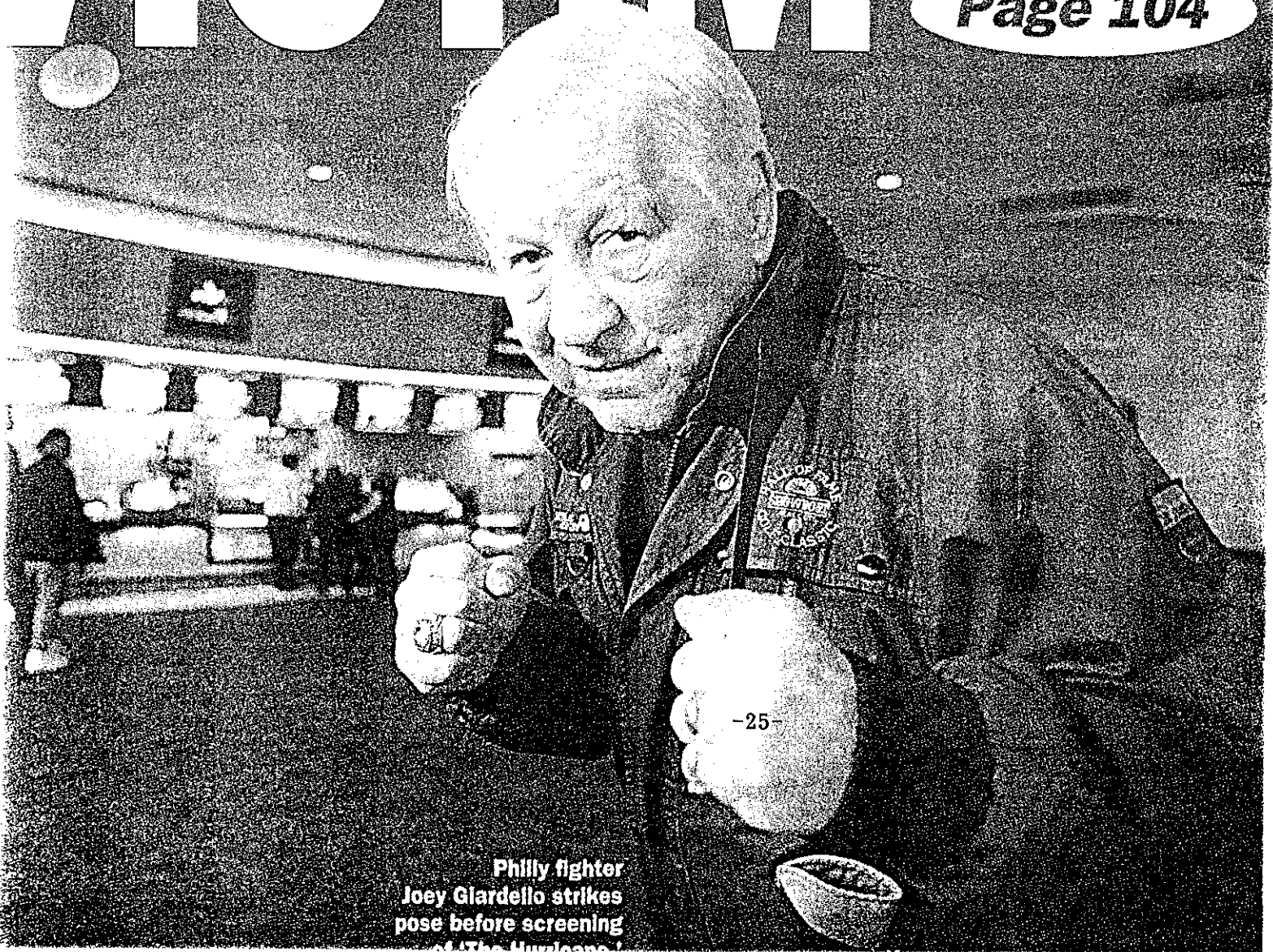


he **REEL** **VICTIM**

*Giardello
incensed by
Hollywood's
portrayal of
Hurricane bow*

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Philly fighter
Joey Giardello strikes
pose before screening
of 'The Hurricane'

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Boxing

Giardello's counterpunch

Ex-champ hurt by portrayal in 'The Hurricane'

by Bernard Fernandez

Daily News Sports Writer

The silver-haired senior citizen, unnoticed and unrecognized, settled into his seat for yesterday's 12:30 p.m. screening of "The Hurricane" at AMC Riverview Plaza 17 on Columbus Boulevard.

But Joey Giardello, 69, was not just any member of the matinee audience. A former middleweight champion of the world, Giardello was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1969 and last year was named the fourth-greatest Philadelphia fighter of all time by the *Daily News*.

Giardello (real name: Carmine Titelli), disturbed by reports his Dec. 14, 1964, title bout against Rubin "Hurricane" Carter in Convention Hall had been severely misrepresented in the film — which is drawing Oscar buzz for lead actor Denzel Washington — had vowed not to add to "The Hurricane's" box-office gross. But he agreed to accompany the *Daily News* and critique Hollywood's version of his bout with Carter, which is brief but crucial to the storyline.

What he saw was more hurtful than anything he might have imagined. Giardello says his reputation as a tough guy who never ducked anyone, painstakingly crafted during 19 years in the ring, has been permanently damaged by filmmakers.

"I don't really want to, but for them to come out with something like that... I almost feel like I have to sue somebody," a shaken Giardello said after viewing three minutes of what only can be described as revisionist history. "I think maybe I will look into it."

A publicist for Universal Studios, distributor of "The Hurricane," declined comment on Giardello's assertions regarding the film.

The two youngest of Giardello's four sons, Paul Titelli, 37, and Steven Titelli, 34, said they are attempting to counteract "The Hurricane's" campaign of misinformation against their father by establishing a Web site, www.joeygiardello.com, which went online yesterday. As of Saturday, it will include video footage of Giardello's unanimous decision over Carter and his title-winning bout against Dick Tiger.

"Obviously, people who only see the movie are going to think [Carter] got robbed," Paul said. "The movie people were going for the most entertaining angle, which is why they did what they did. We just want to set the record straight."

Giardello and his family will have their work cut out for them. "The Hurricane" tells the tale of the wrongly incarcerated Carter, the former No. 1 contender who spent 19 years in prison for the 1966 murders of a white bartender and two white patrons in Paterson, N.J. Carter, who is black, always insisted he was innocent, and a federal court eventually agreed the evidence against him had been coerced, repressed or altered for racial reasons.

As depicted in the film, Carter's loss to Giardello not only was the biggest robbery since the Brinks job, it was tainted by the same sort of overt racism that kept landing Carter in prison on increasingly trumped-up charges.



Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter and Joey Giardello, at prefight press conference in 1964

"I am not a racist, OK?" Giardello said. "There were four guys I could have given that title shot to. One was Joey Archer, who was white. Another was Carter. The other two guys, I can't remember their names off the top of my head. But the fact is, I picked Carter. I gave him the opportunity to be a world champion. The promoter wanted me to fight Archer. I said, 'No, Carter is ranked No. 1, he earned his shot. Give it to him.'"

"So what thanks do I get? For people to spread a pack of lies about me 35 years later? This is serious business. I kind of feel my reputation is at stake here."

Giardello was incredulous, then angry, as he watched the film version of himself, played by Ben Bray, take a fearful beating from the unmarked, clearly superior Carter.

"Oh, please," Giardello said as the movie Carter pounded him along the ropes. "I don't believe this. This is a joke. He never hit me that much in 15 rounds."

Giardello shook his head as a ringside broadcaster, after proclaiming that "Joey Giardello is about to lose his crown to Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter," explodes in dismay after the decision is given to the champion.

"They must have been watching a different fight, because in the one we just saw, Hurricane Carter took the title," the broadcaster says amid boos from a pro-Carter crowd.

"I can't believe what I'm seeing," Giardello's wife of 50 years, Rosalie Titelli, 67, who attended the actual fight, said to her husband. "They made it seem like he beat the hell out of you."

"I never thought it would be like this. I thought they would make it seem, you know, a little bit controversial. But this is ridiculous. It's so unfair."

Said Giardello: "They got the crowd booing me. How could they do that? Nobody booed. Those were my people there, from South Philly. They were happy I won. And I did win. I won, he lost. End of story."

"End of the fight, Carter congratulated me in the ring. He wasn't complaining because he didn't have anything to complain about. I was better than him. I know it, he knows it, everybody who was at the fight that night knows it. It's just too bad all the people who see this movie won't know it."

Giardello, who was puffy around the left eye after the real fight with Carter, said he couldn't recall ever being as bloodied and battered as he was made out to be in "The Hurricane."

"I didn't get nicked up by too many guys," Giardello said. "Maybe two or three. Who were they, hon? You would know."

"Spider Webb did a pretty good number on you," Rosalie replied.

"Spider Webb, yeah," Giardello said. "He did it about the best. But Hurricane Carter? He never hurt me once."

"Look, that Denzel Washington is a good actor. He played the part good. I just wish they would tell the truth. If somebody beat me, I'd say they beat me. Why can't [Carter] do the same? I don't like it when people who didn't beat me say they did."

"If they can't get that fight right, how can you believe anything in the movie?" ■

Send e-mail to fernanzb@phillynews.com

Observers of 1964 Philly fight weigh in on movie

by Bernard Fernandez

Daily News Sports Writer

In "Play It to the Bone," now in theaters, the fight between Woody Harrelson's character and Antonio Banderas's character has nine knockdowns. In 10 rounds.

Hollywood loves to make movies about boxing and boxers, but more often than not, the filmmakers can't quite seem to get it right.

Some would say "The Hurricane," the life story of wrongly incarcerated former middleweight contender Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, also comes up something short of a knockout in one critical action sequence.

In the film, Carter deals middleweight champion Joey Giardello a horrific beating over 15 rounds, only to be shafted on a racially motivated decision.

Bert Randolph Sugar, editor of *Fight Game* magazine, was at the Dec. 14, 1964, bout in Philadelphia's Convention Hall and he said the scene does more than stray from the truth. It willfully runs away from it.

"All Joey did was stick the hell out of him," Sugar said. "Joey might have won 16 out of 15 rounds. [The movie version] is not even close to the truth."

"This goes beyond Joey, who is a very nice guy. It smears all of boxing, which does a very good job of smearing itself without Hollywood horning in on the act. The kind of discrimination depicted hasn't really happened — at least not in the ring — since Jack Johnson's day."

"Most of the champions of the past 50 years have been black. They picked on Hurricane Carter? Ridiculous. Carter's biggest problem in that fight wasn't biased judging. It was that he couldn't keep Joey's left hand out of his face."

Longtime promoter/matchmaker Don Elbaum, who also was at the fight, said he gave Carter, at best, five rounds.

"No ifs, ands or buts about it," Elbaum said. "Giardello won. It wasn't a robbery; it wasn't controversial. Giardello won."

A publicist for Universal Studios, distributor of "The Hurricane," declined comment when informed of similar criticisms by Giardello.

Jack McKinney's fight story, in the Dec. 15, 1964, editions of the *Daily News* is no less emphatic in its assessment that Giardello had enough to win comfortably.

"On those rare occasions when Carter was sustaining some pressure, the champ had only to move to the inside to bail himself out," wrote McKinney, who gave eight rounds to Giardello and five to Carter with two even. McKinney also wondered if Carter, who never had gone more than 10 rounds, had fought as tentatively as he did to conserve energy for the later rounds.

Nigel Collins, editor of *The Ring* doesn't dispute that Giardello did enough to earn the decision. He just doesn't believe anyone has the right to claim the fight was a romp, one way or the other.

"My memory of that fight is that Giardello didn't dominate, but by no means was Carter ripped off," Collins said. "It was a fight that could have gone either way, and those are the kind of champions usually win." ■

No Fierce Attack from Hurricane ... Except in the Eye

Winner Joey: 'He Fought My

By JACK MCKINNEY

There was only one thing out Ruben Carter's style that really puzzled Joey Giardello last night at Convention Hall. Not what, nor how, why?

"He fought my fight," Giardello pointed out after successfully defending his world middleweight title in an interesting, but frequently eventful, 15-rounder. "I expected him to come tearing after me, but he didn't. That surprised me."

It had to be a pleasant surprise for those Giardello fans whose biggest fear had been that 34-year-old Joey might undergo the type of pace that earned the challenger his nickname, "Hurricane." But Giardello indicated he would prefer more pressure on the challenger, particularly in the early rounds.

"I was figuring on chopping a short righthand counter inside that big hook of his," Joey closed. "I thought I might take him up early that way. He crossed me up. Instead of reacting to my feints, he tried to make me react to his punches. He was more boxer than figured him to be—and a lot easier to hit flush."

IN SHORT, Carter wasn't out to play the foil for a lousy performance of count-punching on Giardello's part. Even as he pressed, he seemed conscious of his own defense and when he did fire, it was in calculated, measured bursts.

His reticence to sustain any offensive had to limit the action because Giardello was committed to the strategy of reaction. When in retreat, the champion controlled the tempo and when stopped to meet Carter on the inside, Joey dominated the action.

"He didn't fight at all on the inside," Giardello pointed out. "He let me take all the points I wanted on the inside, like he didn't think they'd count."

THIS AMOUNTED to something like a safety valve for Giardello. On those rare occasions when Carter was sustaining some pressure, the champ had only to move to the inside to bail himself out.

There were rounds when Carter did have Giardello in visible distress, although Joey later insisted he was never hurt by any single shot. In the fourth, the challenger picked up the tempo considerably as blood trickled from a slight split on Giardello's right brow. Both later agreed that an unintentional butt by Carter had opened the cut.

Blood is a distress signal, and Carter reacted to it. He banged

Giardello with a right to the body and scored with two short, thumping hooks to the head. He pressed more aggressively and scored again with a pair of chopping shots to the head, but Giardello stopped him with a short right and moved inside to weather the storm.

IN THE FIFTH, Giardello came back to take the play away from the challenger by jabbing, circling and moving in with pot shot hooks to the body. But Carter regained his initiative in the sixth, when he got the better of a two-fisted exchange in the center of the ring and punctuated it with a solid hook to the head that momentarily crossed Giardello's legs. Two more good hooks by Carter finished the champ's face in the closing seconds of the round.

But Giardello was determined not to let Carter get anything going. He came back boxing sharply, moving well and mixing his attack to the body and head. The champ was in control again, and he remained the boss until the ninth and tenth, which

he appeared to use as loafing rounds. Had Carter really applied the pressure in these two rounds, he might have turned the fight around. But somehow, Joey managed to con the challenger out of any big show of initiative.

It's likely Carter was thinking of his own gas tank. He had never gone beyond ten rounds before and the great unknown must have been an inhibiting factor to some degree.

After an uneventful 11th round, Giardello came surging back to put two of his strongest rounds together. The effort cost Joey the 14th, a tough, tiring round for him. But in the final round the champ came back to bail himself out again by moving to the inside and outbusting Carter with digging shots to the body and a series of solid upper-

cuts to the jaw.

THE DECISION was unanimous. Judges Jim Mina and Dave Beloff awarded the fight to Giardello with respective scores of 69-64 and 70-67; and referee Bob Polis scored it 72-66 in favor of the champ.

This ringsider agreed with Beloff's scoring which breaks down to eight rounds to five, with two even. In the final analysis, Joey Giardello did a better job defending than Ruben Carter did challenging. And that's what title fights are all about.

The Scorecards

ROUND	REFEREE BOB POLIS		JUDGE JIMMY MINA		JUDGE DAVE BELOFF	
	G.	C.	G.	C.	G.	C.
First	5	5	5	4	5	5
Second	5	4	5	4	5	4
Third	5	4	5	4	4	5
Fourth	4	5	4	5	4	5
Fifth	4	5	5	5	5	4
Sixth	4	5	4	5	4	5
Seventh	5	4	5	4	5	4
Eighth	5	4	5	4	5	4
Ninth	5	4	5	4	4	5
Tenth	5	5	5	5	5	5
Eleventh	5	4	5	4	4	5
Twelfth	5	4	4	5	5	4
Thirteenth	5	4	5	4	5	4
Fourteenth	5	5	4	5	5	4
Fifteenth	5	4	5	4	5	4
Totals	72	66	71	66	70	66

Joey's Future Plans? Rest!

Middleweight champ Joey Giardello is in no hurry to go back to war, and he has no strong preference as to his next challenger.

"Where do you go from here?" a reporter asked the champ after Joey had won a unanimous 15-round decision over Ruben "Hurricane" Carter in his first title defense.

"Where do I go from here?" Joey repeated. "Back to Cherry Hill, N. J., where I'll lay down for a week."

Someone asked about the possibility of a rematch for Carter. "I'd give it to him; but I'm not allowed. They (the World Boxing Association) have that rule to fight outside of New York.

against rematches, you know. I like New York as a town, but that's why I couldn't give Dick Tiger the first shot after I won the title from him. It's a good rule. Rematches can tie up a little between two guys for years while everyone else has to wait."

AS FOR TIGER'S immediate status as challenger, Joey pointed out that there are two accepted sets of ratings, the WBA's and Ring Magazine's, and they don't agree on the top contender.

"It's between Tiger and Joey Anshbury," Joey noted. "Last night I'd give it to him; but I'm not allowed. They (the World Boxing Association) have that rule to fight outside of New York.

of flash bulbs. "Now I've got another surprise for you," Giardello announced. "My Ro is pregnant and we're expecting our fourth child. Our fourth boy."

WITH THAT in mind, Joey will probably want to sift through the box office figures a few times before he goes home to Cherry Hill to flake out for a week. At last count, 7632 fans had paid \$85,245 and more than 1000 others had crashed the gate to preserve an old, unsavory Philadelphia tradition.

With some small added revenue from limited home and theater TV, co-promoter Jimmy Riggio estimated Giardello would receive about \$60,000. The final figure probably will fall well below that, but there will be enough for Christmas shopping.

THE CIRCLE of writers and well-wishers opened to admit the champ's pretty little wife, Rosalia. They kissed and embraced to the accompaniment

of flash bulbs. "Now I've got another surprise for you," Giardello announced. "My Ro is pregnant and we're expecting our fourth child. Our fourth boy."

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Larry Merchant



Carter Knew His Best Just Wasn't

Good Enough

It was a story as old as anything. One man's best was better than another man's best. Joey Giardello beat Rubin Carter.

That was the story of the fight at Convention Hall last night and now Rubin Carter was trying to explain why his best wasn't the best, why Joey Giardello was still middleweight champion. At first he protested, mechanically rather than vehemently—"The other fighter ways thinks he won"—but gradually it became apparent as he knew his best just wasn't good enough. Not good enough to take a title away from somebody anyway.

"I fit the fought," Rubin Carter said. He started over again. "I fought the fit." One more time. "I fought the fight he wanted me to fight." He turned to his manager, Al Amato, with a grin. "Are you sure I wasn't hit?" wondered.

And that was the story too. Joey Giardello arranged the choreography of the fight, arranged it for Joey Giardello's benefit, and Rubin Carter was helpless to change it for Rubin Carter's benefit.

"Who says I'm old?" asked Joey Giardello. "I've been in enough fights to know how to fight, and as long as they let me set the pace I'll fight 'til I'm 50."

The pace-setter went to the ring with an impressive catalogue of pluses—experience (128 fights to Carter's 100), skill, the championship, the home town. Rubin Carter had a couple of pluses going for him as well: age (27 to 34) and length. Giardello used all of his pluses. Carter didn't use all of his.

"I wanted to hit him in the first round," Giardello said. "I wanted to see what kind of chin he had, and I wanted him to know I could hit him." He used the same formula to win the championship from Dick Tiger.

Preconceived Respect

Carter danced Giardello's dance after that, a dance economical and venerable as the peabody. The challenger, who should have been coming on with the frug or something, danced it not because any one punch discouraged him, but because of a preconceived respect that was confirmed in the early rounds. Carter didn't have the boxing ability to cope with a classic counter-puncher like Giardello, and he didn't have the resolve to rumble.

The control Giardello had of the tempo was illustrated in two rounds, the fourth and the eleventh.

In the fourth Carter opened a hairline cut alongside Giardello's left eye with a butt. The sight of blood seemed to embolden Carter, but only momentarily. He resumed his pace, stalking from a well-protected front. His jab was not sharp enough or busy enough to keep the cut open after that. "He looked like he was trying to rely on the knockout punch," Giardello said.

In the eleventh, as in the tenth, the champion was

obviously coasting. He had the lead and he was preserving himself for the last four dances. Carter didn't press him. "I expected him to tear after me," Giardello said.

This failure to extend himself and Giardello put Carter back on the middleweight stag line. "I could have gone another 15," Carter said. He should have put his surplus energy to work in the first 15. Giardello took three of the last four rounds.

What could Carter possibly have been thinking of? By his own admission: "Nothing. I just wanted to hit him." And the rationale: "If I chased him anymore he would have run up on the roof."

'I Had to Knock Him Down'

Having come this far from his dark twisted youth, and aware in his own words "that I knew what would happen from the way they were talking" and "I had to knock him down"—allusions to the truth that he couldn't win a decision anywhere near close—why hadn't he jumped in with both feet?

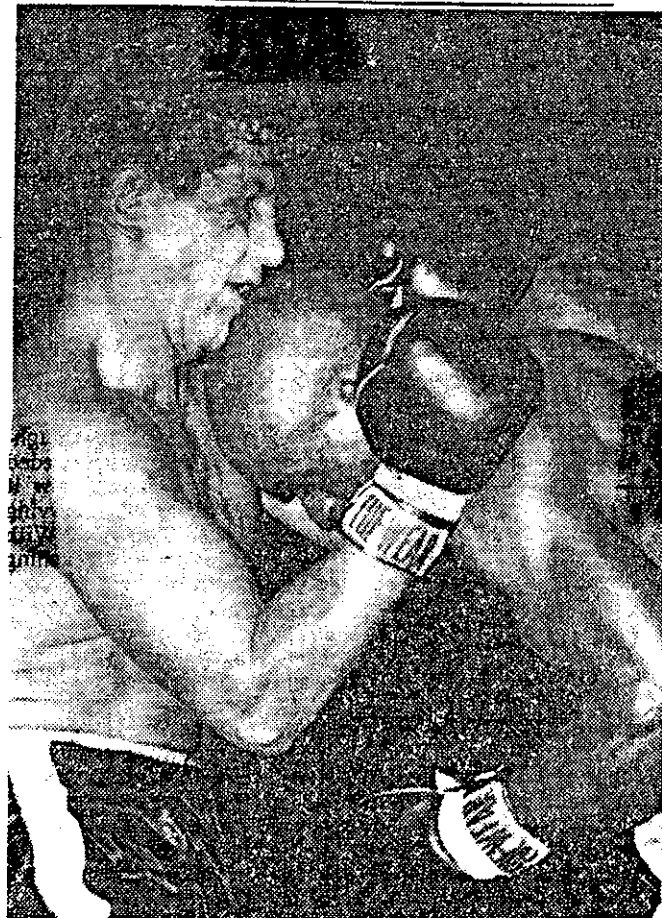
"I didn't want to get anxious," Carter said. "He's taken some pretty good punches from some pretty good fighters. There's such a thing as punching yourself out." Would he do it the same way again? "If somebody gets hit by a car they wouldn't cross the street again would they?"

He answered that one himself. They would. "It looks easy from the outside," Rubin Carter said. "I was trying to beat him the best way I could."

His best just wasn't good enough.



BIG HUG is given wife by Giardello.



HEAD-TO-HEAD—Rubin Carter brings head into contact with Joey Giardello's chin in close action.

Giardello Looks Like Loser But Earns Close Decision

By JACK FRIED

That old saying about the first 100 being the hardest doesn't apply to Joey Giardello. The world middleweight champion's 15-round title defense against Rubin (Hurricane) Carter at Convention Hall last night was his 127th bout in 15 years of professional ring campaigning, and as rough and rugged a battle as any he ever fought.

To look at the two afterward, one would have thought Carter must have been the winner. His face was sweaty but unmarked, whereas Giardello's was patched and streaked with welts and bruises.

But they don't pay off on looks in boxing. The three official scorers awarded Giardello a unanimous decision for the 97th victory of his career.

Decision Right, but Generous

Joey earned and deserved it—not, however, by the generous margins he received on two of the ballots.

Jim Mina and Dave Beloff, the judges, voted for Joey by 71 points to 65 and 70-66, respectively. Referee Bob Polis, though his haste in breaking up many of the infighting duels hampered Giardello's fight, gave the champ a 72-66 verdict. He didn't score a round for Carter in the last nine.

To this ringsider, it was almost too close for the safety of Giardello's title—70 to 68—and Joey had to come on strong at the finish to nail it down.

That he did so was again a tribute to one of the most remarkable boxers of his time. For a 34-year-old who has been through so punishing a mill, Giardello showed the swift and skillful footwork and the staying powers a youngster could envy.

No Squawks About Quality

Those 15 rounds were unremarkably tense and dangerous, yet Joey had enough left to wind them up like a true champion, after taking many a lusty swat on his face and body.

As to the decision, there were plenty of dissenting voices in the 7,652 crowd—not one audi-

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ble, squawk, however, about the quality of the contest. They had a hard-fought and frequently thrilling show for their \$85,248 (gross).

Carter demurred at the verdict, though without passion. He thought he won nine rounds. "But I suppose that's what every loser says," he conceded, continuing with a bouquet of compliments to Giardello's boxing mastery.

Carter, attacking virtually every step of the way, landed most of the good shots. A left hook to the jaw half-lifted Giardello off his feet and drove him to the ropes in the fourth round, after Rubin opened a small cut on the outside corner of Joey's left eyebrow a few moments earlier. The champion, two rounds later, found the rhythm of movement and the counter-punch timing that blunted the challenger's aggressiveness.

Scores in In-Fighting

Joey moved out and in and around, with Carter in menacing pursuit, jabbing, hooking, ducking, parrying—and often taking. Time after time he caught Carter coming in and pumped away at close quarters with little opposition. These were opportunities to score points which Polis usually cut off by separating the men.

Shortly after the beginning, the back of Carter's trunks kept slipping down, revealing what looked like a corset—black with white lacing. The crowd never stopped shouting at the referee to make Rubin take it off.

At the end of the tenth round, State Athletic Commission

chairman Frank Wildman told Polis to look at it. The referee talked with Carter for a moment, a second tightened the lacing and that was that.

Giardello said he didn't mind Carter's armor—"It was only the thing that holds his protective cup," Joey said.

At the final bell, and before the decision was computed, Giardello's corner was so confident he had won that his adviser had won that his adviser and chief second, Arnold Giovanetti, called out invitations to several ringsiders to come to Joey's victory celebration in a downtown night spot.

Joey apparently was not proud of his performance. He couldn't "sucker" with his feints

in the first half of the battle, he said. And he couldn't say how well Rubin takes a punch "because I don't think I got one really good shot at him."

At Carter's jaw with right hands, he meant. Last night's bout was only his 25th, but the Hurricane was astonishingly quick at pulling away from Giardello's rights and even quicker at hitting back after Joey drove home some of his best left hooks to face and body.

And More Good News

Joey's wife, Rosalie, dainty and pretty, came up to the dressing room after the fight and was pushed through a crowd of interviewers to his side. After a minute of hugging and kissing, the champion announced that "My wife is pregnant—we're expecting our fourth."

Successful in his first defense of the crown he won from Dick Tiger a year ago, Giardello now plans to "lay down for a week" and later to fight a couple of non-title opponents before putting the championship on the line again. Against Tiger, perhaps. He turned aside inquiries about Joey Archer, another high-ranking contender.

Both attendance and gate re-

Continued on Page 72, Col. 1

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CHAMP TAKES A PUNCH—Challenger Rubin (Hurricane) C. right in ninth round at Convention Hall. -29-

Official Scoring of Fight

	REFEREE BOB POLIS															Pts.
Rounds	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Giardello	5	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	72
Carter	5	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	4	66
	JUDGE JIMMY MINA															
Giardello	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	71
Carter	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	66
	JUDGE DAVE BELOFF															
Giardello	5	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	70
Carter	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	67