

CHIONOI-TORRES SET FOR ENCORE AFTER BLOODY MEXICAN BATTLE

By NAT FLEISCHER

MEXICO CITY, MEX.—Chartchai Chionoi, of Thailand, made his third successful world flyweight title defense here in the El Torreo Stadium, stopping Alacran Efen Torres, Mexican champion, in 1:23 of the 13th round.

With the blood streaming from Torres' left eye from deep cuts both under and over the optic, Referee Arthur Mercante, imported from New York, ended the affair in a TKO on the advice of Dr. Herrera Alfonso Franyutty. The medico had been called into the ring five times by the referee to examine the wounds. There will be a return here in August.

It wasn't an easy win for Chartchai. He came close to being stopped in the seventh and eleventh rounds and was staggered on two other occasions. The blood-spattered Mexican was determined to carry off the title.

It was a battle loaded with spectacular fighting, one of the best in the lower division I've seen in years, a bloody glove-to-glove affair that kept the howling Sunday holiday gathering of 18,000 fans on their feet to the finish.

In the second round Torres was dropped for an eight count. A smothering combination of lefts and rights was climaxed by a vicious, stiff right that ripped a deep cut over Torres' left eye, and was followed by a left to the jaw that put the Mexican down. When Torres got to his feet, he fought back bravely.

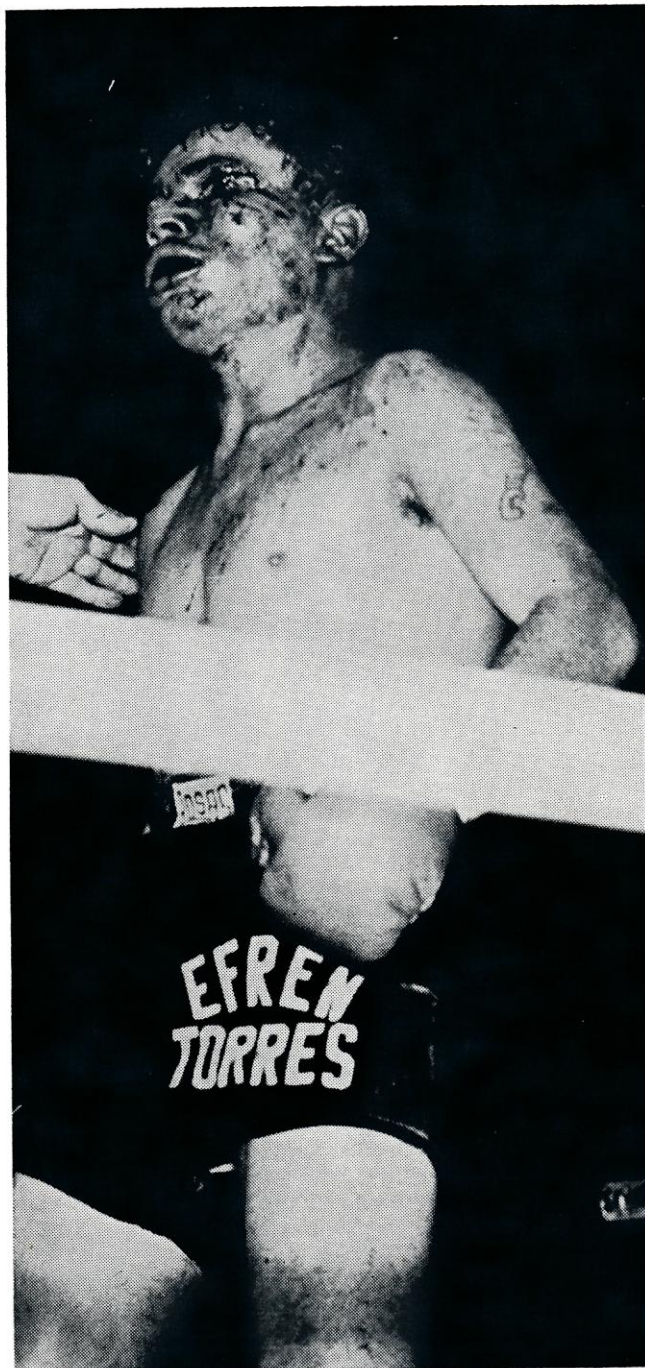
That knockdown indicated to the challenger that he had to go all out to win and he didn't disappoint his followers. He came out fighting mad in the third round and never let up on the attack regardless of the punishment he was receiving until the medical advisor ordered a halt.

When the bout was stopped, Torres' face was blood spattered, his left eye a sorry sight and the sympathy of the fans was with him. Had the fight gone the limit, a new champion would have been crowned, judging by the score cards.

But the champion's appearance was little better than that of his challenger. His left eye was tightly closed and he suffered slight cuts and a bump on the side of his face. Had the fight taken place in New York, it would have been halted much earlier. But with Torres leading, every opportunity was given the home boy to win the championship.

Following the decision, a challenge was received from Nicaragua on behalf of Raton Mojica. Negotiations are on for a non-title bout at 116 pounds in Nicaragua, with a championship contest to follow should Raton win.

Chionoi's manager, Police Lt. Colonel Boonlert Leiprecht, cabled the manager of Horacio Accavallo, the W.B.A. world title holder, offering him \$20,000 for a non-title bout with Chionoi in Bangkok for April, or a championship match. Col. Boonlert received no reply. The Thai champion is eager to settle divided ownership of the crown.



A bloodied, battered-looking Efen Alacran Torres is a sad loser after referee stopped his flyweight title bout with champion Chartchai Chionoi at 1:23 of the 13th round. Torres had cuts above and below the left eye.

In both the third and fourth rounds, Torres buckled the knees of the champion with left hooks. The ferocity of his attack took Chartchai by surprise.

One of Torres' left hooks hurled the champion across the ring into his corner and had it not been for the support he got from the ropes, he would have gone down. With Chartchai tottering, Torres went after his prey, but the champion quickly recovered.

That round and the eleventh were Torres' biggest. Torres almost scored a knockdown in the seventh with a powerful left hook that sent the champion staggering backward. But the challenger, the blood blinding him, couldn't follow up his advantage.



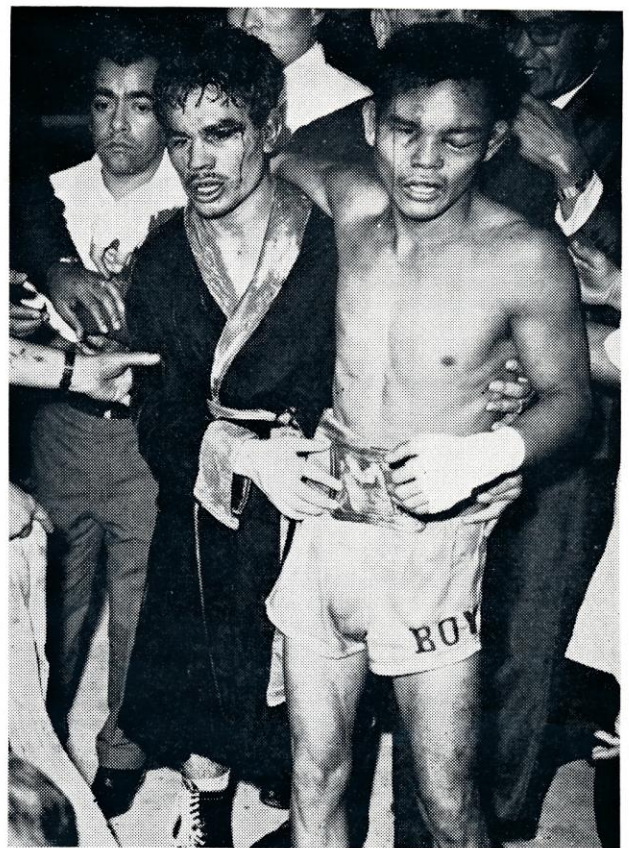
Here we see champion Chionoi backed against the ropes during the Mexico City title engagement. Had the fight gone the 15-round limit, Torres might have won, judging by the official scorecards.

Chionoi made a fine comeback in the next three rounds, in which he pegged away at Torres' sore spots, raising lumps besides widening the cuts.

A stiff left jab followed by a right, puffed Chionoi's left eye in the ninth. In the following round the eye closed. The handicap was so severe, that the champion at times tossed misses which ordinarily would have hit the mark.

Chartchai later declared that he decided to gamble on a knockout or to be knocked out, although he realized the seriousness of such an all-out attack.

Torres' best round was the eleventh, when his rival couldn't see most of the blows tossed his way. Torres fired away at body and head and had the champion tottering when the bell came



The victor and vanquished embrace after the halting of the contest. The blood runs down Torres' face, while the Thaiander's left eye is completely shut.

to his rescue. His cornermen administered oxygen to him.

The twelfth was another good one for the challenger. A wicked combination almost dropped Torres but the Mexican recovered his bearings quickly.

By now, referee Mercante, who did a splendid job in handling a tough fight, for the fifth time summoned the doctor. Although both fighters were in bad condition, it was Torres who was suffering most due to the hemorrhage.

The fight was permitted to enter the thirteenth round with instructions from the doctor to Mercante to stop it if he thought the damage too severe. This Arthur did in 1:23 of the round without protests from the fans or Torres' corner. "It was the most savage fight I have refereed,"

In another bout on the Mexico City card, we see European flyweight king Fernando Atzori flat on his back during the third round of his contest with Mexico's Octavio "Famoso" Gomez. Later in the round, Atzori, apparently through a misunderstanding after a clinch, turned his back on Gomez and the referee and returned to his corner. The ring official then awarded the fight to Gomez.

