



Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports Editor

Sweet, Sweet Leonard

"With these hands" Sugar Ray Leonard, possessor of the fastest pair of hands in the business destroyed welterweight contender Andy Price.

Leonard, fighting what was said to be his toughest opponent yet destroyed Price at 2:51 of the first round.

Duran, the ex-lightweight champion fighting in the second bout, had trouble with the tall speedy Gonzalez. Gonzalez kept Duran off balance throughout the ten rounder by using a good left jab and right hand lead.

The question is no longer "Is Sugar Ray ready for Duran?", but now "Is Duran ready for Sugar Ray?" The answer is "No."

Ray Leonard says he wants to be something special. He is. Leonard is a well oiled, highly conditioned fighter. He will not only whip Roberto, but will literally destroy him. Let's examine the reasons why.

Many fight fans remember Roberto Duran as a devastating puncher, one of the hardest hitters ever to grace the lightweight ranks. But remember now Mr. Duran has moved up in weight and the very thing that made him great amongst lightweights, his devastating punch, is no longer effective against the bigger welterweights. Duran at 5'7" was average size in the lower division, but as welterweight he's relatively short. Against Leonard at 5'10", Duran will be giving away these inches, and that too will lead to his (Duran's) demise.

As a gladiator young Sugar Ray has the charm and charisma of a young Muhammad Ali. He is really a miniature Ali.

"Lawdy, lawd! Isn't he great!" Those words were spoken from the battered lips of "Smokin Joe" after his glorious defeat at the hands of Ali in that memorable "Thrilla in Manila."

Andy Price, whom many called the uncrowned champ after his defeat of both Cuevas and Wilfred Benitez, could very well have muttered the same phrase about Leonard.

Many viewers would have given the edge to Gonzalez over Duran last Friday evening. But money talks and now the stage is set for the inevitable encounter between two of the biggest names in the fight game today, Leonard and Duran.

Holmes vs. Shaver

Holmes by an eleventh round knockout.

This one was not artistic by any stretch of the imagination, but entertaining it was. The champion had to survive a seventh round knock down to come on to defeat a worn out Shavers. The first seven rounds was fast, neither fighter paid attention to pace, and even less to conditioning. After 8 rounds both fighters looked as if they had just finished the Boston Marathon in 102° heat. This fight was probably one of the worst heavyweight championship fights ever staged.

The game will surely miss Muhammad.

Purdue over Oregon 13-7

Once again the Ducks came up empty handed after playing their second straight game against a top ten team. In an effort to stop the passing of All American candidate Mark Herrman, the Ducks gave away the ground game which led to their defeat.

Purdue sent a trio of runners at the Ducks that ran through, over, and around them all day amassing a total of 451 yards rushing. Oregon will play 20th ranked California this Saturday in Eugene and should pull out a win before 42,500 cheering fans.



RON BREWER

Looking to second season

By Ulysses Tucker Jr.

"A year under my belt has given me a great deal of experience," said Ron Brewer of the Portland Trailblazers after the Phoenix Suns baked the locals 96-93 on Tuesday night at the Coliseum.

"I'm more confident in my game than last season also, it was just a matter of finding myself as a player and learning the abilities of my team mates," added the second year guard from Arkansas. Brewer had 20 points in the loss.

As a rookie last season Brewer appeared in 81 games, second highest on the team, and tallied 2,454 minutes, third highest among the Blazers.

"He's improved this year," said head coach Jack Ramsey, "the only expectation that I have is for him to play his best individual game within our team framework. That's all we ask."

Last season Brewer shot .494 from the field, best ever for a rookie Blazer guard and shot .820 from the free-throw line. Brewer also had 102 steals, 79 blocked shots and averaged 13.3 points a game.

In his last 44 games, he scored 669 points for a 15.2 average, and in the play-offs he shot .564 from the floor and averaged 17.7 points while leading the Blazers with nine blocked shots.

"Truthfully, I need to work on my transition game and in the areas of team defence. My offence will come natural because of the advantage I have over smaller guards," said the member of the 1978-79 member of the All NBA Rookie Team.

"This past summer Brewer sponsored a series of Basketball Camps in his hometown, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

"I had the opportunity to kick

back and deal with the people that helped me to be what I am, and with the people I grew up with," he said. About the Camps? "Many of the youngsters really enjoyed them. I couldn't believe how much they wanted to learn," he said.

"I think that I may have had more fun than the kids," he said with a smile. "But seriously, it gave me a great feeling to go back to the projects and do something for my old community. I can't explain the feeling." Brewer also spent a great deal of time with his family.

In response to the cuts that the Blazers have to make in a few days, Brewer said, "We have some great players here and I hate to see any of them go, but we have to be getting down to who we'll be carrying for the season."

"The ones that do get cut will more than likely receive a chance with another team. I'll be real glad when its over, then we can get it together," he said. "We will be real tough inside and strong at the guards."

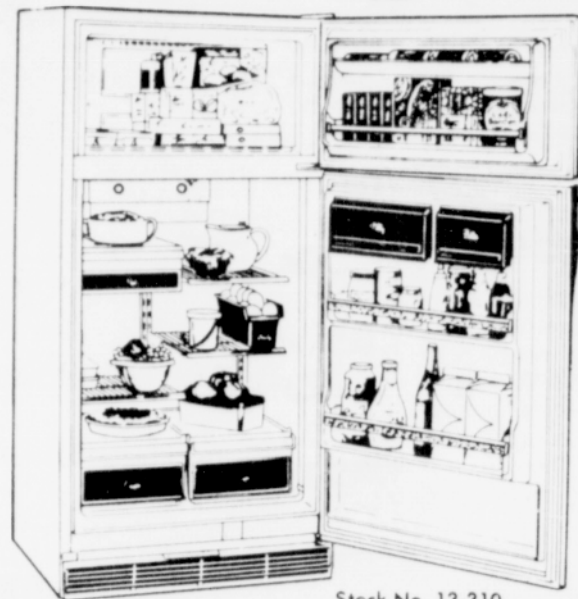
How far are you away from being one of the premiere guards in the NBA? "Time," he said with a laugh. "Time will tell how good I'll be. I'm not going to force it."

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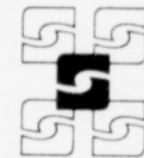
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