

## JOSE TORRES BEATS TOM McNEELEY IN TEN ROUNDER



By **MARIO RIVERA MARTINO**

**S**AN JUAN, P.R.—Special to “The Ring”—Hiram Bithorn Stadium—Jose Torres’ invasion into the heavyweight ranks came pretty close to being a sensational one-round kayo in his favor as towering Tom McNeeley was floored by some hefty hooks to body when the fight was less than one minute old. The body attack, used so effectively against Willie Pastrano in Jose’s last match, weakened his opponent whose claim of foul was not allowed. But it did give him a few more seconds of respite—enough for him to recuperate and last out not only the round but the ten sessions as well.

Cassius Clay, world heavyweight king was among those present. He boxed three rounds with Jimmy Ellis and three with Cody Jones in exhibitions that pleased the spectators. He looked impressive. He was accompanied by Chris Dundee and his chief trainer, Angelo Dundee, each of whom expressed himself as delighted with Clay’s showing.”

“He wouldn’t require much training to defend his title” said Chris. “He’s in excellent condition.”

Clay asked to express his opinion of Torres who prior to his fight declared he would like to meet Cassius in a title bout, said:

“He’s a good fighter, fast and strong. But he is not ready for me. He should keep away from the heavyweights for a time,” he advised Torres.

Torres was the master throughout despite the poor contest. With a weight advantage of 22 pounds, 182 to 204, McNeeley was able to slow up the champion by staying in close and holding at every opportunity.

It was Jose’s aim in arranging the fight, to knockout McNeeley in quicker time than did Floyd Patterson, who required four rounds, then attempt to get Floyd into the ring and put him out of the way to pave the field for a world heavyweight championship match.

Cus D’Amato, manager of Torres and former mentor of Patterson, also had the above in mind when he announced that Jose would fight several times as a heavyweight before defending his crown, probably against Wayne Thornton of Fresno, California, next October.

Patterson thus far has shown no inclination to talk any terms with either Torres or D’Amato regarding a fight with the light heavyweight king. He thinks he has a title bout with Clay clinched for Madison Square Garden in the Fall.

Although Torres connected well throughout the fight, he was never able to maintain a steady attack because of his opponent’s mauling tactics. Tom was hooted and booed because of his intended purpose of lasting out the ten rounds at all cost. He was aided in part by a benevolent referee who permitted those tactics instead of warning Tom that if this was to continue, he would be disqualified.

Apparently Torres knew what to expect because he had engaged the services of a professional wrestler to maul and haul him around in a private session daily after his regular stints in the ring at the San Jeronimo Hilton Hotel.

The decision was unanimous.

Torres stated that in his next bout, which will be against Eddie Machen in San Francisco early in September, he will come in under the 180-pound limit. The additional weight he carried for this bout did not benefit him.

The attendance was announced at 7,793 with a gate of around \$30,000. However there were also about 3,000 free-loaders.

The semi-final eight-round bout, Herschel Jacobs, who fought a draw with Giulio Rinaldi recently, lost a close eight-round decision to Marion Connor of Boston.

Pascual Toribio, 120, Santo Domingo, had too much speed and height on local favorite, Alberto Cordero, 117, but had to be content with a draw decision.

Georgie Colon, 118, New York, made an auspicious pro debut by trouncing Euclides Felix, 118, Santo Domingo in four sessions.