

Ali wins on close decision

Associated Press
The 34-year-old Ali, sometimes fighting like the butterfly he has been called, other times stinging like a bee with solid jabs and short right leads, seemed to control the fight from the outset although he was not moving forward and he did not land the harder punches. Ali even resorted to the rope-a-dope defense he used when he won the title away from George Foreman.

There was only one thing he did not do. He did not destroy Norton as he predicted he would do.

Referee Arthur Mercante scored the fight 8-6-1 for Ali while judges Harold Lederman and Barney Smith each had it 8-7 for Ali.

The Associated Press had it 9-6 for the champion. Norton now has gone through rounds with the man who proclaims himself the greatest fighter of all time. The only thing he has to show for it is one victory, some good money and a night of frustration.

The defeat probably wrote an end

to Norton's boxing career. At 31, the movies seem to be more in his future than fights.

Ali, who predicted the fight would not go more than five rounds, came out flat-footed, gunning for power. His best weapons in the first six rounds were short right hands, many of them leads.

Then, in the ninth, Ali came out dancing and jabbing and the jab was effective. The champion also shook Norton with a left-right-left to the head in the round which ended with Norton scoring a solid right to the head.

In the 10th, Ali was dancing and jabbing again and Norton couldn't do anything about it. Ali made it three rounds in a row, at least on The AP card, when he took the 11th round, in which Norton imitated Ali's rope-a-dope, a tactic the champ had used earlier in the fight.

Then in the 11th, Ali scored with two telling rights, both of them leads, and two good lefts to the head.

But Norton kept coming and punching with all his power, al-

though he was never able to land the punch that could turn the tide for him in the final four rounds. And Ali remained effective with his left hand right to the final bell, although he missed more in the final 12 minutes than he had for most of the fight.

The 15th round ended with Norton, weighing 217½, bulling the 221-pound Ali into a neutral corner and scoring with several hard punches to the head and body.

When the final bell rang, Norton had a look of jubilation on his face.

But when he left the ring a few minutes later, there were tears in his eyes.

The victory enabled Ali to end this rough-tough series the same way he closed out his historic series of three bouts with Joe Frazier — an opening loss and then two victories.

The win, Ali's 19th in 20 championship fights, earned him at least \$6 million and set up a possible \$10-million match with George Foreman sometime next year.

Ali was to get 50 per cent of all revenue over \$9 million, but it was

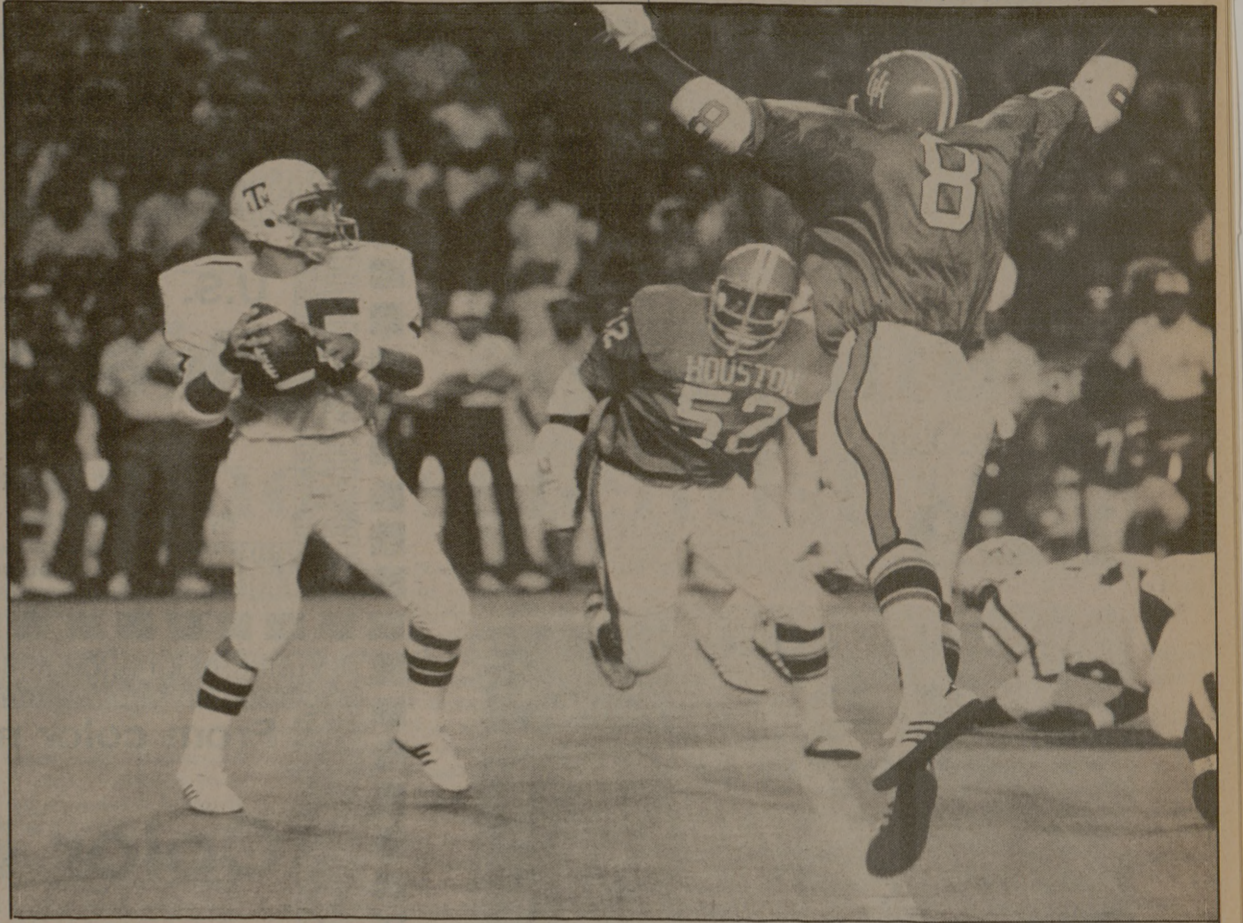
not known what the final financial figure would be. Norton was guaranteed \$1 million and five per cent of all revenue.

An announced crowd of 42,000 — many paying \$200 — showed up for the first fight in Yankee Stadium since Ingemar Johansson knocked out Floyd Patterson June 26, 1959. And it was the first outdoor heavyweight championship bout in the United States since Sonny Liston's kayo of Patterson at Chicago's Comiskey Park Sept. 25, 1962.

The live gate apparently will top \$3 million and break the all-time record of \$2,658,660 paid by 104,943 people for the second Jack Dempsey-Gene Tunney fight in 1927 at Chicago's Soldier Field.

Revenue also will come in from closed-circuit television to 300 locations holding 1.5 million seats in the United States and Canada and from telecasts to 57 other countries.

CBS also paid \$1 million to show the fight on United States home television at a later date.



Up, up and away

David Shipman searches for an open receiver while Guy Brown and Ross Echols put pressure on the quarterback from the outside.

Shipman had a long night, often finding an obscured view of his receivers down field.

Battalion photo by D.D. Grubbs

Aggies and Mustangs to strut before motion picture cameras

By LISA JUNOD
When Texas A&M faces SMU the day before Halloween, they'll play before the watchful eyes of a dozen United Artists cameramen and the equally rapt gazes of fans in one SMU's first Cotton Bowl sellout crowd in several years.

The cameras will focus on the Mustangs, slated to be the feature team in the upcoming UA movie, "Pony Tough." The film, which will be produced by Alan Levine, follows the ups and downs of the lives of two professional football players whose team eventually makes it to the Super Bowl.

Burt Reynolds plays Billy Bob Backett, the earthy back, and Kris

Kristofferson his sidekick, "Snake" in the film version of Dan Jenkin's novel. Jenkins, a Texan, writes for "Sports Illustrated."

The movie crew also filmed the SMU-University of Alabama game Sept. 18 and will film the SMU-University of Houston game Oct. 16.

The movie's producer, Alan Levine, said that he decided to film the Mustangs for several reasons, but mainly because of SMU football coach Ron Meyer's pro style offense. The Ponies were also favored for the spot in the film since they play in a pro-type stadium and have no insignia on their helmets, making them more anonymous than most college teams.

Also, Levine said, the Mustangs have a white back who could pass for Burt Reynolds and a white receiver who could pass for Kris Kristofferson.

SMU's location in a large city increased its attractiveness to the film crew since it means that a lot more people will attend the games being filmed. Since the team in the movie makes it to the Super Bowl, it would have to play before a sellout crowd. So, Levine said that for the SMU-A&M game, he will buy all the tickets that have not been purchased and give them away for free. That way, the game would be played to a packed 72,000-seat crowd. Proceeds from sales will be split by SMU and

A&M.

Levine said that he has not decided to give away the free tickets, although he mentioned that he might give them to charities or YM-CAs.

Levine planned the filming with SMU sports information director Bob Condren earlier this month and spent four hours on the phone talking with him. Condren said he has checked with the NCAA to make sure there are no rules preventing the filming.

So the stage is set for the Aggies and the Ponies to rumble across the Cotton Bowl turf and dazzle Hollywood with their eye-catching plays.



Look out!

Aggie quarterback David Shipman hurries his screen pass to David Brothers. Brothers was open in the flats, and for a first

down. Wilson Whitely of Houston is in hot pursuit of Shipman.

Battalion photo by Kevin Venner

Ags leave past behind

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor

Coach Emory Bellard, with a distant stare in his eyes, spoke yesterday of the past defeat with Houston, and the future contest with Illinois. His remarks were insightful, criticizing mistakes his players made against the Cougars, yet spreading praise if he felt it was merited.

"We had some breakdowns by some people in what they have been trained to do," said Bellard. "Our pass protection broke down against Houston, but the Cougs have improved themselves in several positions. Houston has a good outfit."

"Jimmy Dean and Tank Marshall played their best game this year. Robert Jackson also had a very fine game."

But now it is on to Illinois, and if possible, the Aggies must try to forget the Cougar nightmare. The Ags had a bad game, but dwelling on

this fact can only hinder the rest of the season.

Illinois has a good team capable of an upset. They are basically the same team the Ags defeated last 43-13, but they should prove to be a bit stronger.

"They've been fingered as the number one defense in the Big 10," Bellard said. They run a 4-4-3 defense, and have good quality people at every spot. One thing they do quite well is stunt, and play very aggressive, while giving a lot of different defensive looks."

The Illini defense is led by John Di Fliciantonio. He currently leads the Big 10 in quarterback sacks. Di Fliciantonio is not a big man, but his quickness and outstanding ability at recognizing blocking patterns make up for his size. Dennis Swilley of A&M has the blocking assignment for Di Fliciantonio, and what he does

will determine the offensive success of the Aggies.

The Aggie offensive line had its troubles against Houston.

"We got whipped on the line of scrimmage very decisively," Bellard said.

For the Ags to do well against Illinois they must control the line of scrimmage.

Illinois defeated Missouri two weeks ago 31-6, yet was surprised by Baylor 34-19. The Bears had a very balanced attack, and one which A&M can hopefully copy.

Bellard finished his press conference saying that all the rest of the SWC games would be a dogfight, and one which we must take one step at a time.

Bellard is quite right, and the first step will be Saturday in Champaign, Illinois.

Intramurals

MEN DORM
A Division: Hotard vs. Puryear, 18-6; Utay vs. Walton, 0-19; Moore No. 1 vs. Aston I, 2-7; Dunn No. 1 vs. McInnis, 6-8; Hart I vs. Moore No. 2, 12-0; Davis-Gary vs. Moses II, 0-31; Aston II vs. Law, 0-33;

MEN INDEPENDENT
A Division: Wildbunch vs. Taos Tigers, 28-0; PKA vs. Box Boys, 27-0; Playboys vs. E. T. Terror, 61-6; Gatorhawks vs. G.T.B.'s, 0-7; Wildebeests vs. Doux Chene Outcasts, 20-12; Sig. Eps. vs. White Stages, 13-20; Ticks vs. Nailers, 6-20; B.S.U. No. 2 vs. Saints No. 1, 6-18; NADS vs. Lousy B, 7-0;
B Division: Ex Cons vs. Bunch, 6-12;

FISH
A Division: K-1 vs. B-2, 0-12; L-1 vs. N-1, 0-25; C-2 vs. H-2, 0-12; D-2 vs. K-2, 14-6; A-1 vs. L-1, 6-0; B-1 vs. P-1, 6-0.

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