

Ali notches early KO

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) - Laila Ali wasted little time in retaining her WBC and WIBA world titles, knocking out Gwendolyn O'Neil of Guyana at 56 seconds of the first round Saturday in their super middleweight fight.

The 29-year-old daughter of boxing great Muhammad Ali headlined the first women's professional boxing match in South Africa. She improved to 24-0 with 21 knockouts.

"I have my cell phone back in the dressing room, and I will be giving my father a call," she said.

It took only two stiff straight rights from Ali before referee Ian John Lewis counted out the challenger in the scheduled 10-rounder. Ali apologized to fans, including former South African Presi-

dent Nelson Mandela, for the brevity of the fight.

"I would have liked to have shown the fans a few more rounds," she said. "But, hey, I'm happy with the KO."

Ali took a punch to her left eye in early exchanges and was unable to see out of it. "I was glad to land that first right and have a chance to let it clear," she said.

O'Neil fell on her back after that right, and took a mandatory eight-count before continuing. However, she was clearly stunned and it was a matter of time before the second straight right landed. A wobbly O'Neil struggled to her feet but was counted out.

O'Neil's record dropped to 12-1-5. She was knocked out by Ali in the third round in 2004 in Atlanta.

"I was out to make it

quicker than the last time," Ali said. "But I did not expect it to be this quick."

Ali barely made the 168-pound weight limit at Friday's weigh-in.

"This will be my last fight for a while," said Ali, who previously said she plans to have a family.

Ali also met with Mandela's ex-wife, human rights activist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, in Soweto and spoke to students at a school during her visit.



U.S. boxer Laila Ali, right, knocks out Gwendolyn O'Neil, left, as she defends her WBC and WIBA world titles in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Saturday in the first minute of the first round of their scheduled 10-round super middleweight contest.

Boxer seeking treatment care

PHOENIX (AP) - Mike Tyson has checked himself into an inpatient treatment program for "various addictions" while awaiting trial on drug charges, his lawyer said Wednesday.

"He needed to get involved in something that would help him with his addiction," attorney David Chesnoff said. Chesnoff wouldn't describe Tyson's addictions, but police said the former heavyweight champion told officers that he used cocaine frequently.

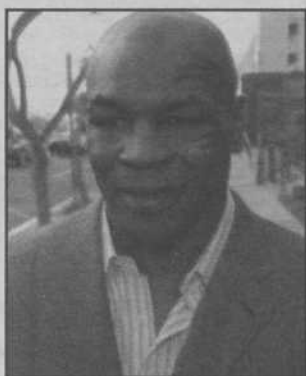
Chesnoff said Tyson checked himself into an undisclosed facility shortly after appearing in a Phoenix courtroom.

The 40-year-old Tyson pleaded not guilty on Jan. 22 in Maricopa County Superior Court to felony drug possession and paraphernalia possession counts and two misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence of drugs.

A pretrial hearing is scheduled for Feb. 26.

Chesnoff said he'd prefer that Tyson stay in the treatment facility, but "if he's required to be in court and he doesn't get excused, he'll be in court."

County Attorney Andrew Thomas has said Tyson has run out of second chances, and prosecutors will pursue prison time. If convicted on all four drug charges, Tyson could be imprisoned as much as 7 1/2 years. A spokesman for Thomas did not return calls Wednesday.



MIKE TYSON

Tyson previously was convicted of rape in Indiana in 1992 and pleaded no contest to misdemeanor assault charges in Maryland in 1999.

Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in history in 1986 when, at age 20, he knocked out Trevor Berbick.

Four years later, Tyson was knocked out by James "Buster" Douglas. By 1997, Tyson's reputation sank to a career low when he bit Evander Holyfield's ear during a fight.

On Dec. 29, police arrested Tyson in Scottsdale after his BMW was allegedly spotted weaving through traffic, almost hitting a police SUV. When officers stopped him, police said Tyson was trying to wipe a white powder off the console of his car.

Tyson had bags of cocaine in his back pocket and another bag in a pack of cigarettes, according to court documents.

Police said Tyson told officers he uses cocaine "any time he can get his hands on it."

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