

# OBSERVER SPORTS

## Victory for Sugar Ray

What's Atlantic recording artist Narada Michael Walden doing with Sugar Ray Leonard? Playing the fighter a song Walden wrote for him, appropriately entitled, "Victory."

"He loved the song," says Walden, whose latest LP is *Confidence*. "It's a very powerful piece." And when visiting Leonard at his training camp, Walden got to see what it takes to get to "Victory," which is just what Leonard scored over Roberto Duran in their last match. "Ray was really training so he would be ready for that fight. He had these big hunks just hold him in the corners of the ring and beat on him while he tried to escape. He kept practicing spinning and turning around to smack them. That's why in the second Leonard-Duran fight, every time Duran would try to get Sugar Ray on the ropes, he'd escape—just the opposite of the first fight."

And when Leonard won that championship belt, no doubt he heard the sweet strains of Narada's "Victory" in his ears.



SUGAR RAY LEONARD AND NARADA MICHAEL WALDEN

## Ask Barry: Will NFL strike?

*Q. I would like to know if you think there will be a strike by the National Football League players this summer.*

—Ivory Johnson, Atlanta, Ga.

A. I don't think that you need to worry. The NFL Players Association doesn't look strong enough to pull off a successful strike. The players embarrassed themselves in 1974, when they had to call off a preseason strike

after rookies began to step in and take their jobs. What may happen this year is that the owners, armed with a whopping \$2 billion television contract for the next five years, may sweeten the pots of the best players in the league and effectively destroy the likelihood of a strike.

*Q. Can you tell me what sport is most profitable for its owners—football, basketball, or baseball?*

—Jeannie Ashe, Lexington, Ky.

A. In this case, the teams with the biggest bank accounts are those whose players run up and down football fields. Pro football, National Football League style, generates far more money for its owners than pro basketball and baseball teams. The NFL has the edge because of its incredible TV contract, one that will call for all the NFL clubs to share \$2 billion—that's

right, \$2 billion!—over the next five years. While many basketball and baseball teams lose money every year, not a single NFL team lost a dime last season. Even the lowly New Orleans Saints made money last year. By way of comparison, baseball received about \$119 million in television revenue last season, while the NBA collected some \$46 million. That's peanuts compared to what the NFL is taking in.

## Reggie leads the drive

by Al McGilberry

The noise is gaining momentum in California. Baseball season is three-fourths complete and California is leading the American League. The guy who is leading the drive is Mr. October, Reggie Jackson.

Reggie who! Yes! It's the candy bar man who led Oakland and the New York Yankees to glory. Can he do the same for the Angels? You bet your boots he can. He provides that extra ingredient that teams need, confidence. He also is swinging a big bat; that makes it easier for hitters in front and in back of him to see better pitches.

New York George said he was finished and let him get away. Where is the Yankee love for the home run hitter? Gone as Babe, Mickey, Lou and others.

The Yankees are now fifth in their division, and it will take a miracle to gain the top slot this season. The New York fans miss the excitement of a Reggie and a Billy. California has him now; Reggie is leading the



REGGIE... THE BEST?

League in home runs and the crowd is filling the stadium.

Old home run hitters never die. They just keep rolling along. Keep on rolling, Reggie. George may hate you, but the fans that pay the salaries love you.

## American League

WEST				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
California	54	43	.557	—
Kansas City	52	43	.547	1
Chicago	49	46	.516	4
Seattle	49	48	.505	5
Oakland	41	58	.414	14
Texas	38	56	.404	14½
Minnesota	34	64	.347	20½

  

EAST				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	56	40	.583	—
Milwaukee	55	40	.579	½
Baltimore	52	41	.559	2½
Detroit	50	45	.526	5½
New York	47	46	.505	7½
Cleveland	46	47	.495	8½
Toronto	45	51	.469	10½

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More people live in China today than there were in the entire world 300 years ago.

Strangely, all the continents on Earth, except Antarctica, are wider in the north than in the south.

French toast did not originate in France; Danish pastry is not from Denmark; and Russian dressing is not from Russia.

Oddly, the action in Shakespeare's "Mid-Summer Night's Dream" takes place—not in mid-summer—but in spring.

We do not do business with South Africa.



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The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag wasn't written by any famous author, but by a little-remembered staff writer on the Youth Companion magazine in 1892, Francis Bellamy.

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