

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

APRIL 24, 1986

On ref. Curtis' three knockdown rule

## TILLMAN STOPS ALI IN FIRST ROUND

Bush Ali was ranked as the No. 1 contender in the cruiserweight division by both the World Boxing Council and the World Boxing Association and could have waited for a title shot at either championship.

But Ali, a native of Nigeria now living in Oakland, accepted a "challenge" from Olympic heavyweight champion Henry Tillman, and now he wished he hadn't.

Tillman, of Los Angeles, scored a first-round technical knockout over Ali in their scheduled 12-round bout Tuesday night in the main event on the monthly ESPN fight card at the Showboat Hotel Sports Pavilion.

Referee Joe Curtis stopped the bout at 1:25 of the opening round because of the three-knockdown rule, which was in effect, although Ali was actually down on the canvas only twice.

There was a lot of confusion in the arena because it appeared Curtis was giving Ali a standing eight-count when Tillman, 192, knocked Ali, 186 3/4, against the ropes near a neutral corner.

However, Curtis explained later that he ruled it a knockdown, which was the second of the round.

Tillman had decked Ali with a left hook earlier in the round, and after Ali went down from a right following the count in the corner, Curtis stopped the bout, citing the three-knockdown rule.

But few people in the pavilion including Ali, realized that Curtis had ruled the apparent standing eight-count a knockdown.

"It was a knockdown," Curtis said. "The ropes saved him from going out of the ring. If the ropes weren't there, it was a knockdown. I considered it a knockdown."

In his dressing room soon after the abbreviated bout, Ali didn't know Curtis' interpretation of the number of knockdowns and said he was going to protest to the Nevada Athletic Commission and the North American Boxing Federation.

At stake in the fight was Ali's NABF cruiserweight title, but more importantly, Tillman earned the right to meet WBC cruiserweight

champion Carlos DeLeon.

Top Rank Inc. promoter Bob Arum had been talking about the winner of Tuesday night's bout challenging the Dwight Muhammad Qawi-Evander Hollyfield survivor for the WBA version of the cruiserweight (junior heavyweight) crown.

But Tillman's manager, Donald Zuckerman, said the plans had changed and now Arum says Tillman would take on DeLeon, of Puerto Rico, in late June or early July.

Mercer Smith, Tillman's trainer, also said Tillman would be ready for another bout, essentially a "tune-up," of course, sometime in May.

It was Tillman's 10th straight victory since turning professional after winning the gold medal in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Both Tillman and Ali received \$10,000 for the bout. Tillman entered the ring a 2-1 underdog despite being the contender for the NABF title.

The loss drops Ali's record to 27-10.

In a scheduled 10-rounder

for the ESPN Western Regional bantamweight title, pint-sized Darrell Thigpen, 117 1/2, of Los Angeles, knocked out Gilbert Davila, 117 3/4, of Pomona, Calif., at 2:00 of the fourth round.

NABF featherweight champion Joe Ruelaz, 127 3/4 of Placentia, Calif., pounded out a unanimous 10-round decision over Pete Anzudula, 128, of Phoenix, in a non-title bout.

The previously undefeated Anzudula, now 15-1, was knocked down with a right-left combination in the fourth round and suffered a bad cut under his left eye.

Jeff Franklin, 127, of Las Vegas, scored a unanimous six-round decision over Danny Garcia, 125, of Los Angeles.

The scheduled six-rounder between Ruben Posada, 149 3/4, of Las Vegas, and Rod Starks, 150, of Los Angeles, was ruled a technical draw when both fighters were cut as the result of a head butt in the first round.

Evelio Perez, 135 3/4, of Anaheim, Calif., stopped Rigoberto Correa, 131 1/2, of Los Angeles at 2:40 of the sixth round in a scheduled six-rounder.

--RJ-3/24/86

## Recreation Schedules

Doolittle Community Center invites you to attend its first Family Night on Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m. There will be various demonstrations of current program offerings at the center, such as aerobics, karate, bunka embroidery and more. For more information call 386-6375.

Doolittle Community Center will be having a Youth Center for all teens, ages 13-18 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Center will allow various community groups to practice and perform as well as enjoy the efforts of others wanting to learn and participate. For more information please call 386-6374.

Doolittle Community Center will be offering a Youth Softball League June 16 thru August 29 for youths ages 12-17 years. Play is scheduled to begin after the June 4 Coaches Meeting. Entry fee is \$25 per team. Entry deadline is 7 p.m. on June 4, 1986. For more information call 386-6374.

Doolittle Community Center is again offering its After School Children's Game room for children ages 3-12. A complete array of games and fun will be available, including pool, air hockey, table tennis, and much much more. So for after school fun come on over to the Doolittle Center Monday thru Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 386-6374.

The Lorenzi Park Adaptive Recreation Center, 3333 W. Washington, will host a Spring Carnival on Saturday, May 3, from noon to 6 p.m. The festivities include midway booths, entertainment, special attractions, a full food concession. There will be clowns, balloons, and a make-up booth. Tickets for all attractions will be 25 cents. For more information call the center at 386-6358.

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