

**Brad Pye Reports From Tokyo**

# Japanese Press Play Ali Fight Big

TOKYO, Japan — Thoughts on sports and things from Tokyo and in between stops:

Muhammad Ali's latest announced plans to fight WBC champion Larry Holmes made as big headlines here as the resignation of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and the subsequent appointment of Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Me.) to replace him.

The news a few hours later that no contracts had been signed for the bout and that Ricardo Labre, Rio de Janeiro State Sports Superintendent says "the chances are 99.9 percent against the bout being held in Rio de Janeiro Stadium," dominated the sports pages here, too.



Labre added: "I talked with two groups, including this Prime Sports outfit. These guys didn't even have business cards. They did not have anything. I am going to recommend to the state governor that the offer be rejected and I'm sure it certainly will be."

Prime Sports, headed by Ali's former bodyguard, Murad Muhammad and promoter Don King, had announced in New York April 28 the fight was officially set for Maracana Stadium.

Holmes' manager Richie Giachetti has said since this latest announcement: "There's a cloud over this thing," and expressed some doubts about the fight ever coming off under the present set-up.

Holmes reportedly would get \$4-million and Ali would receive twice as much in his bid to become the first man ever to win the heavyweight title for the fourth time.

Sudden Thought: If Ali and Holmes ever get it on — promoter Don King, who has brought so many outstanding bouts to Las Vegas and other locations around the world — will undoubtedly have to take over the promotion and make it fly.

The NFL draft made as big headlines in the English language newspapers and on the English language radio and TV stations as Ali.

The Mainichi Daily News and the Japan Times carries as many of the highlights of the major leagues and other

major sports as some of the small dailies in the states.

The Los Angeles Dodgers' winning streak which had stretched to ten at this writing and the virtual collapse of the California Angels received prominent billing in these publications too.

A major photo of Oklahoma's Billy Sims and his wife, Brenda, dominated the sports pages here.

Apparently NBA basketball is no big thing here in Tokyo. The Los Angeles Lakers' 111-105 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics to cop the Western Conference title, only merited a single column headline in the Mainichi Daily News.

This truly must be the year of the Bibby men — Henry Bibby, the ex-UCLA all-American, who is currently

doing his thing in the NBA championship series against the Lakers and his old UCLA buddies Captain Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Jamaal Wilkes and Brad Holland.

Henry's big brother, Jim Bibby, who shutout Montreal 5-0 the other day, competed in the 1979 World Series for the title winning Pittsburgh Pirates.

And Henry and his Philadelphia '76ers led by Julius "Dr. J." have vowed to match big brother Bibby's championship winning efforts.

Have two brothers ever made it to the championship game in two different sports before?

Those Bibby men did it and Mr. and Mrs. Bibby must be mighty proud of these athletic greats.

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## Sports Roundup

Seattle SuperSonics guard Dennis Johnson walked away with all the marbles selected unanimously on the National Basketball Association all-defensive coaches' team. Twenty-one coaches voted Johnson No. 1, while the remaining league coach had Johnson on a second place ballot. Votes were based on two points for first place and one for second. Others selected were Don Buse (Phoenix) and Michael Ray Richardson (New York) tied for the other guard position.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of Los Angeles was named center while the forward slots were filled with Dan Roundfield of Atlanta and Bobby Jones of Philadelphia to round out the first team.

The basketball quote of the year observed by Lionel Hollins, formerly with the Portland Trailblazers and now an outstanding guard for the Philadelphia 76ers: "The thing I love about basketball is that you can play with your head as well as your body. I see so many guys with so much talent, but they don't know how to use their head."

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