

Sport Talk

by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor



Ray Mancini, the WBA light-weight champion, lost his title last Friday night to the No. 1 ranked contender, Livingstone Bramble. Bramble said before the fight that he would finish Mancini, and punish him he did.

We had the challenger winning the 7-14 rounds. However, a poll at ringside had Mancini ahead on all cards. That's incredible! The judges scoring that fight should be banned for incompetence.

Bramble's strategy was simply to wade through the champ's punches. This he did, often causing the usually ever pressing Mancini to retreat.

Bramble opened a four-inch cut over the eye of Mancini in the first round. He staggered the champ in rounds 9, 10 and 13, before finishing him in the 14th. Mancini was a beaten warrior. His face was swollen badly and his legs were rubbery at the end. Along with the title, Mancini lost the chance of a multi-million dollar fight with Aaron Pryor.

Lakers vs. Celtics

After Sunday's 137-104 trouncing of the Boston Celtics, the LA Lakers must have spent all day Monday shopping for new basketball shoes. The men from Inglewood Ca., where the fabulous forum is located, ran circles around the slow-footed Celtics. Never in the history of the game has one team been so humiliated. Never mind that Larry Bird believes the Celtics can still win this thing. In reality, it's all over. The reason is this:

The Los Angeles Lakers are about to revolutionize the NBA basketball game. Coaches will have to adjust their way of thinking. Yes, Laker coach Pat Riley made a hold decision during the western semifinals when he inserted James Worthy into his starting lineup. And the Lakers were on their way. Worthy, the second-year forward from North Carolina, is on his way to becoming another super star. As if



"Boom Boom" Mancini

The Lakers are already hurting for super stars. The Lakers are now using the biggest lineup and the quickest in NBA history. The starting unit, with Worthy, 6-9; Kurt Rambis, 6-9; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 7-3; Magic Johnson, 6-9; and Michael Cooper at 6-7 averages a whopping 69 1/2. Believe me, when you have guards standing 6-7 and 6-9 that have the incredible quickness of Johnson and Cooper, you're going to pose some problems for your opponent. Coaches must now try and counter the LA big, and quick backcourt. As a result, the days of a small point guard are numbered.

Most clubs today are using a point guard who usually stands between 6-1 and 6-4. The Lakers point guard is 6-9 and their off guard is 6-7. Boston's biggest problem in this championship series is trying to match up in the backcourt, a situation that has caused, oh so many, problems. It is the backcourt that is causing Boston to self destruct. In an attempt to match up, Celtic coach K.C. Jones has tried Scott Wedman and Danny Ainge. Wedman at 6-7 is good shooter from 20 feet on in.

But his presence on the floor poses yet another problem. He can't guard anyone. Ainge has good size, but he is painfully lacking in talent. Can the Celtics win?

"I don't believe we're the underdogs," Bird said. Well, after a near record setting 33-point loss, this writer certainly can't concur with Mr. Bird. And unless Boston can find a way to get Bird free long enough from the chest to chest guard of Cooper, then the Celtics have no chance. Cooper has taken away Bird's outside jumper. The quick-footed Cooper plays Larry so tight, that it's virtually impossible for the Celtics ace to get off his deadly jumper. Sure, Bird has scored big points at times, but none have been very meaningful. CBS color man, Tom Heinsakn, a former Celtic player and coach, announced publicly that Dennis Johnson is the main reason the Celtics are flopping, and "a change must be made in the guard position." Boston established the best record in basketball, 64-20, with Johnson as a starter and it's our belief that one shouldn't tamper with success. If the Celtics can make a run at LA, and it's hard to envision,

they must regroup, keep their heads up and most of all believe they can win. In short, recapture that so-called "Celtic pride."

The Lakers have so many guns, but the emergence of Worthy is simply awesome. It's mind boggling when you have a guy with the size and talent of Magic Johnson, then you see a James Worthy with these same talents, and you see them both on the same team. Flexibility. You bet, both of these guys can play in the front court and the backcourt. Amazing for people that are 6-9 or better. Boston has not matched up well with LA all season and that, folks, is the problem. The Lakers in five games.

NBA Play Offs

Boston is clearly the underdog. LA's break has been devastating.

Wednesday's game: Boston at LA, 6 p.m.; Lakers by 10.

Friday: Los Angeles at Boston, 6 p.m., this is it!! Lakers by 3.



(l-r) Quilla Buggs, Sabrina Cavil, Shirley Starr and Callie Henry of the Guys and Dolls bowling team captured first place in the Emanuel Nomads Bowling League. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Forum set for women athletes

Women will get more out of exercise and running by attending a free forum, "Women & Sports—A Wholistic Approach" sponsored by the Wilcox Women's Center at Good Samaritan Hospital on Tuesday, June 12th, 7-9 p.m. in the Nursing Education Auditorium, 2255 N.W. Northrup.

Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Mike Baskin will dispel some of the myths about women and exercise, showing

the many ways a work-out will improve women's physical and mental health. He will also describe how to avoid stress fractures and other complications of hard exercise.

The session is also designed to point out the importance of sports achievement to the well-being and sense of self-identity in women. For more information please call 229-7561.

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