

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of our quarterly copy of the WBA Regional, North America BOXING JOURNAL. It is published with participation from members of the Region (Canada, Mexico and United States), other members of the entire World Boxing Association and boxing journalists from throughout the world.

We are privileged to issue this first copy at the advent of one of the greatest boxing cards in history: Marvelous Marvin Hagler vs. Roberto Duran for the World Middleweight Championship at Caesars Palace, November 10, 1983, presented by Top Rank, Inc. and Caesars Palace.

It is hoped those issues will make a considerable contribution to the boxing game and encourage your participation.

CAESARS PALACE HOME OF CHAMPIONS

Caesars Palace is recognized as one of the premier resort-hotels in the world. With the complete comfort and enjoyment of the visitors as its guiding philosophy, Caesars Palace takes great pride in welcoming its guests to a fabulous vacation haven.

But Caesars Palace is much more than just a resort-hotel. During the past few years, Caesars Palace has expanded upon its recognized title as the "Entertainment Capital of the World." With its hosting of many varied sporting events, such as the upcoming Marvelous Marvin Hagler-Roberto Duran World Middleweight Championship, set for Nov. 10, the luxurious facility has earned a new reputation worldwide—"Caesars Palace, Home of Champions."

From the initial sporting event in October of 1969, when the United States took on Russia in amateur boxing, to the incredible spectacle of the Sugar Ray Leonard-Thomas Hearns World Welterweight Championship fight, Caesars Palace has brought the finest in sports competition to Southern Nevada.

The greatest names from the boxing world have climbed through the Caesars Palace ropes to do battle — Leonard, Hearns, Larry Holmes, Muhammad Ali, Gerry Cooney, Joe Frazier, Aaron Pryor, George Foreman, Ken Norton, Salvador Sanchez, Wilfred Benitez, Ray Mancini, Alexis Arguello, Danny "Little Red" Lopez, as well as both Hagler and Duran — the list goes on and on.

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HOW HAGLER AND DURAN WILL FIGHT

While paying attention to physical condition, Hagler, who is listed as being 31 years old, but says he is 29, also is always prepared mentally for a fight.

"He has a very, very good attitude," says matchmaker Ted Brenner. "His attitude is 'my day has come as champion.' He feels he's by far the best."

"There is the championship," says Hagler. "This is something you must protect. It is part of you."

Hagler seems to treat every opponent as a serious threat.

While guarding against overconfidence can be good, Angelo Dundee, who trained Sugar Ray Leonard, feels intense mental preparation for a fight can become tiresome for a fighter. This suggests that it could become old hat and lead to a letdown, without the fighter realizing it.

But, says Dundee, "Hagler will be sky high for Duran."

"Destruct and Destroy," is Hagler's motto. And the image of the billiard-bald, bearded Hagler to a lot of fans is that of a one-punch destroyer.

But sharpness, accuracy and hand speed rather than raw power are Hagler's game.

"He punches well with either hand," says Brenner. "I rate him better as a combination puncher than a one-punch guy."

Hagler was fighting

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Next year's Convention will be held in Caracas, Venezuela.

left-handed, which is his main stance, and peppering Sibson with right jabs, when in the third round he suddenly switched to a right-hand style and nailed Sibson with a left hook. By the time the end came in the sixth round, Sibson was a completely bewildered fighter.

But in Hagler's switching, Dundee sees possible serious trouble for the middleweight champion.

"When he turns from southpaw to right-handed, he squares his body and is open for a right-hand counter," says Dundee.

Duran knows how to counter with the right hand.

"Ring generalship could be the key to this fight, and both admittedly are good ring generals," says Brenner. And with every fight, Hagler has demonstrated an increasing knack to feel the fight, an awareness of how the fight is going and how to move it in the direction he wants it to go.

But, as Brenner says, his opposition in his last several fights has been of the caliber that he could have won on class alone — a successful stakes horse running against low-priced claimers.

Duran can bring out Hagler's ability in full, and Hagler might very well be at the peak of his game. "Roberto Duran made me a better fighter against him," says Sugar Ray Leonard.

"In Duran, he'll be fighting the most technically smart fighter he's fought. I make Duran a better technical fighter than Hagler."

"Duran does a number on you in close," says Dundee. "He gives you all different looks. He waves a left at you, then hits you with a right. He's a good body puncher and feints you out of your shoelaces."

"Duran has got to get inside and hit him short punches," says Brenner. "Keep moving in, and if he's throwing com-

binations inside, Hagler will have to tie him up and won't be able to punch."

In other words, though Hagler might be talented inside, against Duran it will be best for him to be outside, using his reach, his jab, and his movement to set up combinations. Hagler should go in when there's an opening, then get out. He should fight inside when he chooses, not when Duran chooses.

When Dundee and Brenner talk about Duran fighting inside, they don't mean brawling his way in, as he sometimes tried to do in the second Leonard fight, then mauling when he gets in. They mean he should get in by what

Dundee calls "aggressive boxing," calculated moves blending feints, quickness and power. This was how Duran won the first fight against the bigger, faster, harder-hitting Leonard, who was a natural welterweight.

Those tactics enabled Duran to build up a lead that Leonard couldn't overcome as he rallied over the last five rounds. The decision for Duran was unanimous, but very close.

That Duran will have to box his way inside against Hagler can be seen by the lack of Mustafa Hamsho's success in a title bid against Hagler on Oct. 3, 1981, at Rosemont, Ill.

The Unsung Ring Physician

By James H. Jen Kin, M.D.

The ring physician must be a licensed individual whose education and experience has him prepared to protect the welfare of the individual fighter in the framework of the sport and occupation that the independent participant voluntarily chooses and becomes involved in the different stages of proficiency. The ring physician must attend the weigh-in usually on the day of the fight, usually in the morning; arrive approximately one hour plus before the card starts, both times to examine and execute various documents and to arrive at conclusions as to the physical/medical ability of the participants to compete. They will stay through the whole card and examine and treat participants at times, several hours after the card has ended. The ring physician is intent through the duration of the card at ringside with a great deal of responsibility for the fighter's welfare; mindful of the fighter's chosen profession and the team of supervisors, commis-

sioner members, judges, and referees that he shares various levels of responsibility with. All of the above can never be compensated for on a monetary basis. The time away from practice, the medical and legal liability, the responsibility towards all he must work with, can never be compensated on a financial basis that night.

The ring physician must be a man or woman who is committed to a separate phase of the world that we all live in. He is usually groomed by an initial infatuation with the pugilistic world, either initiated by parents, youth leaders, or the media itself. He usually enters it by helping with the medical evaluation and treatment of club fighters and youth organizations. He will be committed to endless hours doing physicals for the various youth organizations, e.g. Golden Glove, for no compensation. He will be gradually educated and courted to give of his life, time and commitment to a world that he will grow to

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