



sports roundup

By MARK QUEEN

CAN FLOYD PATTERSON, youngest man ever to win the heavyweight championship and the only pugilist able to regain that title after losing it, make it back to the top of the heap despite two crushing defeats at the hands of Sonny Liston?

An answer to that question--or at least a clue--may be provided on the evening of Feb. 1 when the still young New Yorker takes on Canada's rugged George Chuvalo in a bout that will be seen on closed circuit TV in Las Vegas.

If Floyd can get past the Canadian "white hope", he probably will face the winner of the Ernie Terrell-Eddie Machen bout for the World Boxing Association's version of the heavy crown. Winning the WBA "elimination tournament" won't necessarily gain Patterson universal recognition as world champion. There's another young gent named Cassius (Mohammad Ali) Clay to be considered before that could happen. But if it ever comes to a showdown between Floyd and Cassius, we have a sneaking suspicion that Patterson will take it all.

All this conjecture is based on another hunch that Liston may never get another shot at the title. If he does, we would have to pick him over Clay or any of the other present contenders despite his sorry showing against Cassius the last time around. We KNOW Patterson can never beat Liston. But Floyd already has licked Machen and we suspect he could handle Terrell.

TAKING FIRST THINGS FIRST, however, there is considerable doubt that Patterson can "take" Chuvalo. When we asked Joe Louis recently what he thought of that fight, the old Brown Bomber unhesitatingly picked the Canadian. Many other expert observers also like Chuvalo, who probably will enter the ring a slight favorite to side-track Floyd for good.

Anyway, the Patterson-Chuvalo fight should be a good one and judging from early interest in the scrap, both local locations for the TV showing will be sold out early. That won't take much doing, however, because the Hacienda Hotel show room will only seat 1200 and The Mint will have to cut off sales at the 800 mark. Promoter Bill Miller should have no trouble taking in a maximum \$12,000 at six bucks a copy for ducats to both showings.

This is one time we can strongly advise local fight fans to "get your tickets early, folks, or you may be shut out" without fear of handing out a wrong steer. If there are any seats left at fight time on the night of Feb. 1 for either the Hacienda or The Mint, we'll be very much surprised.

So--"get your . . ."

LAS VEGAS Voice

SECOND SECTION

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RANCHO ROMPS--Morris Stowers (42) of Rancho High grabs high pass as Rams romp to AA conference lead at 3-0 with 79-49 victory over Basic High of Henderson in Rancho gym last Friday. Other white-uniformed Rancho player (34) is Odell Nichols.

COMING... MORE PHOTOS

Due to space limitations, several photos originally scheduled for this week's VOICE will appear in next week's edition.

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