

Benson, Jackson Pitch Double No-Hitters For Pels

Boxing's Pros, Cons Discussed By Professionals

Pelicans Whitewash Ashland Team, 14-0, 11-0, In Openers

By FREDERICK H. TREESH
NEW YORK (UPI) — The eminent neurosurgeon was talking about his favorite subject — the human brain.

"The good Lord protected" it carefully with a bony casing but I am sure the Lord did not anticipate the abuses which men were going to inflict on this protection," said Dr. Leo M. Davidoff, professor of neurosurgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University.

The abuse to which he referred was the jarring and pounding sustained by a professional boxer while playing his trade of personal combat.

Death claimed a champion last week. Davey Moore, 29, died Tuesday morning of a brain injury 74 hours after being knocked out by Sugar Ramos in his featherweight title defense in Los Angeles. Medical examiners tentatively blamed the whip-lash action of a ring rope, rather than Ramos' blows, as the likely cause of Moore's fatal injury.

But the death itself sharpened the ancient arguments about whether the merits of boxing as a sport are worth the ever-present risk of death or permanent injury to its participants.

Dr. Davidoff, an internationally recognized expert on the anatomy and physiology of the brain, explained in detail the sword of Damocles hanging over the head of a boxer:

"Any kind of a blow delivered to the brain is potentially dangerous to the brain for a very obvious reason. The brain is enclosed in a bony casing, the skull. It is suspended in a jacket of oil.

"When the head is jarred the brain is pushed in its fluid toward the interior face of the skull. If there is contact of brain with bone, damage is bound to result. It may be slight bruising involving very small blood vessels or it may result in blood vessel ruptures leading to major hemorrhaging and death.

"That applies to any kind of jarring of the head, whether in automobile accidents or in the boxing ring. It doesn't matter really where the jarring blows fall—whether on the jaws, the nose or the neck or the chin. The crucial question is whether the brain has been slammed through its fluid jacket against the bony skull and with what force."

To former heavyweight champion of the world Jack Sharkey, Dr. Davidoff's medical opinion added up to one thing: "An occupational hazard."

Thirteen men were killed in boxing rings in the world last year—eleven professionals and two amateurs. So far in 1963, two deaths.

Pope John XXIII, who rarely comments on such secular activities, decried the savagery in boxing.

"It is barbaric to put brother against brother," the pontiff declared.

On the other hand, Moore's grieving wife, the mother of his five children, said: "It was God's will."

The 23-year-old widow said Davey planned to retire this year and go into another business, but she refused to condemn boxing as a sport or Ramos as a man.

"I don't blame him. Accidents can happen in anything," she said. "It was unavoidable."

The death of Davey Moore, the second world champion in a year to die in the ring, raised a special question about boxing. Moore was generally regarded as a great champion. He was strong, in peak physical condition, had not fought in five months and had no record of serious head injury except a jaw fracture in 1960. The Moore-Ramos fight was staged under ideal safety conditions.

If such a fight can result in death, how can new legislation or other safeguards protect fighters in less perfect conditions?

Gov. Pat Brown of California, immediately renewed previously stated demands that boxing be abolished.

"I hope this tragic death will make people aware that when muscular men enter the ring intent on rendering their opponents unconscious, these things are going to happen."

Legislation to ban boxing is pending in the proposal stage in California, Ohio, Maryland, Connecticut, New Jersey, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Oregon.

Three Ohio legislators introduced their bill to abolish the sport the day after Moore died. "The Ohio legislature has seen fit to outlaw dogfights, bearbaiting cockfights. The last they could do is the same for humans," said the lawmakers.

"Boxing is a sport only in the sense that Nero's throwing Christians to the lions was a sport," articulated two Illinois legislators when they moved to ban boxing last month.

"A brutal sport," charged a Pennsylvania assemblyman.

Sen. Estes Kefauver, D-Tenn., led the supporters of federal boxing control; that is, establish uniform rules and safety regulations applicable in all 50 states and under the enforcement of the federal government. Now, each state determines individually the conditions under which boxing will be conducted. No state prohibits it.

"The time has come for boxing either to be cleaned up or abolished," said Sen. Kefauver. He said he would introduce a measure to abolish it if Congress again refuses to place the sport under federal regulation.

A New York state legislative committee was expected to return its findings of a year-long investigation this week. The advance word was that the committee would not recommend abolishment but would suggest some changes in regulation and supervision.

New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller took exception to California Gov. Brown's demands for exception. Boxing, said Rockefeller, is "a manly sport" and should be continued.

Short of abolishment and beyond stricter control, some participants in the boxing controversy see the possibility of changes in equipment and ring structure as possible means of providing greater safety.

Dr. Charles Larson, president of the World Boxing Association, said the solution to ring tragedies may lie in greater research. He said the Boxing Education and Research Foundation now has under study the question of whether four ring ropes instead of three would be safer, whether protective headgear would contribute to a boxer's safety and whether health and life insurance should be required.

Oregon Gov. Mark Hatfield proposed changes in glove weights and the use of headgear.

A number of persons close to the fight game warned against abolishing the sport. Oakland, Calif., promoter Lou Thomas said abolition might lead to "bootleg bouts" run by unscrupulous characters with their eyes on nothing but a fast buck.

"Then there would be a real danger to fighters," he said.

When a boxer dies, the detractors from the sport become the most vocal. But there is a place, too, for its defenders.

Nat. Fleischer, editor of The Ring magazine since 1922 and widely regarded as "Mr. Boxing," stoutly defended boxing in its present form in an interview with this correspondent.

Q.—In the light of Moore's death in an ideally staged fight, is there any merit to proposals that boxing be abolished?

A.—I feel Mrs. Moore expressed it very well. She told the newspapermen, "This is something that must be expected in a sport of this type. One man must win and the other must lose. Unfortunately, my man lost and lost his life, too."

Any contact sport opens an individual to danger during his performance. He realizes this when he goes in. He goes in with his eyes open. He tries to make as much headway as possible and as much money.

I like the sport. I have met many fine young men who have made good financially and retired to another business.

Q.—Unlike other contact sports where injuries occur, it has been said that the very object of boxing is to hurt. Does that raise any questions about boxing not applicable to other sports?

A.—I testified at the New York state legislative investigation and I said this: The aim of boxing is not to kill or to attempt to severely injure. The aim is to win—the same as football, basketball or hockey. How often do we hear a football coach yell to his team, "Get in there and fight." It's the same in boxing; to get to the top—but by fair means.

It's not a question of foul fighting—but of science and hitting power. It's like in football where you tackle hard and try to win. And remember, unlike football, once you're knocked out you can't get up and go back into the game.

Q.—Do you believe boxing is any more or less safe than other contact sports?

A.—I believe boxing is better controlled as to the physical condition of its participants than any other sport. A boxer is examined thoroughly weeks before a fight, examined again four days before, again the morning of the fight and finally just before he enters the ring. A doctor examines his brain, heart, blood pressure.

In the case of Moore, I was present at his first physical examination and he was pronounced perfectly fit.

He had a blood pressure of 120-72—as fine as any athlete could expect. His brain, heart and respirations were perfectly normal.

Q.—Do you believe boxing would be safer if headgear were worn, or if boxers wore heavier gloves?

A.—Headgear has been tried in the national intercollegiate championships. Two years ago, a University of Wisconsin boxer, Charles Mohr, fought in a championship match with a headgear. He was killed. He suffered a fractured skull.

Less than a year ago, Emile Griffith administered a fatal beating to Benny (Kid) Pareit in their welterweight title bout. Griffith debated whether to quit but, after some months, resumed his career in the ring. He was influenced in his decision, he said, by a number of priests, ministers and community leaders.

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Max Baer, Primo Carnera, Sugar Ray Robinson, Percy Bassett—all these men and others—experienced the horror of killing a man in the ring.

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Robinson administered a life-ending beating to Jimmy Doyle in 1947 and four years later sonny Boy West was fatally hurt in a bout with Bassett.

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P.S.—As a footnote to the whole question, consider these words by a man who knew boxing well:

"There are a lot of sports that you get crippled and die in. A race driver—he can get killed—why don't they stop the '500 auto races?"

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Red Raiders Ax Humboldt St.

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Lawrence, Gerritt DeGroot and Bob School looked good for so early in the season.

"It was cold and raining most of the time and it hurt all the performances. I was pleased with such good efforts so early in the season. We go to the Rogue Relays in Medford next week. Most of the schools in the conference will be there and it should be a good one," Peterson said.

Terry Eccles, another sophomore, was third in the broad jump with a leap of 19-6. Steve Baker was third in the high jump at 5-7 and the spring medley team finished second. "We got a good effort in the spring medley with Dahn, DeGroot, John English and Badger running. They finished second in 1:42.4. Don Graham looked real good in the high hurdles with a 15.4 docking. He and English did a good job in the shuttle hurdles relay but they didn't have enough to go with them," Peterson said.

"The distance men also looked pretty good. Don Piper, Steve

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A few days ago at the National AAU matches, more boxers who were headgear were knocked out. I'm convinced they are no protection. In fact, I think they effect a double impact when the leather is hit and the leather hits the head. I think there is more chance of injury than if you struck with a gloved fist.

About heavier gloves: I believe 6- or 8-ounce gloves are safer than 10-, 12- or 14-ounce gloves. Some seconds haphazardly double fighters with water in their corners. The gloves become waterlogged and much heavier. Gloves gain as much as three ounces in weight.

Heavier gloves become more dangerous. A boy can't raise them fast to defend his head. His arms become fatigued, he has no quick protection.

Q.—Where does boxing stand on fatalities in relation to other sports?

A.—In the United States alone, there were 5,000 professional boxers last year and another 10,000 amateurs. There were 13 deaths, and that figure is for the whole world.

In football, between September 10 and Nov. 30, there were a total of 36 fatalities, 22 of them schoolboys 16 years old or under. There are more deaths in football, basketball and even baseball than in boxing.

Among the pathetic cases in sports, especially boxing, is the man who kills another in the name of athletics.

Sugar Ramos killed his second boxer last week. In 1958 light-weight Jose (Tiger) Blanco died after a bout with Ramos in Havana.

After fighting Moore, Ramos was \$10,000 richer and holder of a world's championship. But could he enjoy the money? For that matter, could he ever fight again?

"No se, no se nada. (I don't know anything)," said Ramos, his eyes red and swollen, tears streaming down his cheeks.

If history repeats itself, Ramos' self-blame will wear off and he will fight again.

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became official in the fifth inning. Benson got the victory via 11 strikeouts while facing 15 batters. He didn't allow a ball hit out of the infield. The four outs other than the strikeouts were pop ups or ground outs. He walked four and another Grizzly reached first on an error.

Jackson was equal to the task. He struck out 13 batters in seven innings, didn't allow a hit, walked only one batter and had two errors behind him for the three base runners. However, he had one anxious moment in the final inning where Benson did not.

Opposing pitcher John Rhodes slammed a tremendous drive off him with one out in the seventh but centerfielder Rick Horn made a great running catch to save him. There were two other balls hit out of the infield but both easy catches.

The Pelicans also showed some hefty hitting to go with the superlative pitching performances. Mike Kitching, Tom Osa, Larry Binney, Lanny Guyer and John Gray, not to mention Jackson, hit the ball with consistency and well.

Performances in both games were terrific considering the intermittently falling rain and cold wind. The smattering of fans that braved the weather got their money's worth.

The first game was a runaway from the opening. It was apparent early that the Pelicans were on their way to victory. The Grizzlies aren't considered to be among the leaders in the league race, but might give some of the other clubs a run if they get hot.

They beat Medford last week, 13-1, but the Tornado's team was without most of its regulars who only recently finished basketball. The two victories Saturday gave the Pelicans a 3-1 season record.

Benson walked the first man to face him, but then proceeded to strike out the next three batters to retire the side. Starting Grizzly hurler Bill Tifford got the Pelicans out in order in the first before the roof caved in on him in the second.

After Benson had struck two of the three out in the Grizzlies' second, the Pels exploded for seven runs. Gray popped out to open the second but John Paristolo ignited the rally when he was hit by a pitched ball. Catcher Dave Johnson and Larry Binney drew walks behind him to load the sacks and Guyer fanned. But Benson walked to get an RBI and Larry Smith did the same for the second run. Tom Osa then lined a single to right center for two more runs and Kitching cleaned the bags with a booming triple which the centerfielder misjudged in the big wind. Kitching scored when Paristolo's clout was bobbed by the shortstop for the seventh run.

The Pels added insult to injury in the third with another seven-run outburst. Binney led off with a double and took third on the rightfielder's error. Guyer laced into a pitch and sent it rolling to the left center fence after bouncing over the leftfielder's head for a triple. Benson lined a shot to left to score Guyer for the ninth run. The fourth straight hit came by Smith with a single and Osa was safe on an error by the Grizzlie second sacker. Kitching belted a single to left to score two more runs. Gray singled to score Kitching.

Binney, who led off the inning, made the first out and Guyer and Benson struck out to end the frame. It was all over but the shouting then as Benson breezed through the fourth and fifth frames.

Gonzales, a windmill-type pitcher, cut Carter over the right eye with a hard smash in the second round and blood continuously streamed from Hurricane's eye until Dr. Samuel Swetnick, ring physician, ordered referee Pete Della to halt the fight.

Gallant Gonzales of Puerto Rico, considered a powder puff puncher, was behind on points when the fight was halted.

Gonzales, 160½ pounds from Arroyo, Puerto Rico, was a 3-1 underdog against bustling Carter, 154 pounds, Paterson, N.J., but Carter's style suited Jose as he prefers to mix with sluggers.

The Puerto Rican had just been staggered by a left hook to the head in the second when he stormed back with a flurry of his own to bloody the Hurricane.

Rain Defeats UO, OSU Teams

By United Press International
Rain scored shutout victories over both the Oregon and Oregon State baseball teams this week.

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