



Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

Some are proclaiming Alexis Arguello as pound for pound the best fighter in the world. Some say that as a fighter Alexis has no peer. What he does have, however, is three titles. And he's hungry for more.

Arguello is signed and ready to go after Aaron Pryor's junior welterweight crown on December 20th.

But how, and why, Arguello is called the finest pound for pound in the world today is a mystery to me.

This past December Ring Magazine held its annual awards banquet at a New York City hotel. In attendance was all the higher echelon of professional boxing. Here's what supposedly happened: The names Holmes, Hagler, Leonard were read out and greeted with enthusiasm.

But, when Arguello's name was called, the gathering of managers, trainers and promoters, to a person, all stood and greeted him with a thunderous ovation. Enough said.

Who is this man called Moses? Arguello stands 5 feet 10. His is slight of build. He is not overly muscular. He seems to have good reach for a featherweight, but only average or below for a welter.

What he does best is punch. He can be described as a finisher, much like Sugar Ray Leonard. But there the comparison ends. For the belief here is that Leonard, pound for pound, is the best fighter around.

Arguello does have some merits going for him. I mean he does have a fairly strong argument on his behalf.

He punches like a man some 20 pounds heavier than himself. At the tender age of 17, he was already defeating men twice his age.

Arguello has 61 knockouts in 75 fights. He destroyed the current WBA lightweight champion Boom Boom Mancini in six rounds.

Alexis Arguello has won 22 consecutive championship fights since

losing his first title attempt to Ernesto Marcel in 1974. Alexis is now in position to become the first boxer ever to acquire four titles. But, it won't come easy. He must now face Pryor, a man who is undefeated, and who has a reputation as being a little unorthodox.

Even with his newly found accolades Alexis hasn't been able to collect the big payday.

This, however, will end when he faces Pryor.

The "biggie" will be with Leonard when the champion announces next month that he will resume his career.

Henry Armstrong remains the only boxer to attempt to gain four titles. Armstrong failed in his quest, and so will Arguello.

It has been said that Arguello has as an incentive to try Sugar Ray Leonard. If he achieves this goal it will never again be mentioned that he is the greatest pound for pound in the business. For he will have been defeated by the man that really is.

Fight-of-the-month: Davey Lee Armstrong vs. Johnny Coverson

Armstrong came in with a record of 17-1, while his opponent had a nifty 28-0.

How both fighters could remain unranked is baffling.

Coverson gained a unanimous decision over Armstrong, but the action was furious.

Armstrong won the first three rounds with his aggressive style.

Both fighters were well-conditioned and showed good ring savvy.

Both fighters scored well to both the head and body. It was in the later rounds that Coverson began to take charge. He staggered Armstrong in the fifth round with a combination to the head that left the Tacoma Boys Club fighter in a daze.

Each time Davey appeared hurt



Undisputed world welterweight champion Sugar Ray Leonard is shown here in training before eye surgery put his boxing career on hold. Boxing fans all over the world anxiously await Leonard's forthcoming decision as to whether he will continue to fight or if he will hand up the gloves for good. There has been strong speculation that Leonard will call it quits, but for now he is not saying one way or the other.

he shook it off and scored with good solid jabs to Coverson's head.

It was billed as a cross-town grudge match. Armstrong represented the now famous Kronk gym, while his opponent fights out of the Powerhouse gymnasium. It was a brawl from beginning to end.

Armstrong's manager, Emanuel Stewart, has been openly criticized in the past for some of the tough matches he signs for his boxers.

Armstrong is certainly an up-and-coming fighter and should not have

been matched against a fighter of Coverson's talent at this point in his career.

In my opinion both fighters could easily beat WBL lightweight champion Boom Boom Mancini. It was clearly a mistake to match them so early against each other.

It's rumored that Stewart is losing his fighters as quickly as rats deserting a sinking ship.

With match making like last Sunday... it's easy to see why.

Series at stake tonight

Cardinal rookie John Stuper pitched a 13-1 win for St. Louis Tuesday. Although the game was interrupted by rain, manager Whitey Herzog left his young pitcher in the game.

St. Louis had 12 hits including two doubles and a triple by Iorg. The series, now 3-3, will end tonight at St. Louis. Probable pitchers are: for Milwaukee, Vuckovich (18-6) and for St. Louis, Andujar (15-10).

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