

# sports round-up

# LAS VEGAS Voice

SECOND SECTION

Thursday, November 12, 1964

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**SONNY LISTON GETS A CHANCE** to redeem himself Monday night when he attempts to regain the heavyweight boxing title he so ignominiously surrendered to Cassius (Mohammad Ali) Clay last winter in Miami Beach.

Liston was a prohibitive favorite to button Clay's fat lip last time around, but was declared a loser by technical knockout sitting on his stool when the bell rang for the seventh round. There was considerable evidence that Sonny had suffered a muscle separation in his left shoulder and would have had difficulty defending himself if the fight had been permitted to continue.

This came as quite a shock to close observers of the first six rounds, because even in the sixth round Sonny did not appear to have any trouble using his left, although Cassius won that chapter rather handily.

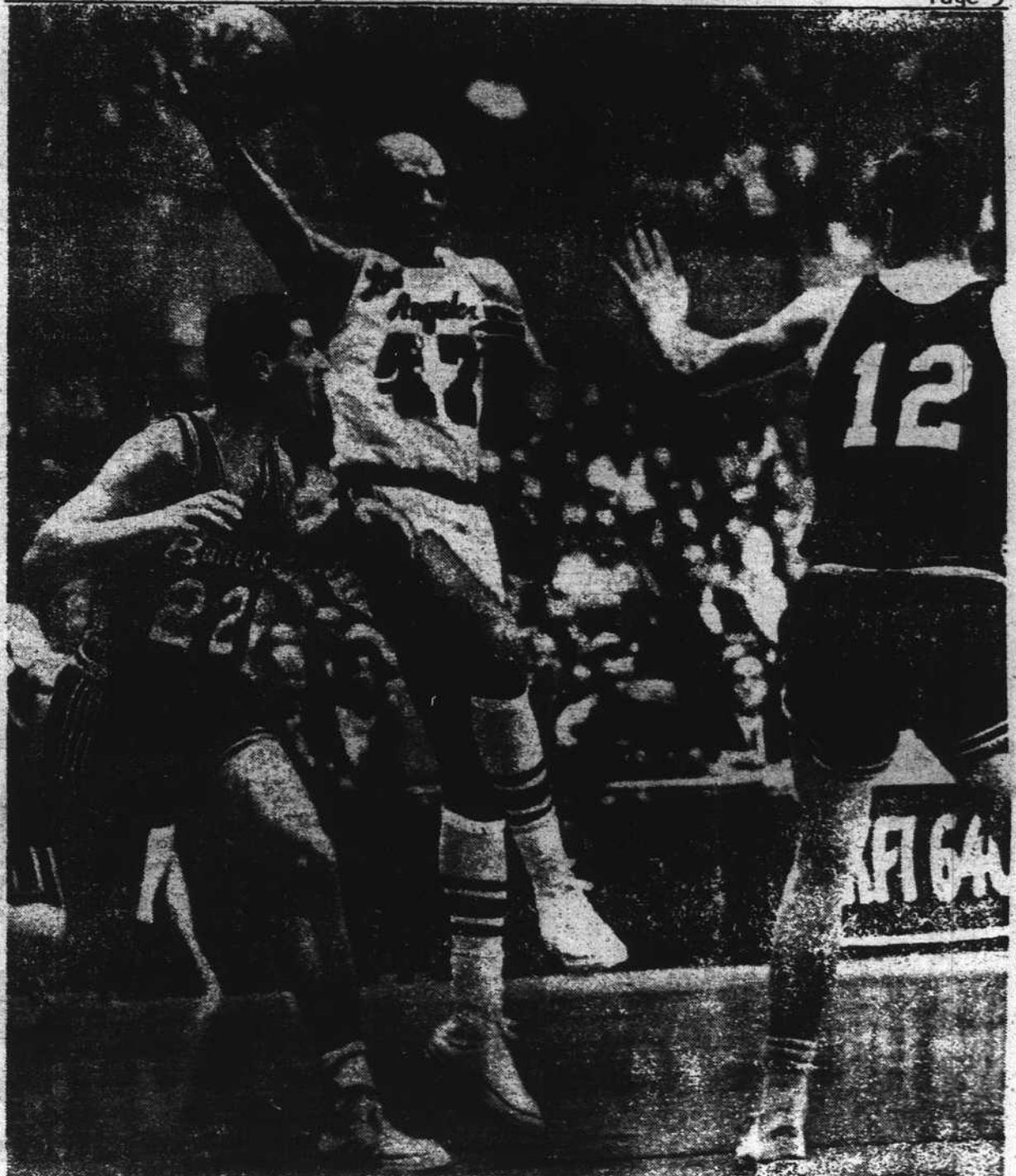
This latter development also raised some eyebrows, because in the fifth round Sonny chased Cassius all around the ring from start to finish after the challenger from Louisville had tried to quit in his corner after the fourth because he claimed some foreign substance on Liston's gloves had burned his eyes.

Liston will be the favorite again Monday night when they climb in the ring at Boston, but only by about 2-1. As far as this corner is concerned, Sonny still should be a topheavy choice despite the strange happenings at Miami Beach. We're not sure what happened last time, but we've got to throw that one out and go back to our original premise that Liston should be able to dispose of Clay within five rounds.

Clay isn't the worst heavyweight around, but outside of having youth on his side (at 23 he must be 15 years younger than Liston) and a pair of fast hands, we figure Sonny is twice the fighter Cassius is right now or possibly ever will be.

The fact that Liston had an iron-clad contract to get the first crack at Clay if he blew the title may have had a lot to do with the unsatisfactory result of their original meeting. It's two strikes and out, however, so we expect things to be a lot different Monday night. If Cassius "emerges victorious" this time, regardless of how it happens, Sonny may never get another opportunity to wear the crown. He most certainly would be in his 40s (if he isn't already) by the time his turn came around again, even though he figures to lick any other heavyweight in the world for some years to come.

We could be wrong again. But that's the way it looks from here. Liston by a knockout within five.



**AUSPICIOUS DEBUT**--Former UCLA ALL-American Walt Hazzard executes backward pass during pro debut with Los Angeles Lakers as Kevin Loughery (22) and Bob Ferry (12) of Baltimore Bullets block his forward drive. Hazzard displayed spectacular floor game as Lakers won on home floor, 112-102. Walt received repeated ovations from 10,067 fans.

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