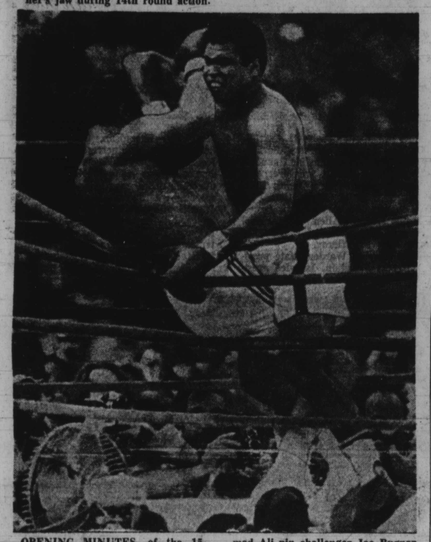
CHAMPION, Muhammad Ali lands a good right on challenger Joe Bugner's jaw during 14th round action. Ali took the match by a unanimous decision.



OPENING MINUTES, of the 15-round bout in Kuala Lumpur saw world heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali pin challenger Joe Bugner to the ropes. All held off the rugged Bugner to win a unanimous decision.

Ali proves better promoter than boxer in Bugner bout

By Sam Lacy

The more objective among the 11,178 (announced) fans in Capital Centre Monday night were convinced that, more than ever before, Muhammad Ali proved he now is a better promoter than fighter.

The world heavyweight champion usurped some $2 million dollars from a promotion that begged worthwhile action for 15 rounds and with such inaction retained the crown he was never in danger of losing. At least, this time around.

During the evening, he made it clear that he had changed his mind about retiring, immediately giving rise to the speculation that the earlier threat to quit was little more than a device to pump blood into the anemic promotion at Kuala Lumpuf, Malayala.

* * *

All's opponent, Joe Bugner, as expected, showed little or nothing. His the few he landed, lacked steam his fight plan was obviously premised on caution, his footwork left much to be desired and he accepted, with gratitude the praise heaped on him in the champion's post-fight interview.

That last, more than anything else, demonstrates how little Bugner impressed. Ali never praises any rival who is worth a quarter.

From the outset, the Briton went into a peek-a-boo defense tactic that appeared to this writer to be a cross between Ali's infamous "rope-a-dope" style and former champion Floyd Patterson's praying mantis attitude.

Joe Frazier, handling the color commentary for the closed-circuit production, repeatedly wondered aloud when Bugner planned to "do something." And he openly suggested that Ali "didn't impress anybody who knows even a little about boxing."

Both boxers complained about the heat, which UPI sources estimated at close to 100 degrees at ringside.

However, the drabness of the event extended from the opening bell, long before the climatic conditions should have affected the antagonists.

* * *

No American or British officials were used in the fight at the insistence of the Malaysian Boxing Federation. The bout was refereed by Takeo Ugo, a Japanese who officiated at 41 previous world championships. The judges were Australian Ken Brady and Suthee Phrom Jariak of Thailand.

Using the five-point "must" system of scoring, Ugo scored the fight 73-67 for Ali. Brady's card was 72-65 and Suthee scored it 73-62.

Ali's best chance at a knockout came in the final half-minute of the fight, when he had Bugner in his own corner, slightly stunned, and was delivering right and left-hand combinations to the Briton's head.

Andy Smith, who has been Bugner's manager-trainer since he began boxing at age 16, screamed at Bugner to open up in the final round. "Hit him; Joe! Hit him!" Smith shouted. He threw up his hands in dismay at the final bell.

So did a lot of us as we left Capital Centre.

* * *

It is said that every man makes a mistake at some time or other, no matter how "clever" or smart he may be. Ali slipped up at the very end.

When he asserted that Joe will be the next champion "because he gave me more trouble than anybody—Frazier, Foreman or Norton—and he did it with me in the best shape of my life."

If Ali was in his own mind, in reasonably good shape, he had better reconsider his announced decision not to retire.

Better still, he ought to stay away from Manila and Frazier in the autumn.

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Late fade by Johnson delays Masters repeat

George Johnson after 54 holes

At 39, Lee Elder knocked down the bars at the Masters golf tournament last year, becoming the first black to appear in the previously all-white event.

At 36, George Johnson appeared destined to keep them down for at least another year when he was in front of the field by two strokes going into the last nine holes of the Western Open at Oak Brook, Ill., last weekend.

But the younger brother of NFL tackle Walt Johnson (Browns) let his game get away from him, and winner Hale Irwin too.

George gave away his margin on the 11th hole, a par 3, when his tee shot went into a trap. He failed to get out of the bunker on his first try and two-putted for a double bogey five.

Irwin was further helped when Johnson completely collapsed on the final three holes of 72-hole event.

On the 18th, he missed the green, chipped badly, and took two putts from 25 feet for a bogey.

Now trailing by one stroke, Johnson fell further apart on the next two holes, posting a triple bogey seven on the 17th and closing his round with a double bogey six on the 18th for an 18-hole total of 78, eight over par.

At the end Johnson was tied for seventh place at 289, six strokes back of Irwin, to collect $5,675.

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AFRO Sports

Ashe in semis at Wimbledon

Arthur Ashe, again asserting his superiority over Bjorn Borg of Sweden, Tuesday, moved into the semi-final round for a Thursday confrontation with Tony Roche of Australia.

Ashe, 32, and Roche, 30, were in the semis in 1968 and again in 1969.

To set up their meeting, Arthur downed Borg and Roche ousted Tom Okker of the Netherlands, both younger than their conquerors.

Ashe came off a losing first set to erase the 19-year-old winner (last week) of the French Open, 2-6, 6-4, 8-6, 6-1.

He had whipped Borg the last time they met, in Dallas in May for the World Championship Tennis (WCT) title. It was his sixth victory over the young Swede in their last eight meetings.

Also entering the semis were Jimmy Connors and Roscoe Tanner, both of the U.S., and like Roche, left-handers.

Arthur, ironically, is the only righthanded player reaching the final four.

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DR78-14	Hornet, Javelin, Valiant, Dart, Duster, Barracuda, Maverick, & others	$45.76	$82.36	$9.16	$155.58	$27.46	$2.36
ER78-14	Matador, Ambassador, Nova, Chevelle, Challenger, Camaro, Mustang, Cougar, & others	47.41	85.34	9.48	161.19	28.45	2.51
FR78-14	Torino, Ambassador, Camaro, Cutlass, Chevelle, Satellite, Roadrunner, Charger, & others	49.42	88.96	9.88	168.03	29.65	2.68
HR78-14	Matador Wagon, Sportswagon, Vista Cruiser, LeMans Wagon, Dodge Wagon, & others	58.23	104.81	11.65	197.98	34.94	3.04
GR78-15	Chevrolet, Polara, Galaxie, Monterey, Fury, Catalina, & others	55.43	99.77	11.09	188.46	33.26	2.95
HR78-15	LeSabre, Riviera, Newport, Galaxie, LTD, Monterey, Olds 88, Pontiac, & others	59.60	107.28	11.92	202.64	35.76	3.17
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AFRO intern, former player asks Little League overhaul

By Greg Logan

Every summer, thousands of little boys (and nowadays, girls, too) suit up for their little league baseball season.

The favorite of many people for many years, little league is now beginning to draw a growing number of critics, probably the most notable being ace Los Angeles Dodger reliever Mike Marshall.

After having the opportunity to observe several managers and coaches in little league play, I am inclined to agree with several of Marshall's charges.

Although some men may be highly qualified to coach baseball, it takes a special kind of man to be able to handle young children, ranging in age from about ten to twelve.

According to my observations, there are quite a few who simply cannot deal with the egos and emotions of small children.

Take one nameless manager, well known and well liked, who told an interested mother that all he needed to win the championship was a catcher.

What's wrong with that, you may ask?

Nothing, except that the statement was made right in front of the team's current catcher! The youngster later made a crucial throwing error that allowed the winning run to score for the other team.

Now, some may argue that the statement could have been made by the manager to give the boy incentive, but can a 10-year-old child understand incentive?

Parents, too, are quite frequently to blame. Take the mother of one young catcher who happened to mention the name of another catcher who, she said, was the only good catcher in the entire league. The remark was made right in front of her son.

Then last year, there was another mother in another little league who actually got into a fight with the umpire over a highly disputed call!

After the fracas, the umpire suspended two brothers for intervening because the party involved was their mother!

That team was in first place, but one of the suspended players was its star centerfielder.

Believe it or not, the team dropped quickly from first place, and, in fact, never won another game all year.

Enough of what's wrong with little league.

What would I do to improve it? It is my firm belief that most of the blame for the problems in the leagues lie with the managers and coaches.

Not enough proper instruction in fundamental baseball is given. I've seen an umpire, for example, call two or three consecutive balks on a young pitcher, and have no one explain to him (the pitcher) what is a balk, or what he can do to avoid it.

* * *

Five years ago, I played in the Mosher league and, truthfully, was an extremely marginal player. Thinking back to those years, I can truthfully point a finger at my manager, who was not really equipped to deal with the shattered feelings of a player that was as poor in ability as I was.

If I were a manager, for example, I would not allow the umpire's authority to be openly questioned at any time. This is what led to the aforementioned disturbance, because the umpire was not made an absolute figure of respect on the baseball field.

This is one point where my cousins, Gary and Kevin Givens, agree, mainly because it was in their league that the disturbance occurred. If any call is questionable, time should be called for a conference between the managers and the umpire—out of the earshot of the fans and young players.

I'd also never allow my players to harass an opposing player about his so-called lack of ability. Nor would they be allowed to criticize a teammate about a mistake that he might have made. This only serves to make him feel even worse about the mistake.

* * *

Gary and Kevin, who were both outstanding players in their league, feel that parents are too much involved in a game that is supposed to be only played for fun. They feel that too much emphasis is placed on winning, and that the emphasis has a great effect on the emotions of young children. After a loss, they feel bad enough without parents, managers, coaches, and fans reminding them of it.

These are just a few ideas for the improvement of the little league system. I don't expect many overzealous parents or frustrated Earl Weavers to take heed of this advice, but the truth is that little league as the majority of teams are playing now is destructive to the emotional well-being of the future leaders of America.

JOHN S. WOOD, Candidate for the 5th district in the city council poses for the AFRO camera with campaign worker Miss Victoria Sirker. Supporters of Mr. Wood were on hand last week to kick off his campaign at a cocktail sip held at Mondawmin Mall. Some of his supporters present for the gala affair were Del. John Douglass, Del. Arthur Murphy, councilman Clarence "DU" Burns, Del. Hattie Harrison, councilman Nathan Irby, State Central Committeeman Nathaniel McFadden, City council president Walter Orlinsky, Del. Lloyal Randolph, and many others.
(Photo by Robert Matthews IV)

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Were you there?

IS THIS YOU whom AFRO photographer Ben Phillips snapped at a recent Baltimore event? If so, bring the clipping to the 3rd floor, AFRO Building and indentify yourself to Mrs. Gertrude Steele BEFORE NOON Tuesday. Tell her where the picture was made and collect $5 for having been in the right place at the right time.

Miniature golf tourney Tuesday

The junior division of the 1975 War Memorial Open, miniature golf tournament, will be held Tuesday.

Youngsters under 18 years will compete beginning at 11 a.m., on the miniature course at War Memorial Plaza.

The senior division competition is scheduled July

'Pleasure' picked to win faceoff with Ruffian

Sundays match race between Foolish Pleasure and Ruffian at Belmont Park looms as a toss-up as far as the public choice is concerned.

Many people are reluctant to pick a filly (Ruffian) to defeat a colt, when the two are of relatively equal quality. On the other hand, the colt (Foolish Pleasure) has been beaten twice in his three races for the Triple Crown.

So, those who refuse to pick the filly may be matched by those who think "Pleasure" has had it.

The inclination in racing circles is to favor the speed horse in a match event, the entry that promises to get to the front early. Ruffian's speed is unquestioned; she has led every step of the way in each of the 10 races she won.

However, the AFRO is going with the colt. This may be surprising since 'Pleasure' was not this paper's choice in any of the Triple Crown stakes.

The reason is simple. Nothing has been closer than 2½ lengths at the finish of any of Ruffian's victories. In each of his recent starts, "Pleasure" has had to battle through the stretch.

When Ruffian is looked in the eye at the head of the lane as the Kentucky Derby champion seems capable of doing, the little gal may not have the answer . . . SAM LACY.

Jesse Owens meet deadline July 10

Entries for the 11th annual Jesse Owens junior track meet must be in by July 10, Bureau of Recreation officials announced early this week.

The event, to be held July 17, beginning at 1 p.m., at Walbrook High School, is co-sponsored by the bureau and the Atlantic Richfield Company.

Thirty-six winners, between the ages of 10 and 15 years, who have competed in 30 track and field events, will be selected and sent to Houston, Texas to compete in the inner-city championships as representatives of Baltimore City.

Included among the young contestants will be representatives from cities as far away as Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska.

19-race card set for Shenandoah track

CHARLES TOWN — Shenandoah Downs will open the holiday weekend with a July Fourth double-header offering 10 races today (Friday) and nine at night. Post time will be 2 and 7 p.m.

Shenandoah introduced the holiday twinbill on Memorial Day 1969 and it has become a fixture of the thoroughbred racing scene in the Eastern Panhandle.

Next weekend will see the close of Shenandoah's spring meeting with a 13-race card Saturday. Racing shifts to the Charles Town track on July 7 for a 71-night stand.

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