

SPORTS

SUGAR RAY IN VEGAS

He Doesn't Want To Talk About The Fight

Sugar Ray Leonard, dethroned of his World Boxing Council welterweight title in a 15-round unanimous decision three weeks ago to Roberto Duran in Montreal, flew into Las Vegas last weekend, with his wife Juanita Leonard to escape the rains in Hawaii.

Relaxing at Caesars Palace's gazebo near the swimming pool, Leonard appeared relaxed but not able to escape the ad-

miring glances, handshakers or autograph seekers.

Except for a flattened nose, Leonard still bared his youthful appearance without a mark on his still-smooth face.

The softspoken 24 year old Leonard was philosophical about the decision and the ex-

perience in the Duran fight. "I look at the decision that went against me as a learning ex-

perience. I didn't really lose. I got smarter," he said. "As far as boxing is concerned and trying to take advantage of what you can get out of it, I've been very fortunate to have achieved the ultimate goal...and that is financial security.

"I also feel in the fight game, you can achieve the ultimate goal and that is to retire with the title. There's no question about it. I want the title

back. But I am evaluating. My wife wants me to retire and the most important thing is to give her the respect and the happiness she deserves."

Dressed in a captain's cap, Leonard said he stopped at Caesars Palace on the way to Silver Springs, Md., from his Hawaii vacation.

As to whether he would fight again, Leonard went the full cycle.

"No, maybe, it would be the biggest fight ever. I can't say at this time. Give me time to think. Let me think, man," he continued. "We just came from Honolulu, a vacation. I just wanted to get away for a while. It was something I wanted to do for years, so I'm taking full advantage of it.

"I don't know if I will fight again. I don't know what I will do. It has come down to day to day thing now. I would rather not make a statement about my future."

After stretching for a few minutes, he was right back to the fight game.

"The belt belongs here in the United States. The fight was very, very close. I was fighting his fight. Think what would have happened if I had fought my fight?" He said it was his decision to fight Duran flatfooted.

"I told the press in New York, that I was going to fight flatfooted. I wanted to beat him at his own game. They didn't believe me. I don't blame them. But next time it will be dif-

ferent."

About the fight itself, Leonard responded: "You know, about the 10th and 11th rounds I thought I had him. He was so determined, he was in such good shape. He hit me in the fourth round but I thought I was still going to win. Duran was so determined.

"I felt the last round was the deciding factor and if I pulled that out, it would clear things up. After the 15th round ended, I went over to Duran to acknowledge it was a dynamite fight and give him credit and he pretty much backhanded me. And I said, 'Hey, the guy knows he lost.

"When I went back to my corner, I stood waiting for the decision and I received a very cold shiver up and down my spine. I knew something was wrong. There was a little hesitation and the announcement of the decision. I awaited the verdict. When they said 'Duran' they said 'split' and I couldn't understand what they were saying because it was in French. About a rematch, Sugar Ray envisions: 'I can see it and I can see the outcome being different. But it's only a dream. I wait for reality.

"But even a bigger crowd, a bigger anticipation. More money...the purse might even double. The rematch would be an incredible showdown.

"And I can see my



SUGAR RAY

hand being held up at the end of the fight with no lumps, no bumps. And I see myself in a tuxedo."



JACKIE ROBINSON'S effective use of speed while playing with Brooklyn Dodgers caused managers to emphasize it more in their offense and defense.

The Legacy Of Jackie Robinson

NEW YORK — Rachel Robinson never tires of hearing people say: "Your husband was my all-time sports hero."

It happens all the time, she says. Getting into taxis, walking on the sidewalk, meeting corporate big shots, trying to raise money to perpetuate her husband's ideals.

It even happened the other day when a journalist interviewed her. First, he had to tell her about the time her husband was sitting out a game with an injury and chatted for a half-hour with a couple of boys at a hotdog stand at Ebbets Field.

Rachel Robinson's husband was Jack Roosevelt Robinson, the first black player in the

modern era of major league baseball. It is necessary to describe Jackie Robinson this way because generations turn over every couple of years, and names like Lyndon Johnson, Marilyn Monroe, Robert Frost and Jackie Robinson are suddenly ancient history for the young. For many middle-aged fans.

Robinson, who died in 1972, is still dancing off third base for the Brooklyn Dodgers, terrorizing the pitcher, threatening to steal home. For many people, Robinson is still fighting the lack of opportunities for blacks in his country.

"We want to keep that alive," Rachel Robinson says.

To maintain the dreams of Jackie Robinson, his widow helps run the Jackie Robinson Foundation, which provides college scholarships and counseling for young people, particularly the underprivileged.

If one correctly reads the fire beneath Rachel Robinson's professional poise — she taught clinical psychology at Yale University until recently — she wants to send young people into corporate, mainstream America with the same intensity her husband displayed. She especially wants to send them into baseball.

This summer the Jackie Robinson Foundation is (See Jackie, page 20)

Doolittle Basketball Race

Just about all of the teams in the Doolittle Center 1980 Summer Basketball League have a chance to capture the remaining 10 playdates.

The playoffs start July 28 with the four top teams.

The remaining season games include:

July 11 — B.T. Express vs Aces 6 p.m.

Valley Bank vs Sixers 8 p.m.

July 12 — B.T. Express vs Aces 6 p.m.

Valley Bank vs Sixers 8 p.m.

July 14 — Showboat vs Fire Dept. 6 p.m.

Eagle Eye All Stars vs Holiday 8 p.m.

July 15 — Eagle Eye All Stars vs Sixers 6 p.m.

Nevada Power vs Sixers 8 p.m.

July 16 — Fire Dept. vs Holiday Casino 6 p.m.

Showboat vs B.T. Express 8 p.m.

July 17 — Showboat vs

Nevada Power 6 p.m.

Valley Bank vs Eagle All Stars 8 p.m.

July 18 — B.T. Express vs Holiday Casino 6 p.m.

Fire Dept. vs Sixers 8 p.m.

July 18 — B.T. Express vs Holiday Casino 6 p.m.

Fire Dept. vs Sixers 8 p.m.

July 21 — Showboat vs Aces 6 p.m.

Fire Dept. vs Valley Bank 8 p.m.

July 22 — Sixers vs B.T. Express 6 p.m.

Holiday Casino vs Nevada Power 8 p.m.

July 22 — Sixers vs B.T. Express 6 p.m.

Holiday Casino vs Nevada Power 8 p.m.