

SPORTS



Chuck Harris

Ringside At The Fight Of The Century

(Concluded here are the final rounds of the Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali title match as reported by sportswriter Harris who had reported Louis on one knee as the bell rang ending a great 8th round for Ali.)

THAT WAS an exciting (and the best) round of the fight for Muhammad Ali. Over in Joe's corner, we see Chappie Blackburn, one of the most colorful and knowledgeable trainers and teachers in pugilism, vigorously massaging the legs of Louis, as he, no doubt, realizes now that his fighter must be ready every round of this fight of his life--There's the bell!

Round (9) The Brown Bomber, in his flat-footed shuffling style, quickly moves into the center of the ring as though he were never hurt. He is met straight on by Ali which seems to come as a surprise to Joe. Now Muhammad lands a short chopping right to Joe's body--a one-two to the Bomber's head. Now Louis lands a crushing body attack with both hands to Muhammad's body...Now Ali yells to the referee claiming Joe's punches were low--Referee Donovan yells to both to keep fighting and Ali seems a little dismayed as he feints Louis to his left, then back to his right, and without landing a punch moves away. Louis, with that dead-pan expression and more determined, it seems, chases Muhammad from corner to corner, now and then landing a fairly decent blow. Ali apparently is shaken a little from those devastating body blows landed by Joe. Ali side-steps and lands two jabs to the Bomber's noggin which seemed to have very little power as the bell rings ending the 9th round.

THAT WAS one of the slowest rounds of the fight with Muhammad coasting and trying to tire Louis out or he may have been really hurt from those punishing body blows which landed with plenty power. But who knows, the unpredictable Muhammad could be planning new strategy... Over in the Bomber's corner, trainer Blackburn seems to have regained his composure. He pats Joe on the back and pushes the Bomber out for

Round (10) Muhammad Ali, now looking deadly serious and meaner than ever, glides slowly from his corner and meets Joe in the center of the ring...Both fighters let jabs fly with lightning-like speed, and both fighters are speared in the puss. Louis leans to his left and drives a tremendous straight right to Ali's body and right back with two straight jabs to Ali's chin. Muhammad, with that great speedy footwork of his, jumps back and the Bomber rushes in and is met with a thundering overhand right--a punch Ali seldom throws--Louis is again bashed with three whip-like left hooks to the body. Joe grabs Muhammad and ties him up as Ali tries strenuously to fight inside to no avail. Donovan shrewdly breaks the boys, something he has seldom had to do all night. Louis feints Ali with a jab, quickly turns it into a left hook that hardly traveled six inches and knocks Ali into the ropes--If it had not been for the ropes, Muhammad may have gone down...Now Louis lets go with devastating short rights to Ali's body...Now Ali tries to spin the Bomber, and is tied up at the bell.

Round (11) Things were very quiet in Ali's corner at the end of round 10, with Dundee, Muhammad's trainer, apparently cautioning his fighter...As the bell rings for the 11th round, Louis shuffles out into the center of the ring and is circled by Muhammad as he lands a good one-two to Louis's head and, in return, is caught with a short shocking right hand to the body by Louis. Ali comes back with another one-two to the Bomber's head--Now a right and a left to the body...Louis pulls back and comes back with a chopping right to the body, a left hook to the head, and is caught with a smashing right hook to the body, a left and a right to the head

by Ali...Louis, fighting more desperately than ever, fires two stinging jabs to Ali's chin, a one-two to the head and, in return, is caught with a solid one-two to the head--as the bell rings.

What a round! What a fight!

Round (12) Muhammad comes out faster than ever before and instead of circling, feints Joe from a crouch and lands a one-two to the Bomber's chin that rocks Louis on his heels...Now Ali rushes in for the kill and is surprised with a bombing right and left as it seemed he had Louis in trouble...The Bomber now crashes a one-two to Ali's chin, goes to the body with two left hooks that carried authority. Clay, a little bewildered, backs speedily away and catches Joe with a left and right to the head at the bell.

Round (13) Louis and Ali are out into the center of the ring about the same time. Louis places two jabs on Ali's chin...Muhammad fires back with lefts and rights to the Bomber's head, too high to do any damage. Louis now chases Ali who seems to be more content to box out the round.

Round (14) Muhammad is met with two screw-like jabs to the face and, in return, lands a jab and a punishing right to the Bomber's head and body...Now Louis places a good one-two on Muhammad's kisser, then is caught with a good overhand right to the chin and Ali now comes back with a left and right to Louis's body and head...Now Louis shakes Ali with a vicious left and a straight right to the body as the bell rings ending the 14th round.

Round (15) Donovan awaits the boys in the center of the ring to let the Champs know "This Is It" ...Louis and Ali touch gloves, circle each other, and both land telling rights and lefts to the head, now back to the body...Louis steps to the side, bangs Ali with a stunning one-two to the head and, in return, is caught with a short one-two to the head and two rights to the body...Now, in close quarters, the Bomber lands a tremendous left and right to Ali's chin and Ali comes back with a one-two to Louis's chin AND it looks as though Louis is down, BUT NO--out of nowhere, Louis bangs a right to the body--and ALI GOES TO ONE KNEE...LOUIS TRIES TO WALK AWAY AND ALSO FALLS TO ONE KNEE.

The crowd is wild as both of these gladiators are now dazed and partially on the canvas... Slowly Ali rises at the count of 9...Now, Louis jumps up quickly. Both of the Champs are now going wild, throwing punches from every angle, and both are rocked back on their heels--AND THEY BOTH SLIP TO THE CANVAS AS THE BELL RINGS ENDING THE FIGHT.

What a fight! What a round! What fan would have missed this match to be remembered by the world for generations to come!

Both of the boys are really arm weary, but still looking ready for more fight. Donovan, standing quietly in the ring, as the crowd buzzes, waits for the judges cards which will determine who is truly our greatest champion of all time.

Ladies and Gentlemen, here is the decision--and, suddenly, you could hear a pin fall as this tremendous gathering awaits this momentous decision. All three judges have called it a draw.

WAIT - WAIT! When this match was made, it was provided that in such a case, the referee would have to cast his vote...Now this great referee, Arthur Donovan, the man who was on top of the action every minute, marks his card. Now Donovan is marking his card.

Here it is, Ladies and Gentlemen--AND IT IS A DRAW-- THE REFEREE CALLS IT A DRAW...And this crowd goes wild as the two fighters meet again in the center of the ring and embrace each other.

SPORTSWRITER MOURNED

By CHARLES J. LIVINGSTON
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

FINAL TRIBUTE TO FELLOW SCRIBE

There is a prominent slogan in journalism--more of an attempt to placate and pacify the overworked, underpaid newspaperman than anything else--which proclaims laudibly that "newspaper fame does not mean being remembered when you're dead; it means being respected while you are alive."

That, incidentally, is why this column is entitled "A Final Tribute to a Fellow Scribe," for the man whose passing recently inspired it, was indeed respected both as ally and adversary.

HALLEY HARDING, former baseball and basketball star, sports writer, announcer, golfer and after-dinner speaker, was paid many tributes during his lifetime. He was also called many ugly names because of his constant crusading for fairplay in sports, by those who wanted him to keep his blankety blank nose out of their business.

Yes, there is no question but that Harding, 56 at the time he succumbed to a heart attack in Chicago, is well remembered in journalism. But it is also true that he never received the credit nor reward he deserved as an athlete, crusader and publicist.

Himself one of those unfortunate Negro athletes who were ahead of their time and were forced by the color line into secondary roles, Harding was one of the early crusaders for eradicating the color bar in sports. He was also the man who strove mightily to extol the greatness of one of the most fabled and extraordinary men in American sports--Leroy (Satchel) Paige.

AS A MEMBER of the Kansas City Monarchs in the now defunct Negro American Baseball league, Harding had played with Paige and therefore was in an ideal position to speak of the remarkable talents of Paige, who has remained a pitching star longer than any man in the game.

So naturally Harding became business manager and publicist for Paige. Harding was extolling Paige long before the daily press even got wind of Paige's prowess.

But Harding's own athletic career was an example of the cruel racism against which he crusaded so ardently. Halley himself would have made it big as a basketball, baseball and football star, had it not been for "Old Man Jim Crow."

He was a member of the Original Harlem Globetrotters and the oldtimers tell me he was a heck of a ballhawk. He also would have been another Bob Cousey, or K. C. Jones, in profes-

(See MOURNED, page 7)

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