Champion George Foreman and Joe "King" Roman to meet Aug. 31 in Tokyo for title

First Foreman defense of title set for Japan

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — World heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman has agreed to make his first title defense with a bout Sept. 1 in Tokyo against 10th-ranking Joe "King" Roman of Puerto Rico.

Roman is rated the No. 10 contender by the World Boxing Council (WBC) whose sanction will be needed for the title bout.

Plans for the fight were formally announced in Tokyo by the Nippon Education Television Co.

A Foreman spokesman said the Tokyo announcement was "a bit premature" because the WBC had not yet advised Foreman of its sanction. However, the spokesman said, "I don't see any problem."

According to the spokesman, Foreman had advised the Japanese of his willingness to meet any of several contenders whose schedules might permit an early match — Ken Norton, Larry Middleton, Jose Urtain and Joe Bugner — as well as Roman.

That Roman is only 10th-rated shouldn't take away any drama from the fight, the spokesman said. After all, he said, nobody gave Ken Norton "a shadow of a chance" to beat Muhammad Ali, and nobody gave Foreman himself a chance against former champion Joe Frazier.

In Tokyo, promoter Muneo Mizoguchi said he signed a contract with Foreman's manager, Dick Sadler, May 25 in Foreman's home in Hayward, Calif.

The match will be the first world heavyweight title bout in Japan. It will be held in the 13,00-seat Nippon Budokan Hall at noon Tokyo time (11 p.m. EDT) on Aug. 31 for television showing via satellite.

Although the Japanese Boxing Commission has a rule prohibiting a match between two foreigners, a commission official said the Foreman-Roman bout would be approved anyway on grounds that it would promote boxing interest in Japan.

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Mat foes to go in cage, one to come out wins

Bobo Brazil, the United States heavyweight championship claimant from Benton Harbor, Mich., retains his wrestling title, but he has lost his reputation as a good humor man.

The big fellow experienced a quick burn at the Baltimore Civic Center recently when he was humiliated by the stalling tactics of Fred Blassie, the blond bully from Los Angeles.

Blassie, who ran in and out of the ring continuously, was finally cornered by Big Bobo and belted out with a series of head butts, but Brazil wanted more satisfaction.

Furthermore, the big man received the support not only of infuriated spectators, but also of promoter Phil Zacko and the Maryland State Athletic Commission.

Consequently the two B's—Blassie and Brazil—have been re-matched in a steel cage eight-feet high for June 23, at the Civic Center.

Guest referee will be 625 - pound huge Haystacks Calhoun.

"Blassie rejected the return match when I first proposed it, but he had second thoughts when the Maryland State Commissioners ordered him to either accept it, or be suspended in the State of Maryland," Zacko says.

Fiery Fred reportedly charged that he wrestled hit-and-run in an effort to tire out Brazil, much the bigger man, and then put him away.

"I was doing all right," Blassie insists, "until the referee joined the spectators in pressuring me, and setting me up for Bobo's quick kill. He finished me with head butts that I consider illegal, but I will meet him head-on in this re-match and surprise him with my quickness and power holds."

Bobo, summed it up in a few words.

"Now that the promoter and commission have matched us in a steel cage I will make sure that Blassie stays in that cage where he belongs," Brazil says.

The caged-in battle will return the first man—other than referee Calhoun—to walk out of the lone door or to climb over the cage itself as victorious.

O.J. beaten in celeb net tourney

MONTICELLO, N.Y., — All-Pro running back O. J. Simpson of the Buffalo Bills and Golden State Warriors basketer Rick Barry made it to the finals of the 3rd annual DeWars Sports Celebrity Tennis tournament here last weekend, but then were beaten.

Winning the title on the Kutschers Country Club courts was the team of Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Greenberg and L.A. Laker Gail Goodrich. The one-set score was 6-2.

Other celebrities who competed in the round robin doubles competition were pro football stars Craig Morton of the Dallas Cowboys, Jim Kiick of the Miami Dolphins and Deacon Jones of the San Diego Chargers, pro basketballers John Havlicek of the Boston Celtics and Artis Gilmore of the Kentucky Colonels, Jim Ryun and Bob Seagren of the pro track tour, and light heavyweight boxing champion Bob Foster.

Monzon may retire after unpopular win

MONTE CARLO (UPI) — After successfully defending his middleweight world boxing title for the sixth time, Argentina's Carlos Monzon says he may retire from the ring with his crown intact.

"I was so tired at the end. I am not really sure that I will fight again," said the 31-year-old Argentinian after his unanimous decision against New Yorker Emile Griffith Saturday night.

"If I do fight anybody it will be against Jean-Claude Bouttier here in September. But I am not sure. I will have to wait and see."

Monzon did say, however, that he would not fight Australia's up-and-coming middleweight champion, Tony Mundine. "It is very, very unlikely that I will fight Mundine," he said.

Monzon, now 31, admitted he had trouble getting down to the 160 pound weight limit. He had to go on a strict diet which appeared to sap his strength in the middle of the fight and he was lucky that he was not fighting a younger man than the 35-year-old Griffith.

It was only at the end of the fight that Monzon made sure of retaining his title when Griffith began to tire.

* * *

Griffith clearly thought he won the fight, as did the sell-out crowed of 8,000 fans in the open-air Louis II Stadium.

"I am really shocked at the decision," said the New Yorker. "I really felt I won the fight. Every punch I took off him I took easily, and he has no punch at all.

"The only thing that floored me was the decision," he said.

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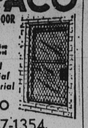

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NFL players set fight on Rozelle

The National Football League Players Association has made it clear that the despised "Rozelle Rule" will remain under fire until it is either removed from the standard pro football contract or drastically revised.

President John Mackey, former All-Pro tight end with the Baltimore Colts, summed up the moot at the association's 3-day meeting at Las Vegas:

"We are focusing on getting more rights for the players," said Mackey, now of the San Deigo Chargers.

"Our main concern is that when a player is drafted, he is at the mercy of management for the rest of his pro career. It's not right that the man should have to sign away his freedom just because he is an exceptional athlete."

Ed Garvey, executive director of the NFLPA, said one thing that "really shook up the players was learning that under the present setup, the owners can change the salary structure of any and all clubs unilaterally."

Garvey claimed that pro football players have "suffered" much greater from inflation than pros in other major sports such as baseball and hockey.

The "Rozelle Rule" is named for NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle. It is so called because a clause in the contract empowers the commissioner to oversee any deal an athlete may make for himself even when negotiating as a free agent.

John Mackey
NFLP president

The players resent the privilege given Rozelle to assess "punishment" for a team which signs an athlete who has completed his contract with another club.

Under the rule, the commissioner can require the new team to give up another player, a draft choice or money if it wants to deal with an athlete who plays out his option and, ostensibly, becomes a free agent.

The fireworks were begun when one player in attendance shouted:

"Let's stop talking about whether we should get $50 or $500 for practice games," is the way he put it, "and get down to the basic freedom issues. The present standard player contract has got to go."

The declaration was greeted with loud applause.

CHARLOTTE NEWS

Pro golfer Sifford guest at reunion gala

CHARLOTTE — Charles Sifford, Charlotte native and now a successful professional golfer, enjoyed a reunion with his former teacher, Mrs. B. T. Holloman, at buffet dinner given in his honor by Mr. and Mrs. O'Dell Robinson of 1800 Patton Ave.

Sifford, the first black of the Professional Golf Association and a participant in the Charlotte Kemper Open Golf Tournament since its inception, was reunited with schoolmates and friends while in Charlotte in participate in the Fifth Kemper Open at Quail Hollow Country Club May 18-20.

In addition to Mrs. Holloman, the Robinsons guests for the gala occasion included: Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Harper III, Rowe Motley, Atty. and Mrs. Calvin Brown, Mrs. Joe Grier, Curtis Alexander, Cecil Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. is president of the Western Lloyd Sigler; Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. High; Miss Juanita Y. Dubose, Major and Mrs. John Ford and Charles Fletcher.

Historic Wilmington, the home of the National Known Azalea Festival, will be host to the North Carolina Federation of Garden Clubs in the annual meeting on August 5-7.

Mrs. V. H. Levister of Louisburg, N. C. is president of the organization.

The North Carolina Federation of Negro Women's Clubs will meet on June 14-16, at the Sheraton Motor Inn, Woodlin and Market St., in Asheville, N. C.

On Saturday the banquet will be in the Catholic Church. Mrs. Martha London of SShelby is the president of the organization and Mrs. Esramalda Hawkins is prexy of the state federation. Mrs. Martha London District.

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Tigers	1	0	1.000
Indians	1	1	.500
Orioles	1	1	.500
Athletics	0	1	.000
Yankees	0	3	.000
National League			
Cubs	1	0	1.000
Giants	1	0	1.000
Pirates	1	0	1.000
Cardinals	1	1	.500
Dodgers	1	1	.500
Braves	0	2	.000

JAMES MOSHER RESLTS
Giants, 6, Dodgers 5
Twins 6, Orioles 2
Pirates 10, Braves 3
Cubs 5, Cardinals 3
Indians 2, Athletics 0
Tigers 10, Yankees 2
Orioles 8, Yankees 2

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(All games at Mosher and Wheeler)
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Saturday
Pirates vs. Twins, 11 a.m.
Athletics vs. Cubs, 1 p.m.
Monday
Dodgers vs. Cardinals, 6 p.m.
Tuesday
Braves vs. Cubs, 6 p.m.

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