

Virgil, who ran 16 times for 144 yards, had two touchdown runs of 24 and 16 yards in the third quarter to close out the scoring.

Hattiesburg (3-4, 2-1 in Region 3-5A) had 386 yards of total offense with 315 of them coming on the ground.

Jim Hill falls to 4-3 and 1-2 in the region.

## Oak Grove 27, Meridian 7

MERIDIAN – Michael Hawthorne ran for a pair of touchdowns as Oak Grove topped Meridian 27-7 Friday night.

The Warriors' first score came on a 39-yard field goal by Cole Richardson.

Michael Hawthorne ran 3 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter and Richardson followed with a 29-yard field goal.

Hawthorne contributed a 1-yard touchdown run and Knew Douglas capped off the scoring on a 15-yard touchdown run.

Kirk Lance completed 13 of 17 passes for 170 yards and Delvin Ervin had nine catches for 133 yards. J.J. Garrick led the Warrior ground attack with 110 yards on 18 carries.

Oak Grove improves to 6-1 and 3-0 in Region 3-5A.

Meridian falls to 4-3 and 2-1 in the region.

## Perry Central 49, North Forrest 7

NEW AUGUSTA – Perry Central thumped North Forrest 49-7 Friday night as the Bulldogs remain undefeated in 8-2A.

Raphael Carter started the scoring marathon in the first quarter on two touchdown runs of 1 and 52 yards.

Greg Bolton put on a show in the second quarter with a 31-yard touchdown pass to Aaron Bolton

## Prep football roundup

and a 50-yard highlight reel run for a score to make it 28-0 at halftime.

Alec Knight started the second half scoring on a 56-yard touchdown run.

George Washington followed with a 15-yard touchdown run for the Bulldogs.

Xavier Jones contributed the final score for Perry Central on an 11-yard touchdown run.

## Bassfield 44, Richton 0

BASSFIELD – Bassfield eased past Richton 44-0 Friday as the Yellow Jackets stayed undefeated in 8-2A.

Larry Thompson had a 22-yard touchdown run to initiate the scoring for Bassfield in the first quarter.

That score was followed by a 3-yard touchdown pass from DuPree Harris to Darren Penn.

Justin Penn found paydirt when he picked up a Richton fumble and rumbled 35 yards for the touchdown.

Harris helped out on special teams with a 60-yard punt return for a touchdown to make it 25-0 at the half.

Cedric Easterling had the lone score for Bassfield (4-3, 3-0 in 8-2A) in the third quarter on a 5-yard touchdown run.

Josh Griffith added a 36-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter and Tim Leggett returned an interception 99 yards for a score.

Richton falls to 0-7.

## Copiah Academy 33, PCHS 26

COPIAH – Copiah Academy rallied for 26 points in the third quarter to knock off Presbyterian Christian Friday night.

Jarwanna Henry, who rushed 17 times for 198 yards, started the scoring for PCS on a 55-yard touchdown run in the first quarter.

Henry followed with a 5-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Copiah responded on a Daniel Sims 13-yard touchdown pass to Bennett Wilson.

Henry tacked on another touchdown on a 58-yard run in the second quarter.

Copiah's Sims started the second half scoring on touchdown runs of 1 and 27 yards.

Alex Guess of Copiah had a fumble

return of 20 yards and Matthew Ryan punched it in from 1-yard out to finish the Copiah scoring.

Hunter Clark added a 1-yard touchdown run for PCS.

PCS falls to 1-6 and 0-2 in District 2-AAA.

## Raleigh 35, Purvis 14

PURVIS – Chris Lofton had three touchdowns to lead Raleigh to a 35-14 win over Purvis.

Lofton's touchdowns came on runs of 41 and 23 yards along with a 60-yard punt return for a score.

Dontrell Walker had a pair of rushing scores on 48 and 9 yards.

Michael Saucier, who had 113 yards rushing, had the two scores for Purvis on 6- and 1-yard runs.

## West Jones 31, Collins 7

LAUREL – West Jones jumped out to a 28-0 lead at halftime and wound up with a 31-7 victory over Collins Friday night.

Chase Headrick started the scoring for West Jones on a 1-yard touchdown run.

Jerrell Knight followed with a 5-yard touchdown run.

Headrick completed a 22-yard touchdown pass to Knight and Corey Cooley followed with a 52-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Collins' (5-2) lone score came on a 1-yard touchdown run by Jonathan Booth.

Adam Herrington completed the scoring for West Jones on a 29-yard field goal. West Jones had 271 yards of total offense.

Headrick completed 8 of 16 passes for 179 yards and Tyler Gardner had six catches for 115 yards for West Jones (5-2).

## Wayne County 40, South Jones 6

WAYNESBORO – Wayne County blew out South Jones 40-6 Friday night to stay perfect on the season.

The War Eagles started the scoring on a Calvin McDougle touchdown pass to Marquese Ray, who had seven catches for 110 yards.

Lampley followed with 34-yard touchdown run in the 1st quarter.

Drexler Johnson connected with Ray for a 22-yard touchdown pass to make the Wayne lead 20-0 at halftime.

Marvin Trotter's 53-yard interception return for a touchdown was South Jones' lone score in the third quarter.



CHARLES EDWARDS | Hattiesburg American

Greene County High running back Brandon Bolton evades the Sumrall defense for a good gain during Friday night's game in Sumrall.

Lampley, who ran 16 times for 98 yards, punched it in from 2 yards out for a touchdown in the same quarter.

Destin Brumley contributed a pair of field goals in the fourth quarter and Donald Ruffin had a 17-yard touchdown run for Wayne County.

## Greene County 29, Sumrall 22

SUMRALL – A late Billy Franks touchdown pass led Greene County to a 29-22 win over Sumrall Friday night.

Ervin Wolfe found the end zone first for Sumrall on a 6-yard touchdown run.

Traonta Lockhart of Greene County responded with a 9-yard touchdown run and Franks followed with touchdown runs of 17 and 4 yards.

Wolfe, who had 18 carries for 190 yards, added a 29-yard touchdown run in the third quarter.

Ethan Applewhite had a 1-yard touchdown run along with a 2-point conversion by Wolfe to make it 22-21 with 2:52 left.

But Franks followed with a pass

to Lockhart to win the game for Greene County.

## East Marion 24, Seminary 0

COLUMBIA – East Marion held a 24-0 lead at halftime and that's all they would need as they whipped Seminary.

Steve Simon ran 15 times for 129 yards and had touchdown runs of 18, 6 and 13 yards.

Pat Oliver connected with Alvin Flowers for a 62-yard touchdown pass to complete the scoring for the Eagles.

Flowers had three receptions for 135 yards and one touchdown.

East Marion is now 6-1 and 4-0 in Region 8-2A.

## Columbia Academy 14, Amite 6

LIBERTY – Senior running back Ben Selman rushed for 150 yards on 27 carries and scored one touchdown in leading the Columbia Academy Cougars to a 14-6 victory over Amite Friday night.

The win improved Columbia Academy to 3-4 overall and 1-1 in District 6-AA. Amite dropped to 3-

4 and 0-2 respectively.

Columbia Academy scored the only points of the first half on a 29-yard run by Nunner Robbins. Jody Broome added the PAT kick.

Amite drew closer in the third quarter on a 4-yard touchdown pass from Hank Blalock to David Deville. The PAT kick failed.

Columbia Academy sealed the win in the fourth quarter on Selman's 1-yard touchdown plunge. Broome added the PAT kick.

Robbins added 70 yards on seven carries for the Cougars, while senior linebacker Kyle Walley collected 13 tackles.

Columbia Academy travels to Centerville Friday night.

## Mount Olive 51, Stringer 6

STRINGER – Steve McNair Jr. ran for two touchdowns and caught one touchdown pass, while Jason McNair caught a touchdown pass and ran for another as Mount Olive crushed Stringer Friday night.

Mount Olive improved to 6-1 overall and 5-0 in Region 4-1A. Stringer dropped to 2-5 and 2-3.

## Aggies

■ FROM page 1B

back Bryant Liddell said. "I'm feeling this is special."

Liddell was definitely special for the Aggie offense. He was the workhorse for the running game that peeled off 202 yards while grinding the Hornets with 41 rushes.

Liddell finished the evening with 20 carries for 85 yards.

"Coach just kept coming to the same play and kept feeding me," Liddell said. "I've got to thank my offensive line, too."

After a scoreless first quarter, FCAHS jumped out to a 14-0 lead in a four-minute span during the second quarter.

Running back Marcus Smith made the scorekeeper work for the first time on the night when he capped an eight-play, 75-yard drive with a 4-yard touchdown run.

Poplarville receiver J.J. Richardson fumbled the ball on the first play of the ensuing drive and nose guard Bobby Rush recovered. Eight plays and 36 yards later, FCAHS quarterback Cory Danner hit a wide open Willie Stewart for a 7-yard touchdown pass.

Danner completed 6-of-12 passes for 97 yards. And Stewart also rushed for an 8-yard touchdown.

The Hornets answered with an eight-play, 57-yard drive that was capped by an Ike Bowden 5-yard touchdown jaunt.

But that would be the end to any offensive success for Poplarville.

The Hornets managed just 180 yards of total offense. Every time they started to drive the football, the



JOEL BONNER | Hattiesburg American

Forrest County AHS' Marcus Smith drags Poplarville defenders for a good gain during Friday night's game. FCAHS won 27-7.

Aggies would make a play.

Whether it was recovering a fumble, forcing a fumble or intercepting a pass (which linebacker Johnny Davis did to halt Poplarville's first drive of the second half), the FCAHS defense came up huge.

"They forced us into a lot of mistakes," Poplarville coach Lance Mancuso said. "They beat us in every aspect of the game."

"The only thing you can say was positive is it was an experience for the kids."

Dolan said of his defense, "They just play together. They're a bunch of little guys that fly to the football."

Davis added, "We were just trying to stop them from scoring. That's as simple as that. It's one step to 10-0 and winning a championship."

Whereas Liddell was the grinder, Ernie Shows and Smith were the home-run hitters. Both scored a touchdown and total 51 rushing yards apiece – Shows on three carries and Smith on eight.

Shows' score was a 23-yard run with just 1:30 left in the fourth quarter for the final points of the night.

The Aggies head back to regional play when they host East Central next Friday. FCAHS closes the season with region games at D'Iberville before welcoming St. Martin.

"I'm glad we're 7-0, but I'm more proud of our effort," Dolan said. "This gives us a little momentum going into this last stretch."

A stretch he hopes will end with something special – a shiny, new state championship gold ball.

## Laurel

■ FROM page 1B

they'd push us away and he'd run underneath them. We couldn't stop him."

The ball-control offense gave the Laurel defense all the help it needed to smother Petal's high-flying offense. And what the Tornadoes didn't do defensively, the Panthers did to themselves.

"They were fast and athletic, and they had great corners," Petal senior quarterback Darin Farris said. "Their defensive line did a great job all night. We just failed to execute on offense."

It didn't start out that way.

The Panthers took the opening kickoff and drove briskly down the field. Farris scrambled away from the pass rush and rambled 37 yards to a first-and-goal at the Laurel 8-yard-line.

But on second down, after an incompleting, the Panthers gave up the ball on a fumble.

Laurel proceeded to march 94 yards on eight plays for a touchdown. Kennedy streaked 56 yards to the Petal 12 to set up the score, on a 7-yard pass from Akeem Davis to Raphael Pollard.

The Tornadoes made it 14-0 midway through the second quarter on a 10-yard scamper by Portis, capping a seven-play, 56-yard drive.

Laurel had two chances to add to its lead before halftime, but senior kicker Tyler Caldwell missed field-goal attempts of 50 yards and 43 yards.

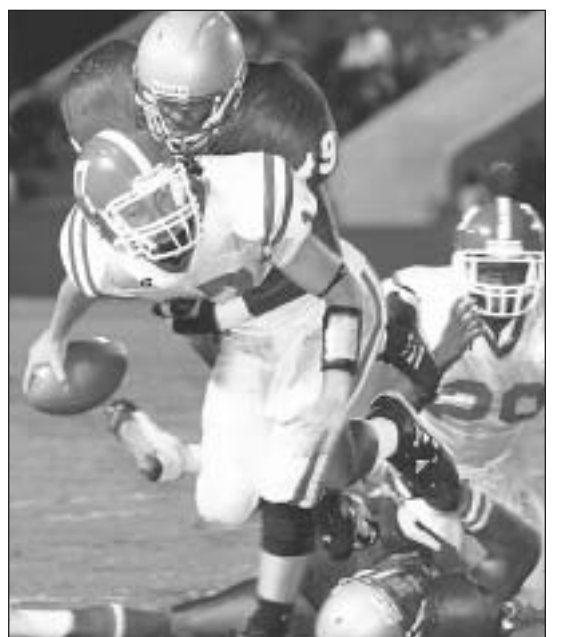
It didn't matter.

Laurel reasserted itself in the second half, picking right up where it left off, with Portis getting the lion's share of the workload.

"What can you say about a 10th-grader," Laurel coach Milton Smith said. "He's got good eyes. Our line blacked well, but he saw the holes and made his moves."

Laurel put the game away in the fourth quarter, after its defense had completely wrecked the Panthers' offense. For the game, Petal was held to just 57 yards rushing, and Farris was sacked six times.

"I guess everything that could go wrong did go wrong," Davis said. "I probably did the worst job of preparing a team to play a game than I have in my 37



GEORGE CLARK | Hattiesburg American

Laurel High defensive back Jonathan McCurtisz sacks Petal High quarterback Darin Farris during Friday night's game. Laurel rolled to a 35-7 win.

years of coaching. I didn't get them ready to play, and I'll take all the blame for that."

Laurel made it 21-0 when Davis plunged in from a yard out to cap a 13-play, 74-yard drive that ate up almost 5 1/2 minutes off the clock.

The big play in the drive was a 28-yard pass from Davis to Clifton Pollock that set the Tornadoes up at the Petal 3.

After stopping the Panthers on downs, it took Portis just one play to ramble 59 yards for a score.

Petal responded with its only scoring drive of the game, culminating in a 7-yard pass from Farris to Jerry Duncan, but Portis gashed the Panthers again for a 56-yard scoring play to cap his big night.

"Our offensive line stepped up and got better and better as the game went on," Portis said. "They opened up some big holes."

## Corrales misses weight, but fight goes on

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS – Diego Corrales turned the tables on himself.

Robbed of a big payday when his last opponent couldn't make weight, Corrales vowed never to disgrace the sport by not being at the proper weight himself.

So what happened on Friday? Corrales weighed in a whopping 5 pounds over the weight limit for his WBC 135-pound title defense against Joel Casamayor.

"It's terribly ironic," promoter Gary Shaw said. "I'm shocked. I don't know what to say."

Corrales lost his title on the scale and will be fined by Nevada boxing authorities for not coming close to the weight. But, after agreeing to give up some of his \$1.2 million purse to Casamayor, the fight will go tonight.

The WBC ruled that Casamayor can win the title by beating Corrales, though Corrales can't keep it by beating Casamayor. In addition, if

Casamayor loses, he would fight a top contender for the vacant title in his next fight.

The fight was in doubt after Corrales weighed 140 pounds, then came back a short time later and weighed 139 1/2. He was given two hours to get down to 137, but made it only to 139.

In addition to getting more money for the fight, Casamayor will get half of the fine levied by the Nevada State Athletic Commission against Corrales, which Shaw said was expected to be \$200,000.

Representatives of both fighters didn't take long after the weigh-in at the Mandalay Bay hotel-casino to come to an agreement on Corrales paying Casamayor some of his purse. But Shaw declined to say just how much of the purse Casamayor would get.

It was the third straight fight for Corrales that hinged on a weigh-in. For the first time, though, this one was his fault.

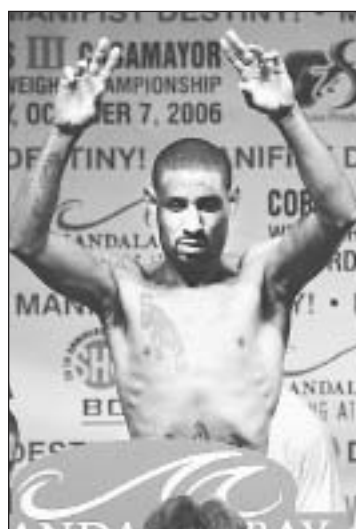
Jose Luis Castillo couldn't make weight twice against Corrales, and the second time Corrales refused to fight him at the higher weight, costing himself a \$1.3 million payday.

Castillo was later fined \$250,000 by the Nevada commission and suspended for the rest of the year.

When Castillo couldn't get within 3 pounds of the weight for the last fight, Corrales said he wanted to punch him for not making the weight. A few days ago he said he didn't regret not fighting because it would not be fair for a bigger fighter to fight a smaller one.

"I stood on level ground and explained to everybody if he didn't make weight there wouldn't be a fight," Corrales said. "I made the right decision."

Shaw said he personally checked on Corrales 10 days ago to see if he was on track to make weight, and the fighter weighed just a shade under 142 pounds.



The Associated Press

Diego Corrales lifts his arms while trying to make weight at Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas on Friday. Corrales, who weighed in at 139.5 lbs. was scheduled to fight Casamayor for the WBC lightweight boxing championship today in Las Vegas.

## Soccer

■ FROM page 1B

years and applies only to the high school age group."

The rule, "was intended to prevent specialization in not only soccer, but all sports sponsored by the association. It also applies to travel teams only and not recreational teams."

Proctor's letter did not address the biggest concern that parents and youth soccer officials have to this dispute, which was the MHSAA's definition of the sports season as extending for the duration of the school year.

"Has the MHSAA now changed its interpretation to prohibit any number of players from playing on a club team from August through June?" Breland said. "The current rule certainly does not say that."

Proctor was responding to a letter Stewart sent on Thursday protesting the MHSAA's applica-

tion of the rule not only toward Oak Grove, but other associations around the state.

"I've been told that Biloxi High also got a similar call from Dr. Proctor about a boys' select team that had members of their high school varsity team playing," said Mark Wilson, HYSA president. "In my opinion, they are opening up a big can of worms with this interpretation of the rule."

Meanwhile, parents with children caught in the crossfire of the dispute are concerned about what they see as harassment by the MHSAA.

"My personal experience with the MHSAA is that they are not looking out for the best interests of children," said Nadine Amaya, whose daughter is on the Oak Grove High squad and plays on an HYSA U-17 team.

"They feel all-powerful and are under no control whatsoever. It is time that this is addressed so that more children are not subjected to this type of harassment."