

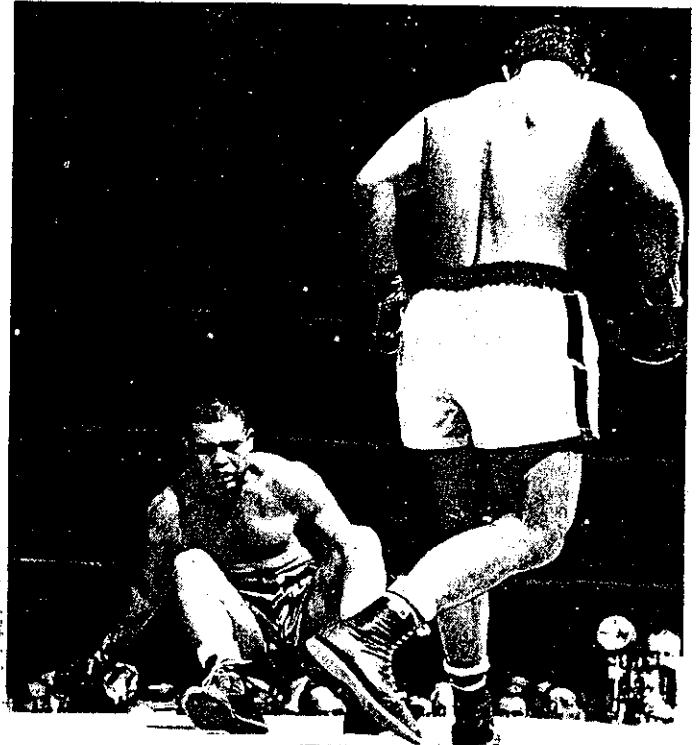
# INSIDE THE ROPES

with  
*Ruby Goldstein*

**M**OST of my columns have been devoted to title bouts in which I was the referee. This one will be slightly different—it's about a non-title bout, specifically the one between Joe Louis and Rocky Marciano at Madison Square Garden on October 26, 1951. When I halted the bout in the eighth round and awarded a technical KO to Marciano, you could hear a pin drop. Talk about a sad night, this was it.

The Marciano rooters and those who wagered on Rocky remained silent. No shouts or applause could be heard. In almost any case the winner of a big fight will raise his arms overhead, dance or shuffle his feet in a very jubilant manner. Not that evening. Rocky seemed as sad and silent as the rest. As a referee leaves the ring after a bout, people filing out of the arena are likely to make some remark sometimes complimentary and at times not. This night I only heard words like tough, terrible, heartbreaking. This has happened before and will again for as long as there are decent and sentimental people, which there always will be. When I was much younger I watched Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig when they were past their heyday. It was very hard to swallow. It gets much harder when one gets older. You begin to realize that you will slip as well some day whether you are a sports participant or just a spectator.

Now to get back to Joe and Rocky. Both were fine human beings and great fighters. Joe had slipped and Rocky was coming on. The bell rang for round one, both boys came to the center of the ring. Louis started his left jab. With him it was more than just a jab. If he got close enough to you this was almost tantamount to a solid left hook. I've seen him stagger or knock down an opponent. Often he'd have your nose, eye or mouth bleeding after one of these. Everyone was aware of this and Rocky in particular. He was trying to brush away this punch or crouch beneath it. I soon detected that Joe's jab was not the same. In the past he'd fire it five or six times in succession like pistons. Now it were coming in ones and twos. In the meantime, Rocky was avoiding most of these and was countering with hard blows to the body. After a couple of rounds, he continually kept backing Joe against the ropes and flailing away with both hands. True, he missed quite a few but those that landed were causing considerable damage. In the eighth round, Rocky was really throwing them, a hard left hook and overhand right and Louis was down. I started the count. He didn't look too well to me. He hit the canvas like a tired man. I've been in bouts when younger boys, upon being knocked down, have a sort of spring in them, sort of in a hurry to get right up. As a matter of fact many jumped to their feet too fast, henceforth the mandatory count came into being. At about the count of six I waved my arms in the air indicating that the fight was over, thus awarding Marciano a TKO win. No objections by anyone whatsoever. The following day I received a phone call from Irv Kupcinet, the well known columnist in Chicago, inquiring as to why I didn't let the count go to ten. I told him that my mind was made up that I wouldn't let Louis continue had he gotten up. All it meant was it now is listed as a TKO. Had I gone to ten it would go down



The end is near for Joe Louis as he hits the floor via a left from Rocky Marciano in the eighth round of their bout. Referee Ruby Goldstein stopped the contest a few moments later.

in the record book as a KO. I thought it was far better to give his handlers a few extra seconds to get to Joe and administer aid.

As I wrote at the outset, it was a real sad night. Louis was really a tradition. I don't know who originated the saying, but it certainly is true, you can't go on forever.

I learned the next day that I came close to not getting the assignment to referee the bout. With few exceptions it was practically taken for granted that the referee who is given the job as counting for the knockdowns during the preliminary bouts will referee the main event. One of Louis' handlers saw me there and went looking for a boxing commissioner to inform him that if Ruby Goldstein was to be the referee, the fight would not come off. The commissioner at once ran down to the first row where Commission Chairman Bob Christenberry was sitting and informed him of what he might expect. Mind you, I was not a witness to any of this as I was at ringside prepared to count if any boy hit the floor. However I heard this from a reliable person.

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## ALI SAYS HIS CONDITION IS AMAZING, VICTORY SURE

(Continued from page 15)

Square Garden I'll be just as sharp and as fast as the young fellow who won the world heavyweight championship.

I never really believed that I could ever train myself back into that kind of condition. It's really a reincarnation or whatever you call it.

My new camp is responsible. It gives me the peace I need. I like people but when you're training for a hard fight people can only distract and bother. I have to get away from people. That's why a real camp is so important. Fighting is a matter of concentration.

Joe Frazier represents a goal for me. I don't even look beyond him. I have to teach him a lesson and the only way to do it is to give him a solid whupping. I'm sure he feels the same way about me.

I'm not sure he'll ever get over the beating he took from me. As for me, I'm more flexible.

I will win because I'm the better fighter and always was. In his heart Joe Frazier knows this. But Joe has courage and stamina and it will be a tough, hard fight and there can be only one winner.

In our 1971 fight I hurt Joe far more than the judges and the referee realized. He went from the Garden to a hospital and he stayed there for some time.

The story was "athlete's kidney."

Well, it could have been a kidney, it could have been a sound beating.

Some of the experts said "Ali can't hit." Frazier knows that Ali CAN hit.

I don't like to whup a guy so bad that he has to go to a hospital for weeks.

But the job lies plain before me. I have to win this fight and win it I will.

## INSIDE THE ROPES

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When advised of this Christenberry calmly replied, "I don't see how anyone could object to Goldstein. If he has a good reason let him tell it. If Goldstein doesn't referee I may call the whole thing off."

By this time a couple of Garden representatives and Deputy Boxing Commissioners were in Louis' dressing room inquiring as to why the objection to Goldstein. Joe's representative used words of praise for me but he thought that perhaps it might prey on Joe's mind that I voted for Joe Walcott in the Louis bout and this might affect Joe. Louis heard all this discussion and once again showed his class. He ended the entire discussion by exclaiming, "Stop all this nonsense, let Ruby referee." Nice guy that Joe.

## TAYLOR NEW BANTAM CHAMP IN LONG COUNT WITH ANAYA

(Continued from page 24)

Anaya here did a Dempsey. He failed to go to a neutral corner. He gave Taylor a gorgeous gift. This was a 16-second rest and it was highly appreciated by the eventual winner.

Thus did the bantams acquire a Long Count incident of their own.

Taylor was in constant jeopardy after the tenth. Anaya kept after him and time and again led to the belief that the Africander could not last 15 rounds.

If Anaya had not lost the title he would have been forced to think of invading the feathers. He was overweight and had to get down to 118 within an hour. He just about made it.

Taylor had no trouble making the weight.

Anaya soon challenged Taylor to another fight. But before Anaya gets his chance Taylor will have to talk to Rafael Herrera, Venice Borkorsor and a few others.

Anaya and Taylor had just about the most action-filled struggle to be found in bantamweight history. Here was a fight which the old timers could not match.

Taylor would have lost the fight in New York or London in the eighth when he was decked three times. But South Africa has no three-deck rule. Lucky for Arnold.

## ARCARI STOPS HANSEN IN FIFTH FOR WBA LAURELS

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But Baldeyrou counted the essential ten.

It was hard to find out if the fans were booing the referee, or giving the Bronx cheer to Hansen. Maybe a 50-50 split yielded the truth.

Hansen made a valiant effort at the WBA title but he hardly was in the Italian's class.

Arcari was fast with his hands but did not appear to be a knockout specialist.

Arcari's being a southpaw bothered Hansen very much.

Arcari set a financial record for the junior welter class with a payday of \$100,000.

The junior welter situation offers two good attractions for Panama - Arcari vs. Tony Cervantes, the division champion, and Arcari vs. Alfonso Frazer, a banger highly rated by The Ring.

How the WBC could support the Arcari-Hansen fight as being for its title was a mystery since Hansen came in over the weight limit for junior welters, which is 140.

## TO YOUR SEATS FOR ACT II OF JOE VS. ALI

(Continued from page 8)

Joe Frazier's star dimmed when he blew his title and was pounded out early by big bad George Foreman. Ali's star shrank behind a cloud when he was humiliated by underrated Kenny Norton. His star almost shattered when the ex-Marine broke Ali's jaw.

We wonder just how far each fighter has retrogressed, which has lost more of his former talents?

This fight will be the key. Has Joe lost it all? Is Ali washed up? Will it be a double knockout and finish both their careers?

The intermission is over, boxing fans. Return to your seats. Act Two is about to start. This one could have a surprise ending.

## CHIONOI RETAINS FLYWEIGHT TITLE (WBA) VS. HANAGATA

(Continued from page 27)

fight. He might even beat the Thai.

Gonzalez' class was demonstrated in an easy success against Miguel Canto.

Henry Nissen would put Australia into the argument if he were not always on the edge of retirement to devote himself to his men's shop, where he does exceedingly well.

## LYLE NO LIKE DRAW DECISION VS. PERALTA

By MIKE HAYES

FRANKFORT, Germany — A disappointed and frustrated Ron Lyle said his recent draw with Gregorio Peralta "only makes me more determined to reach my goals in boxing."

The ranked Denver heavyweight, who had already scored a convincing 10-round victory over Peralta last May 12, controlled the rematch here, especially over the final five rounds of action. However, the official verdict was a draw.

The crowd of 5,000 at the Festhalle, who had been cheering their local favorite, Peralta, felt Lyle had won and booed the decision once it was announced. The German boxing officials refused to publicly announce the official judges' scores. The Associated Press had Lyle ahead by a 6-3-1 margin.

So, it goes down in the record book as a draw verdict, thus making Lyle's record 26-1-1, with 19 knockout victories. Peralta, who has gone 20 rounds with world heavyweight champion George Foreman, is now 93-9-9, with 56 KO's.

After the fight Lyle expressed his disappointment to sportswriters from all over Europe. Ron weighed 212, Peralta 200.

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