



Sports Talk

by Ron Sykes
Sports editor

Roberto Duran rated number one by both the WBA and WBC soundly whipped Wellington Wheatley, the Latin American champ at 147 lbs.

Wheatley ranked seventh, was no match for the hard hitting Duran. Wheatley scored with a good jab and a few combinations to win the opening round but after that it was all Duran. Wellington went down in the second round after taking a solid right to the head. This was the first time the Latin champ had ever been floored in his young career. Duran had him down twice more before finally finishing him in the sixth.

Duran considered by many as the greatest fighter pound for pound in the last decade seemingly has a personal vendetta against Black fighters. In the past he's made the following quotes after a tough fight with Portland's Ray Lampkin, Roberto said, "The next time I get in the ring with him (Lampkin) I'm going to kill him."

What he did in reality was to end Ray's career.

Before the fight with Wellington Wheatley Duran stated, "He's got only three more days to live." He then proceeded to KO the Latin flash. Now he's publicly stated that he's sincere, dedicated and working hard so that, "I will destroy Sugar Ray Leonard."

Duran is without doubt a great

fighter and so far he has dominated all that he's met. But there's always someone, somewhere that's just a little better. And the laws of gravity tells us that what goes up must come down. Mr. Duran has finally, or will meet his match whenever he takes on Sugar Ray.

Duran has been up for seven years, and now Leonard will be the one to bring him down. And you can bet on it.

Duran seems to be especially up for Black fighters, and always seems to want to kill or destroy them for some reason known only to him. The belief here is that the Panamanian is on a collision course and will end up a loser against Leonard.

Kudos to our amazing USA Hockey Team for capturing the gold. Probably shouldn't expound on hockey much further. Everyone is now caught up in the excitement of the whole thing, but it's doubtful if most of us really know the difference between icing and off sides.

But weren't the 1976 Olympic Boxing Team something else. And they're still marvelous. Last weekend we had a chance to view two fighters, Howard Davis, 135 lbs and Michael Spinks, 175. While Davis struggled on his way to a close decision, Michael was devastating and finally, after years of helping his

brother Leon, showed the world that he's ready and able.

RATING TOP FREE AGENTS

If there's gold in dem dere hills, then this year's crop of NBA free agents are going prospecting. Some will strike it rich, while others will come up empty.

Peter Versey, writing for Basketball Times, gives his views on the 1980 graduating class.

Lionel Hollins: (traded from Portland to Philly on Feb. 9 for a first round draft choice.) Almost two years of injuries have devolved him considerably. Was once one of top eight guards in league and still could be if healthy. I'd gamble on him because he's solid citizen and still young at 26.

FRED BROWN: He's a fixture in Seattle as long as he doesn't get crazy and demand the outrageous. Freddy won't. He now has accepted his role and at 32 he knows where it's at.

RICKY SOBERS: Is having a decent year, but I can't see him being heavily recruited, unless the Marines feel he's worth it.

LARRY KENON: Having a lousy year and demand for him might be less than you'd expect.

BILL WILLOUGHBY: Should

finish second to John Roche for comeback-of-the-year award. Proved he belongs in pros, but, again, should be loyal to Cav coach Stan Albeck for giving him a chance when no one else would.

AUSTIN CARR: Been too long in Cleveland. Needs a change and if someone's smart they'll sign him. Has some good years left in him and won't cost that much to land him. Compensation won't be drastic either.

GUS WILLIAMS: Only draws \$175,000, but teammate Dennis Johnson might have sapped owner Sam Schulman of all his generosity. Wants nothing better than to remain in Seattle. (If owner allows Gus to leave he's got to be the world's worst owner, and that includes Larry Weinberg.)

CEDRIC MAXWELL: Boston's forgotten man, except by teammates and opponents. Presence down low allows Dave Cowens to roam outside. Deserves huge upscaling and should have no trouble getting it because he's intricate part of winning formula. Bidding on him will be heavy. (Maxwell and Tiny Archibald along with Larry Bird is receive)

(Maxwell and Tiny Archibald along with free agent M.L. Carr are main reasons rookie Larry Bird is receiving so much ink.)

Ali: The tool of white America

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Several months ago this journalist wrote that Muhammad Ali was the greatest Black role model to ever set foot in the world of sports.

Well, after hours of intense contemplation and listening to opinions of others, not to mention America's recent exploitation of his personality, a new opinion has been developed.

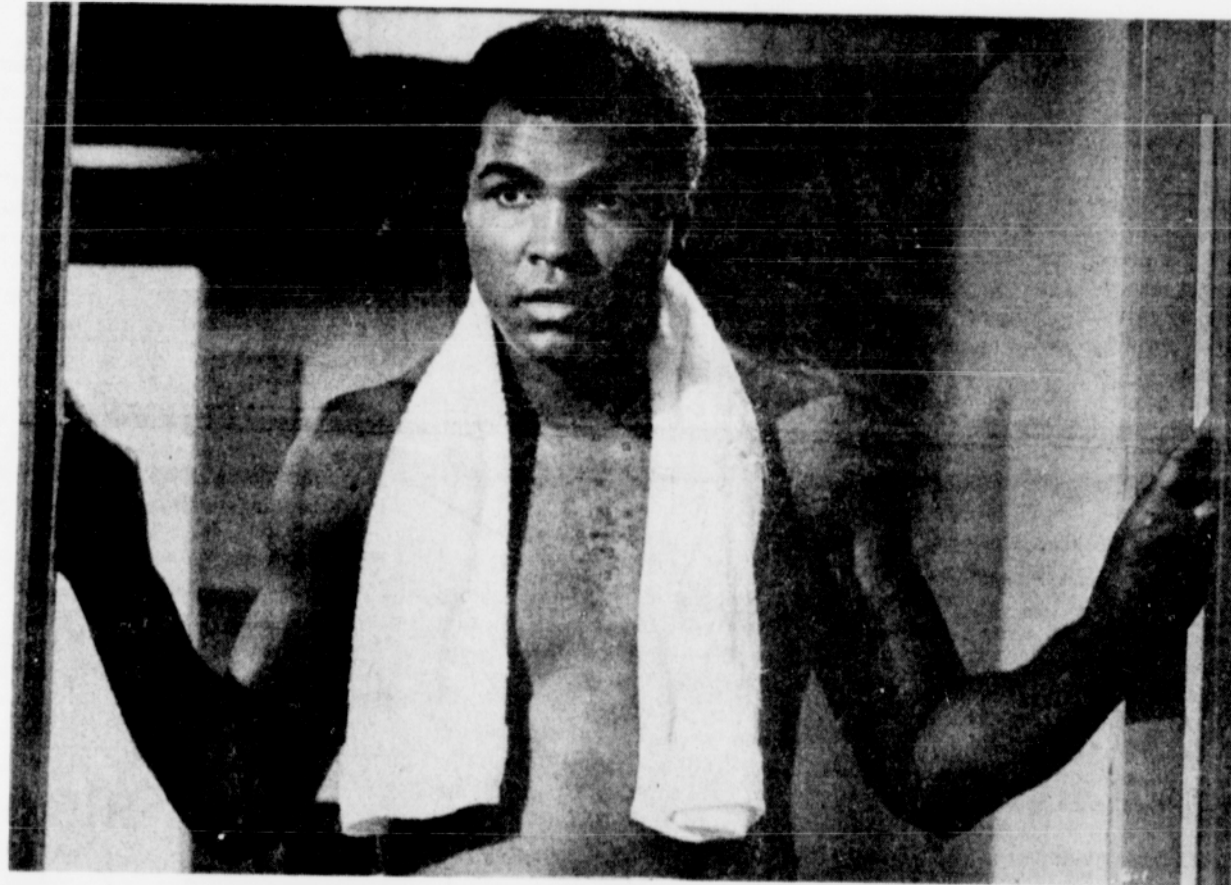
Ali, is the man who won the heavyweight title three times, the man who showed Black people that they could stand up to the oppressive system when he defied the draft in 1976. At the time Ali was quoted as saying "I'm 90 percent a Muslim, and 10 percent a fighter," which is a strong statement.

More recently, the controversial ex-fighter contradicted his once respected philosophy when he openly supported the Carter administration's attempt to reinstate the draft of youths between the ages of 18 and 20.

Does Ali know that Blacks are always drafted disproportionately than other ethnic groups? Does he know that a war would be a great way to stimulate the American economy, and a way to curve the high population? Does Ali know that Black people will be the first to go if a war breaks out?

Does he openly supports the systematic elimination of our race? To say he supports the draft is to answer all these statements yes -- to make matters worst, Ali then said that he "would be one of the first to volunteer to defend the United States of America." Is he now 10 percent Muslim and 90 percent a fighter?

After the American government



MUHAMMAD ALI

saw how easily they could exploit Ali, they sent him on a mission to Africa to urge Africans to boycott the Summer Olympics in Moscow.

Ali's peace mission caused mixed reactions in several of the countries, and one country, Tanzania refused to meet him because President Julius Nyerere thought that he was being used as a tool by America.

Ali had the nerve to say afterwards that "I'm glad that he didn't talk to me to show the world that he doesn't like the message that I had..."

Personally, Nyerere did Ali a favor by not taking part in the exploitation of his personality. At least the Tanzanian government will have a clean conscience when Ali falls flat on his face. The Kenyan government met with Ali out of courtesy rather than trying to talk about the boycott.

While in Kenya, Ali visited a wild animal park near Nairobi where he wanted to box a lion, since he had beaten all the men on earth. "I'm out to conquer the animals and monsters. I'll be the universal

champion," Ali told Associated Press.

He left his car twice, charging after antelopes and zebras on foot. They became frightened and ran away. Ali was lucky that there were no lions in sight.

How can a man of Ali's status stoop so low? To the point where he has as much credibility as the dollar with his race -- a man who millions of Afro-Americans looked to for wisdom, motivation, and leadership has failed all those who respected him. A man who's voice rang around the world when he spoke has turned into a silent whisper...

Here's a much used quote that can sum up Ali's predicament, "He who is used and knows that he's being used is wise, he who is used and doesn't know that he's being used is a fool..." Wise up Ali!

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A PERSONAL MOMENT FOR THOSE WHO CARE

We see jet streams in the sky, the airplane crew does not. As children we have encountered the jet stream left by adults. Good and bad these memories live with us today. Those people are not aware of this, just as we are not aware of the jet stream we leave for today's child. Thanks to love, many jet streams will be kindly remembered.

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