



AMOS LINCOLN, who won and lost in two local fights last winter, made some interesting comments on the subject of last week's column --the second Cassius (Ali Muhammad) Clay-Liston title bout--when he was interviewed by Sid Ziff of the Los Angeles Times last week. Sid's account of the interview follows:

His name is Amos (Big Train) Lincoln. He was Sonny Liston's sparring partner at Lewiston. He still doesn't know what to make of the fiasco. He says the events of that day and the quick kayo of Liston always will be a mystery to him.

The other night two strangers in a big car picked him up and drove him around the block several times. "You talk too much," they told him. "I ain't saying nothing but what I think," said Lincoln stubbornly.



AMOS LINCOLN

"I don't know nothing except Sonny looked mighty good in training camp," says Lincoln. "He was sharp as a razor, trained like a dog. I hit him with punches that would knock anyone out. Never fazed him."

"He's a big, playful guy. Likes to play tricks on you. A practical joker. After we finished up with boxing in camp he hands me something that looked like a candy box. 'Here something for your wife,' he says. I reach out for it before I stop to think and

get a helluva shock. He doubled over from laughing. "But the day of the fight he wasn't the same. He stop laughin' and talkin.' He was very quiet. It wasn't like him. They kept me away from him most of the day. Wouldn't let me talk to him.

"At 4 o'clock, instead of eating some good food he ate garbage. I said, 'I can't eat this stuff. That's trash to eat before a fight. How come you eat it?'"

"He don't answer. I went around the corner to a cafe and had them cook me up three hamburgers the way I like 'em.

"Everybody was on edge. I put a sticker on the car he's going to ride in to the arena. It say: 'Amos (Big Train) Lincoln, Your Next Heavyweight Champion Is Here.' They got sore. Sonny climbs into an old Cadillac. I rode in a '65 Cad. They got sore about that, too."

Thinks Liston Is Older Than 40

Lincoln appeared in a prelim and scored a kayo in 35 seconds. The Big Train has been fighting-off and on for 10-12 years. His record shows gaps when he was doing time. Like so many fighters he got in trouble. It took him seven years to wipe the slate clean.

Big Train is 28, stands 6 feet, 4 1/2 inches. He has a record of 59 wins, 4 losses, 1 draw and 39 kayoes. He stopped Thad Spencer here last year. He fights Roberto Davila at the Olympic tonight. You can see it on the tube if you can't make the arena. It'll be on Channel 5 at roughly 9 p.m.

Big Train thinks Liston is probably 41 years old, possibly 43 or even older, but says you'd never have suspected it in training camp.

"He hit me on the arm once and I couldn't lift it.

Matt Kelly Kids Kick Up Their Heels



FIELD DAY--Among those participating in recent Matt Kelly School Field Day were (upper left) James Hall (left) and Tiny Taylor in 5th grade boys relay; (upper right) Sheila Nichols (left) and Cynthia Childs in 5th grade girls three-legged race, with teacher Jerry Holloway; (lower left) Rene Everfield (left) and Leon Carter in 6th grade boys 50-yard dash; (lower right, from left) James Carter, Elbert Taylor and Matthew Reed in boys 6th grade relay. Teacher John Bass supervised program with Holloway.



Another time he hit me on the right side and paralyzed my left leg. When he'd get me in a corner I was fighting for my life.

"Neither of us scored a knockdown but I wasn't trying to. I was supposed to help him get ready. One guy, Lee Williams, a Boston heavyweight, wanted to make himself a big shot. He tells me he's going to try to knock Liston down. I warned him not to try, he might get hurt. He says he's got to do it, it might get him a fight with Liston. A minute later he's standing in the middle of the ring blinded.

Sonny Must Have Been in Shape

"When Sonny saw what he was up to, he let him have it. The punch split up a big cut on his forehead. He could have got himself killed.

"Anyone try slugging with Liston in camp was nuts. I'd tell these other guys to move around. A rolling stone gathers no moss. Stand still and you're a dead man. Liston knocked my headgear clean off twice. Once a

lady reporter screamed. She thought it was my head rolling on the floor."

Big train still is puzzled how Cassius Clay could knock out anyone with one punch. "With five or six, yes. After all, he's a heavyweight. A drunk in a bar can knock you out--if he's a heavyweight."

Lincoln says Clay is fast. "He has pretty punches. He has a lot of unorthodox moves and he's always in tremendous condition. But I'd like to fight him. I'd like to fight him winner-take-all. I know if I was fighting anyone winner-take-all and he knocked me down, I'd get up."

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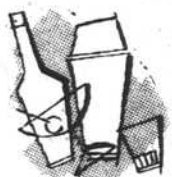
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