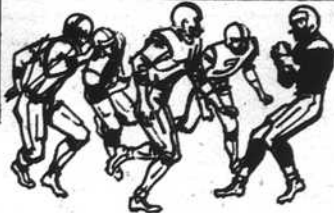


SPORTS



Chuck Harris

(Sports columnist Chuck Harris continues his series of hypothetical matches between present day Heavyweight Champion, Muhammad Ali, and Champs of yesteryear. Here he cautiously invents a postponement of the announced contest between Ali and Joe Louis).

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DUE TO AN injury to the formidable Detroit Brown Bomber, JOE LOUIS, the scheduled championship bout between LOUIS and MUHAMMAD ALI has been called off to give the Bomber's right hand time to heal. JOE LOUIS had been training harder for this fight than he ever had for any of his previous matches. Before suffering the injury to his hand, the Brown Bomber had been showing his sparring partners no mercy, and his managers were forced to advertise for more sparring mates and upping the rate of \$25 a round to \$50 because so many had been K.O.'d while training with LOUIS. Never in the history of the game has any champion offered such an enormous fee for sparring partners.

JOE was asked what he really thought of "this great terror of the squared circle", MUHAMMAD ALI. His answer was he wasn't about to play his adversary cheap because he had seen ALI in action and he was the fastest heavyweight he had ever seen and ALI's hands were certainly as quick, and perhaps, quicker than his (Louis's). He added that ALI could also punch whenever he desired. LOUIS said that this man is not just a 'talker', but truly a tough and dangerous opponent who, hitherto, had proven his boast that "I'm the greatest". LOUIS concluded his statement with the comment "You can bet that though I don't have much to say, when the time comes for the fight, I'll be ready."

Over at the other camp, MUHAMMAD ALI was talking in his usual loud and boisterous manner claiming that nothing was wrong with JOE'S hand--that the Brown Bomber was only stalling for time to get in better condition. ALI said he wanted to clear the cloudy championship picture and determine "once and for all" who is the Heavyweight Champion. The IBC, ALI said, recognizes him as Champ and the BIA calls JOE LOUIS the Champion.

MUHAMMAD admits LOUIS is a tremendous puncher with either hand and that LOUIS'S hands are as fast as his, but claims he will be so fast when the two tangle, he will have to slow down so the TV cameras can keep up with where he is hitting JOE. He said he knows of all the doubts expressed about his punching power, but after the fight with ZORA FOLLEY who he has agreed to meet while waiting for LOUIS'S hand to heal, he will, in the match with LOUIS, demonstrate what a great puncher he really is.

LUCK BOX McDOWELL, a long-time associate of JOE LOUIS, was asked how he thought the fight would come out. He answered that he thought JOE would win, but he can't play ALI cheap...RED WILLIAMS, a great fight enthusiast, said it's going to be a good fight and don't be surprised if there is an upset. Without divulging his choice, he admitted he is going to place a bet and if his wins, he's thinking of enlarging his popular cocktail lounge "The Place".

JOHN WEST, General Manager of the Las Vegas VOICE newspaper says that both are great fighters, so he is content to just wait for the outcome...SONNY LISTON, a great fighter himself, says this fighter, MUHAMMAD ALI is better than you think and the match could go either way...The VOICE publisher, Dr. Charles I. West, said he had seen both fighters exhibit their impressive wares on numerous occasions, but he'd go along with JOE'S punching power.

Over at Reuben's Supper Club, bartender

CARL said he must go along with MUHAMMAD because of his speed...GENE JEW of the El Rio Club said that ALI is just too fast for LOUIS...BOB BAILEY of Sugar Hill said JOE will hang him--hit's too hard...LARRY WILBURN of Larry's Music Bar says CLAY is too fast and will surprise everybody...The VOICE Editor, ALICE KEY is going for broke--says JOE will murder him...KATHERINE BRUNER of Andy's Liquors said it's a toss-up.

According to IRVIN STARR of Ace Loan Co., whoever gets in the best punch first will win...LLOYD ARMSTRONG of the Wild Goose Bar, also thinks MUHAMMAD may surprise everybody...JOE HUDSON of Western Auto Supply shrugs it off with confidence--"JOE LOUIS, who else?"...Attorney Charles Kellar declaimed 'No matter who wins, it's going to be the fight of the century'. BOB PORTER of the Savoy Club predicts ALI will K.O. LOUIS in 10 rounds...School teacher EARL CARTER said nobody can beat ALI; just watch him when he fights the Brown Bomber...CHUCK of the All American Boys Club says just you wait 'till they meet--the world might get a big upset. (Editor's note: --or rather question--Which result will be the upset?)

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The ladies who are sponsoring the fabulous Fashion Show to benefit the All American Boys Club apologize for postponing the show scheduled for last Sunday. The decision was made because of so many other events taking place on that date. Their feeling after seeing how the Boys Club operates and how beneficial it is to the youngsters, that every opportunity should be given to allow the community to support the cause by attending the affair. It is now scheduled for next Sunday, Feb. 26 at the Cove Hotel...The Boys are deeply appreciative to these ladies--KATHERINE BASS, GLORIA ROME, BEATRICE JOHNSON, VERONICA BRANCH, and MARY McGEE for their dedicated efforts in behalf of these youngsters...Some may say that they don't have kids, so what! Remember that all our youngsters are our adults of tomorrow and we must look to them for leadership--Among them may be another WILLIE MAYS, outstanding scientist, technologists, etc.

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UCLA Bruins with the Great LEW ALCINDOR "in this corner" shot down the Oregon State Beavers 72-50...CHARLEY PASSARELL of Puerto Rico surprised ARTHUR ASHE in defeating the latter in the U.S. Indoor Tennis Singles...The L.A. Dodgers report to Vero Beach, Florida for spring training...The golden arm of SANDY KOUFAX will be 'sorely' missed and the Dodgers will not be the same... "Mr. Short Stop", MAURY WILLS who, in a moment of complete lunacy, the Dodger brass traded off to Pittsburgh, will steal his former team mates blind and put real meaning into Pittsburgh team name of "Pirates"--all portending the possibility that the NL pennant-winning Dodgers may get no higher than 4th place in the standings.

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Former Heavyweight Champion INGEMAR JOHANNASON visited another former Heavyweight Champion, SONNY LISTON, here in Las Vegas recently hoping to lure LISTON into considering a title match with Champion MUHAMMAD ALI to be staged in Gatesburg, Sweden...SONNY says if he disposes of LOU BAILEY in Sweden next month, he will be more than glad to take on the present Champ. JOHANNASON is one of Europe's leading boxing promoters and he and LISTON were mobbed by autograph seekers when the pair visited Caesar's Palace during the former's recent stay here.

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