



INFORMATION

By

"The Crappie Catcher"

Crappie are moody, changeable, and foxy in the way they bite. There are times when they will not bite at all, but they are still not nearly as guilty of this trait as are bass.

When bass are hitting, they hit with power. Crappie at times also hit with power, but as a more general rule, crappie try to 'sneak' the bait from the hook.

THE CRAPPIE angler must stay alert and must concentrate on how the fish are "attacking" the live bait. Sometimes they will take the minnow broadside and hold it soft-mouthed like a good bird dog retrieving a quail. While soft-mouthed, he swims away with the bait. Sometimes so gently that the rod tip barely moves. The angler must be alert to see his line moving slowly to one side or the other.

Fishing by sight is as important as fishing by touch when crappie are biting. The fisherman must watch his line for movement that may not impart any message through the rod to his sense of touch. The fisherman must literally see 'the bite' in the movement of the line.

When crappie come up under the bait and continue toward the surface with bait held in mouth, the line goes slack or limp, telling the alert fisherman that his bait is being snatched. This sneak trick of crappie presents a challenge to the fisherman.

THERE IS no single procedure that the nimrod can follow to catch the sneak thief every time it slacks the line. The fisherman must experiment with several different procedures until he finds the one that out-foxes the fox.

First try winding in the slack very slowly while at the same time lowering the tip of the rod to bring the rod to a level position. At the moment when all slack has been taken up, stop winding and see what the fish is going to do. If the rod tip dips toward the water, drop the tip down very slightly and if the rod dips again, raise it quickly to set the hook.

When this procedure fails to hook the fish, try moving the tip of the rod very slowly to one side or the other. The movement must be very gentle and very slow. The idea behind the slow and gentle movement is to trick the crappie into thinking that the minnow is attempting to escape, and cause the crappie to take the minnow. If the fish falls for this procedure, he will dive with the minnow and set a deep bow in the rod. When this happens, set the hook with a quick lift of the rod.

WHEN NEITHER procedure works consistently, change the position of hooking the minnow. If you had been hooking the minnow through the mouth, try hooking it through the back or through the tail.

If you are fishing a 2-hook rig, hook the top bait through the back, and the bottom bait through the lips or through the head from one eye through the other. Find the way the crappie will take the minnow best, and stick with it for only as long as it continues to work.

You must be just as changeable, and just as sly as the crappie. Fish high--fish deep--fish in between. Try moving the bait up and down--try side to side. Always slowly and gently. Try any trick that comes to mind until you find the trick that works.

WBA Action Against Clay Revealing

WHILE CASSIUS "Muhammad Ali" Clay's case has been decided by one court and only time will tell the ultimate outcome, sports fans, writers, and even editorial writers are still playing the action of the World Boxing Association for its action in stripping the Champion of his title. Two opinions are reprinted here. One deals simply with the WBA's action against

Clay, but syndicated columnist Sydney J. Harris warns of the inherent danger to all Americans in acceptance of the practice of double standards. Mr. Harris' thoughtful indictment of a double standard of "justice" should be read by every American everywhere, and what better time than the week in which the nation pauses to honor its Independence?

A Dangerous Double Standard

By SYDNEY J. HARRIS

WE ALL live, implicitly, by a double standard of "justice." We demand absolute justice for ourselves, but require only relative justice for others. And we don't know we are doing it.

A recent outstanding example was the action of boxing organizations in stripping Cassius Clay of his world heavyweight title because he refused to obey the Selective Service law.

One has absolutely nothing to do with the other. A man does not win the world's title because he is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, brave, clean and reverent, but because he is the best boxer in his class. And he loses the title only when he ceases to be the best boxer.

Stripping him of his title because he is presumably "unpatriotic" is as absurd--and as unjust--as sitting down to play poker with a man who wins a thousand dollars, and then refusing to pay what he has won, because he failed to stand up while the National Anthem was being sung.

I have not the slightest affection or admiration for Cassius Clay, in any of his capacities; but at least his decision to go to jail rather than enter the Army is more honorable and more consistent than the decision of the boxing organizations to take away his title.

CLAY MAY be wrong in his decision, but he is willing to pay the price, and it will surely be a high one. If he has broken the civil law, he will, and should, be sent to jail; but he has broken no boxing law, and remains the champion no matter if he commits murder, rape, sedition and barratry. What is won by ability cannot be denied because of character.

We are forever confusing the different realms of human activity. We want the idea of "justice" rigidly applied to us when rigidity will help us, and leniently applied when leniency will help us. But when someone else commits an act we disapprove of, then what we really demand is revenge or retaliation rather than justice.

The trouble with this double standard is that once we knock down the distinctions for others, we are knocking them down for ourselves, too. If we can strip a boxer of his title for an act that is wholly irrelevant to his fighting ability, then we can strip a teacher of his job because he wears a beard (which has been tried), or deny a senator his seat because he has embarrassed his colleagues (which has also been tried).

JUSTICE, IF it is to have any meaning beyond the rhetorical, must be absolute and uniform for everybody, and not based on preference, or taste, or the passion of the majority. I don't give two straws for Clay, but unless we defend his right to the title, we are signing away our own future rights to be treated fairly.

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SPOTLIGHT ON SPORTS

By CHARLES J. LIVINGSTON

THE HARD facts of the fight game are like the hard facts of life; they must be reckoned with realistically. Trying to remake boxing, overnight, into a gentleman sport from which to recruit choir boys or gentlemen ambassadors to the Court of King James, is like trying to automatically christianize Muslims or vice versa.

This brings us to the point at issue. That is, whether the ring lords can really pull Cassius (Muhammad Ali) Clay's heavyweight title for his refusal to serve in the U.S. Army, even amid his pleas for exemption as a conscientious objector?

Apart from the sanctions which might be brought against him--even by those hypocritically espousing our beloved American Way of Life--I submit that the ring chiefs really cannot take away Clay's title.

They can withdraw recognition of him; yes, but they cannot erase from the minds of the sports public, and boxing fans in particular, the fact that Clay, or Ali, must remain the rightful champion until he is beaten in the ring, retires, or dies.

NO MATTER how laudatory the reasons or how villainous the victim, you just can't take away a man's title with a single stroke of the pen. Neither can any tournament that excludes the real champion achieve the same objective.

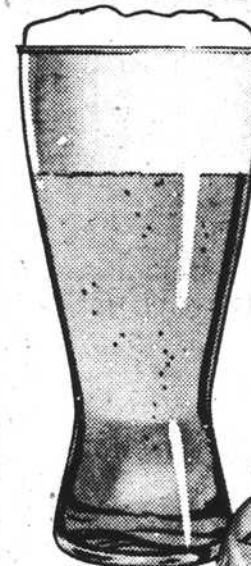
Clay is the heavyweight champion of the world who won his crown in combat in the ring, and he'll remain the champ until either of the three conditions mentioned earlier--defeat, retirement or death prevails. This, plain and simple, is one of the very hard facts of the boxing game, and the fight fans are the first to recognize it. In fact, they'll tell you so.

Admittedly, Clay's troubles started because of his attitude. To put it another way, he began getting into hot water early in his professional fight career because he refused to toe the line and dared to be different.

You see, there seems to be an attitude that has grown up around boxing in past years which

(See WBA, page 6)

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