

## Reggie Johnson Wins USBA Middleweight Championship In 10th Round TKO

By Bob Rodgers

Reggie "Sweet" Johnson may have won his USBA Middleweight Championship bout, but he will not say it was an easy win.

Johnson hit his opponent Eddie Hall with some unbelievable shots, but he would not go down. Though both fighters were in the best of condition, Hall was well prepared for the fight.

But through the tough 10 round bout, Johnson was just the stronger of the two. It showed from the 7th round on as "Sweet" was very much in control.

Ring doctor James Game stepped in to stop the bout because Hall was taking a tremendous beating and had a bad cut over his left eye.

Johnson's record improved to 27-1-1, while Hall dropped to 19-7.

In other bouts; Kid Akeem scored an 8th



Reggie "Sweet" Johnson

round TKO over Claudmir Dias to improve his record to 20-0 with 15 KOs. Akeem is currently the #1 WBO Super-flyweight contender.

Greg Lonon (12-1-1) won by unanimous decision over Dan Sclarandi (15-3-1).

## NAACP Calls Off Boycott of LPGA Event

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — A planned boycott of this week's LPGA Big Apple Classic was averted when an NAACP official on Tuesday pronounced himself satisfied that the host Wykagyl Country Club would speed efforts to recruit black members.

Napoleon Holmes, the president of the New Rochelle office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called off the protest after meeting Monday with tournament organizers. Last week, Holmes had asked sponsors of the tournament to withdraw their support because the club has no black members.

Club president William Thompson said in a letter to Holmes that "there are no barriers to black member-

ship."

"Our membership has evolved considerably over the last 10 years to reflect general social changes in our society. Today Wykagyl has Jewish and Christian members, women members, as well as members from the Japanese and Korean communities. The logical next step is to broaden our membership base to include black members."

Thompson said that blacks play at Wykagyl as guests of the members, but no blacks have ever applied for membership.

"We would welcome such applications and encourage our members to recommend those of their black friends they believe would be interested in becoming members," he said.

## NEA Condemns PGA for Plans to Play Championship on Course Barring Blacks

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 27--The National Education Association has condemned the Professional Golf Association for "its persistence in planning to play the annual PGA championship...at a golf club that refuses membership to African Americans."

The PGA championship was scheduled at the all-white Shoal Creek Country Club near Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 9-12.

NEA Executive Director Don Cameron, in a letter to PGA President Patrick J. Reilly, said:

"It is dismaying to see the

prestige of the Professional Golf Association marred with so unseemly a blemish. News accounts of this matter indicate that you organization intends a review of its policies regarding the choice of golf courses used for PGA activities. I urge you to act expeditiously."

NEA, with more than two million educational employee members, "has a long and proud history of leadership in securing civil rights for all Americans," said Cameron. "If we can be of assistance in resolving the current dispute in the interests of equality for all, please contact us."



## League Differences

What are the real differences between the National and American leagues? Of course there are some very basic differences, the biggest being the American League allows a designated hitter. But there also are some other, subtle differences.

The designated hitter is a real "star saver" for American-League teams. Because designated hitters bat for pitchers, American-League teams get more innings out of their pitchers and, consequently, don't have to carry as many pitchers on their rosters. Hitting burns out pitchers faster in games and in years. If there had been designated hitters when Mickey Mantle was playing, he probably could have played a couple more seasons.

Having a designated hitter certainly makes for better offensive play, and the fans like that. They want to see a lot of runs scored.

I played all but two of my years in the National League. The last two I played for the American-League Milwaukee Brewers as a designated hitter. Making the transition from playing the whole game to being just a designated hitter was not easy. I was used to getting into the whole rhythm of the game, shifting from defense to offense and so on. Suddenly, all I had to do between trips to the plate was think about that last time I was up with bases loaded and popped up!

But I found the real difference in league play to be the strike zone. The umpires in the American League call the strike zone higher and a bit bigger than they do in the National League. Because there is much more of a target to throw to, American-League pitchers work the ball around the plate more than they do in the National League.

Believe it or not, a big reason for the differences in the strike zone is that National-League umpires wear their chest protectors on the inside of their jackets while the American-League umpires wear their chest protectors on the outside of their jackets. Wearing their chest protectors on the outside prevents American-League umpires from squatting down as low as the National-League umpires. Other than that, the umpiring from league to league is basically the same.

There are a lot of older parks in the American League and not as many AstroTurf fields. Still, there is a popular notion that the National League is the more "traditional" of the two leagues. I disagree with that idea. Baseball is traditional. It is a game steeped in tradition, and the few rule changes they've made over the years have not changed the game much at all in either league.

What I'd like to see is a uniform brand of baseball. If they're never going to get the designated hitter in the National League — and I don't think it ever will happen — then get rid of it in the American League. I think that would be best for the game, and although they might miss the better offense, I think that's what the fans want. **ll**

Hank Aaron is the top home-run hitter of all time with 755 homers. A member of baseball's Hall of Fame, Hank is senior vice president of the Atlanta Braves.

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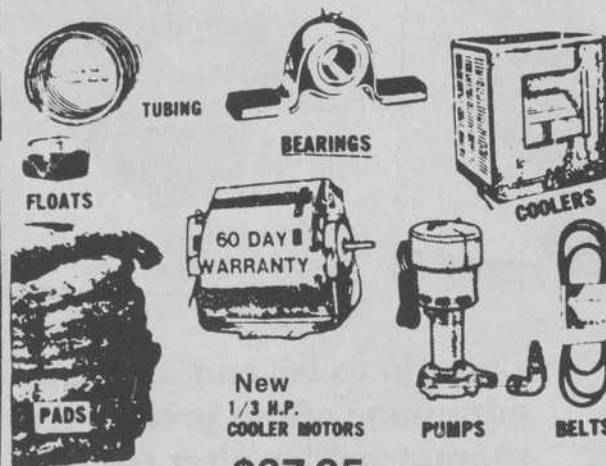
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## Johnson's Suspension To Be lifted by Canada

TORONTO — Ben Johnson, given a second chance by the Canadian government, predicted Thursday he'll win the 100-meter gold medal for his country at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

"I'll win the gold medal for sure," the sprinter said. "I have to prove it all over again that I can do it without drugs."

Sports Minister Marcel

Danis announced earlier that Johnson's lifetime ban from federal funding would remain in effect, but the government would leave the question of competitive eligibility to national sports federations.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation suspended Johnson for two years after he tested positive for steroids at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

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