FEBRUARY 17, 1996

Morrison tests

positive again

TULSA, Oklahoma, Friday

Boxer Tommy Morrison said yesterday that a second set of blood

tests had confirmed he was carrying

the virus that causes Aids.

The 27-year-old former World

Boxing Organisation champion

was suspended before a scheduled

fight last Saturday in Las Vegas

when an initial test had come back

positive for HIV \_

After returning home to Oklaho-ma. he was tested again on

Monday.

"l was informed just a little

while ago that results confirmed

that I have tested positive for the virus... Morison told a news conference in a shaky voice in his first

public appearance since leaving

Las Vegas.

BOXING

Morrison said he was not sure

how he had contracted the disease,

although he admitted to living a

promiscuous lifestyle settling down With his current girlfriend Of two years, Dawn

Freeman.

"There was a certain point and

time in my life that I lived a very

fast. reckless life-

style." he said, his voice breaking.

"l knew the virus was something

that anyone could get but I also believed that the chances were very,

very slim.

Morrison said he had assumed

the virus was more likely to strike

'addicts who share needles, people

who practice the homosexual life-

style. I honestly believed I had a

better chance of winning a lottery

than contracting this disease.

\*'I've never been so Wrong in my

life." The fighter said he has spo-

ken in recent days with Earvin

Magic" Johnson, Who tested positive for HIV more than four years

ago and earlier this month returned

to play again for the NBA's LOS

Angeles Lakers.

Morrison said he would be dedicating himself to educating his generation about the virus.

"l hope that I can serve as a

warning, ' Morrison said. "That

living this lifestyle can only lead to

one thing and that is misery.

spent the last few nights on

the phone With Johnson. ( Reuter)