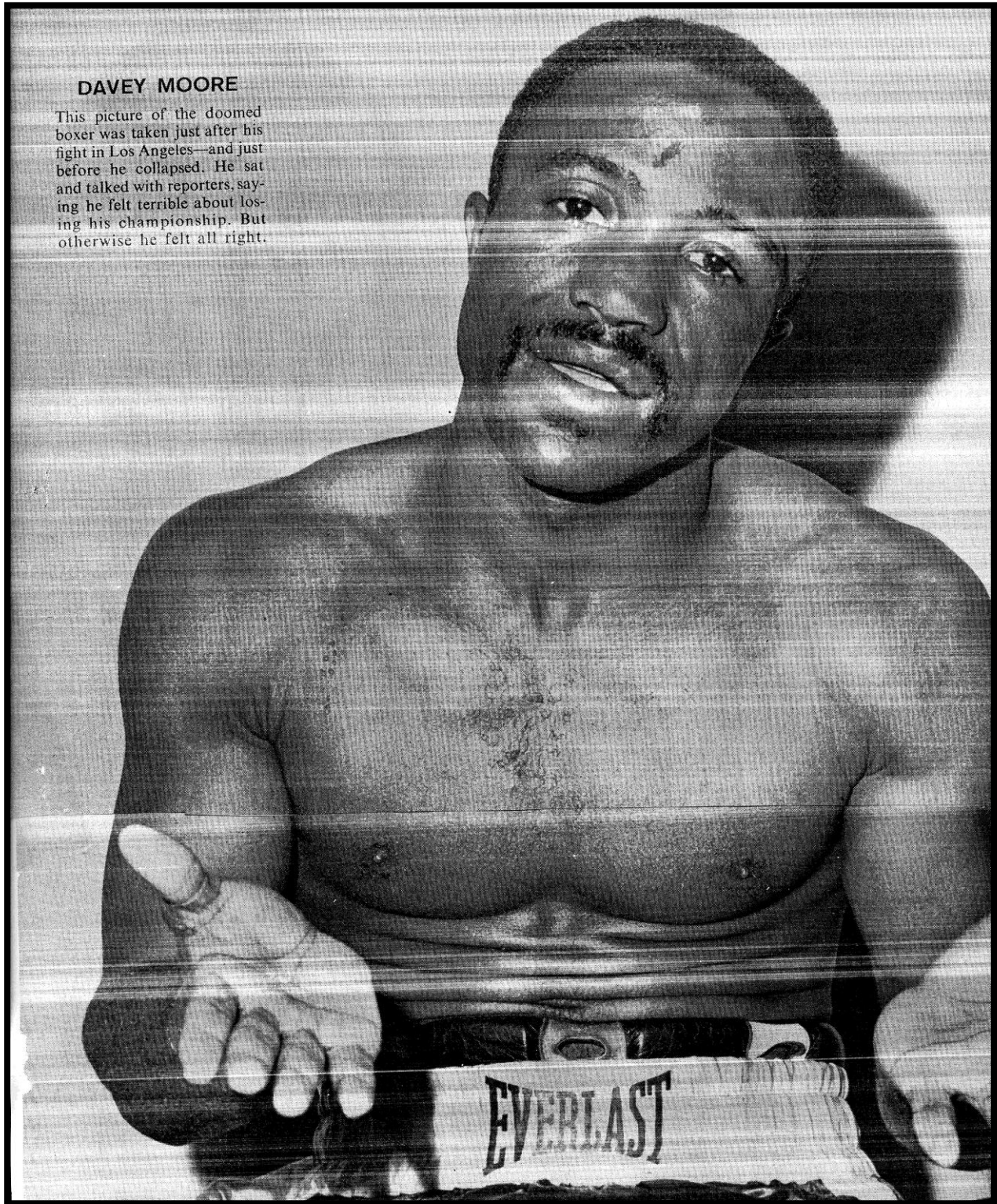


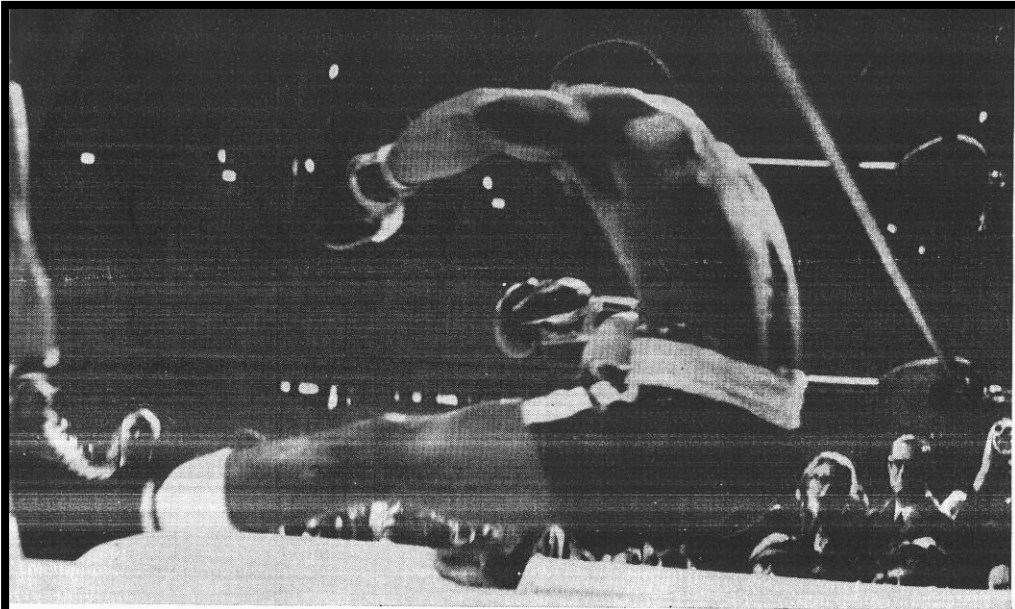
HE FOUGHT, TALKED, THEN DIED . . .

DAVEY MOORE

This picture of the doomed boxer was taken just after his fight in Los Angeles—and just before he collapsed. He sat and talked with reporters, saying he felt terrible about losing his championship. But otherwise he felt all right.

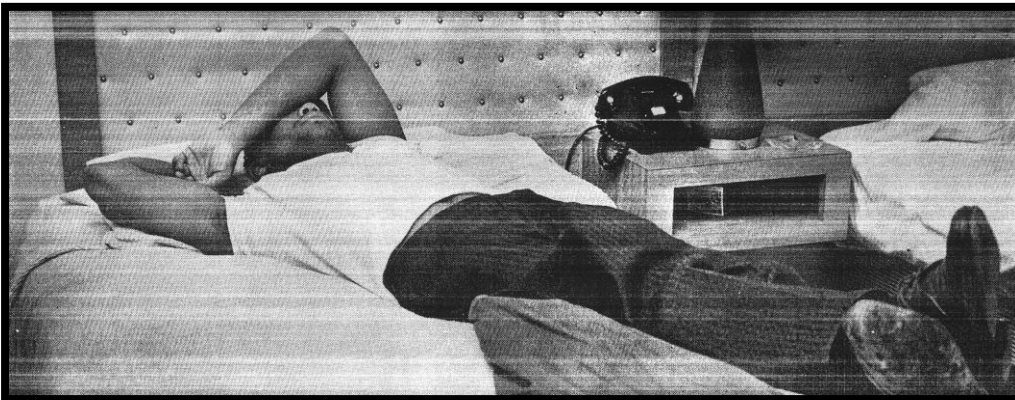


... 16TH RING DEATH IN 15 MONTHS



FATAL FALL. In the 10th round, Moore slumps toward ropes. His head hit bottom strand and this, say doctors, caused brain damage leading to his death.

DISTRESSED WINNER. After hearing Moore had died, Ramos weeps on bed. "I know it's not my fault," he said. "But that doesn't make me feel any better."



LIFE MAGAZINE

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Submitted by J.J. Johnston

As he sat there (preceding page) Davey Moore was worried about just one thing. He had lost his featherweight title. "It just wasn't my night," he said. Minutes later Moore complained that his head hurt. Shortly, he sank into a coma. He died four days later without regaining consciousness.

It was boxing's 16th fatality in the past 15 months and it stimulated renewed demands that the sport be abolished. The most influential voice was that of Pope John XXIII: "It is barbaric to put brother against brother." Governor Pat Brown pushed his campaign to have the sport banished in California and there was increased agitation to outlaw it in several other states.

Sugar Ramos, the man whose fists delivered the deadly blows, tearfully wondered whether he should fight again. Five years ago he had knocked out Jose Blanco - and Blanco died. After Moore's death four fighters announced that they were through with boxing.

The outcry was based mainly on grounds that boxing was brutal and immoral. Why was the ring becoming a death chamber?

Most likely it is a lack of good enough fighters with good enough experience. Boxers today do not go through the rigorous training that was once basic and are not as well conditioned as they should be. In today's frenzied race to put anybody willing to wear gloves into the ring, fighters never master basic protective tricks like riding with punches and keeping their chins in. The blunt fact is that today's fighters - especially at the top level - don't belong in the same ring with the fighters of 25 years ago. And if they cannot come up to that standard, they should not be fighting.