

LAS VEGAS

# Sentinel Voice Sports

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## Sports Profile

Bob Rodgers

### DOC BROADUS...

#### A Living Boxing Legend

By Bob Rodgers  
Sports Writer

Doc Broadus, a boxing legend, can always be found around the ring whenever a pro or amateur fight is held.

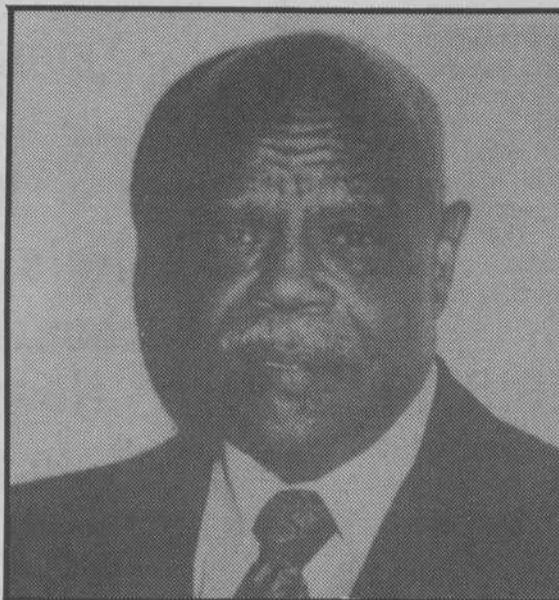
The dapper dan of the sport, Broadus is always sharp in his attire, and takes his boxing very seriously.

At the mellow age of 70, Doc has been involved in the sport for 60 years, and has more than paid his dues.

Boxing as an amateur, he fought over 100 bouts while in the service and was

named the All-Army light-weight champion in 1942. He also fought 24 professional fights, losing only one, which led to his retirement from the ring.

Broadus recently voiced some very strong feelings on professional boxing. "Boxing is one of the most crooked sports there is," he said. "I want to manage pro fighters because I don't like the elements that are controlling the sport. Especially the way they deal with drug problems and the way they



Doc Broadus

treat the kids. The kids are the only reason that I'm still involved in boxing."

Doc was in charge of Camp Parks' Job Corps Athletics Program in Pleasant Hills, CA., where he developed a lean 18 year old George Foreman to become the Olympic champion in 1968 and later Heavyweight champion of the world.

He also helped Bob Foster to the Light Heavyweight

championship.

After all of this, Broadus is currently an advisor to George Foreman for his comeback.

On other fighters, Doc adds: "Mike Tyson is a good fighter, but not a great one. He has no character and no class."

"The late "Sugar" Ray Robinson was the greatest fighter I have ever seen," he added.



## AARON AT BAT

### Going for Records

Baseball must keep track of more records than any other sport. Every possible variation of hitting and fielding is there in the record book. Some are pretty obscure. I wouldn't be surprised to hear a sportscaster say a player had just set the record for most consecutive singles by a left-hander in the American League during a twilight doubleheader while batting as a designated hitter.

But some records are important, and when a player is closing in on a big one, the pressure really increases. The media follows the player's every move, and it gets to be like he's under a microscope.

This year Cal Ripkin Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles has set fielding records including most consecutive chances by a shortstop without an error. Cal also has not missed playing in a game for years. As time goes on, he gets closer to Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 straight games set from 1925 to 1939. That was a record no one thought would ever be challenged. There has been some speculation by the media that Cal's play was suffering because of these records. The suggestion has been made that a day off would help, and the only reason he was still being played every game was to continue the streak.

I don't think so. Cal Ripkin is the kind of player that can live with pressure. If he wasn't, he would have bowed out of the consecutive game streak long ago. I agree with his manager, Frank Robinson: You've got to play the best player available for each position, and there's nobody better than Ripkin at shortstop. The man is fielding his position flawlessly. I've seen him make plays that other shortstops would never attempt. So I don't think he's uptight at all about these records.

Now, I have my own perspective on records from the time I broke Babe Ruth's all-time home-run record when I hit my 715th in April 1974. I feel that the best thing for a player is to approach every game as if it had no meaning or importance beyond the desire to win and to play the best game possible. You can't think about records when you go to the plate—not if you are a professional athlete.

Roger Maris was another player who faced pressure when he broke Babe Ruth's single-season home-run record by hitting 61 homers. Roger had it tougher than I did. He was on a time limit. It had to be done in that one season. Roger also played in New York City, which is the media capital of the world, and the Yankees had more writers traveling with them than players.

The press only started hounding me after I reached 700 homers. But after playing over 20 years in the major leagues, I wasn't going to let breaking a record get me uptight and unable to swing the bat the way I knew I could swing it. You can't play this game uptight.

I finished 1973 needing just one more homer to tie Ruth and another to break the record. Those home runs came quickly in 1974, the record coming at the Brave's home opening. I was thankful for that, because in baseball and in life, tomorrow is promised to no one. lol

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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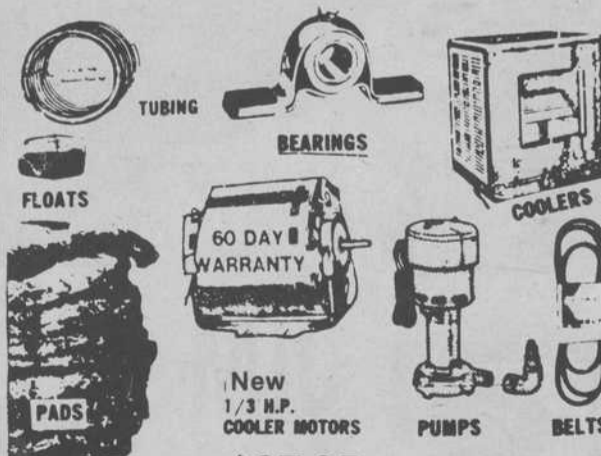
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