

Just plain world champion impossible

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press International
NEW YORK — It was a tough fight, so tough that Leon Spinks was fortunate to come out of it with a draw against Scott LeDoux, and after the bout was over, he went back into his dressing room and threw up.

Later, a friend tried to console Spinks over not getting the decision. "You did well," he told him.

"I don't feel bad," Spinks brushed it off. "I learned. How am I gonna learn if I don't do?"

Leon Spinks is learning, but he's

doing it the hard way.

Spinks has run into all kinds of problems since last Feb. 15 when he pulled off what many considered the biggest upset in heavyweight boxing history by beating Muhammad Ali. He has had problems with managers, trainers and lawyers and he also has had problems with the police.

If you talk with Leon Spinks, you find him cordial, pleasant and not nearly as dim-witted as he has been made out to be. He's no Rhodes scholar and doesn't claim to be, but he isn't stupid by any means either.

Most people like to see their name in the paper, particularly if the reference to them is sufficiently flattering. Everyone desires to be recognized. With Spinks, apparently, it is enough for him to be recognized as the world heavyweight champion, at least the WBA version, anyway, and he doesn't seem to be interested in any of the ancillary benefits that go with it.

"I'm not looking to be important," he says. "I'm just a prize fighter and that suits me fine. I gotta be me. I don't wanna lose my gusto."

What Leon Spinks seems to be

trying to say is that he'd like to be the world champion and continue to be just plain Leon Spinks as well. That comes close to being impossible. With a world championship such as he holds comes certain obligations and responsibilities.

One minute, Spinks says he'd like to stay in the background and the next minute he says he'd like to help underprivileged kids as world heavyweight champ, and if he really stops to think about it he'll discover he's working at cross purposes.

Any effectiveness he may achieve in that area he speaks of would re-

sult largely from his being recognized by the kids and if he hibernates all the time, his recognition factor naturally diminishes even if he should keep his title by beating Ali again next month.

Leon says he can't change his ways, and I can understand his feelings. Sometimes when he gets the chance, though, he should sit down and discuss the subject with the master, Muhammad Ali. Before he became world champion, Ali was an entirely different personality than he was after winning the crown. He adjusted to his situation, thereby

showing his intelligence.

Since taking the title from Ali, Spinks hasn't exactly gotten the best kind of press in the world and are that those who handle him are as much responsible as he is.

In a conversation with one of the leading civic officials in St. Louis, where Spinks grew up, I was told how proud the people in that city were of Leon winning his gold medal in the Montreal Olympics and how delighted they were when he beat Ali, only to become disappointed in him when he said he felt there was some kind of conspiracy

by the police to "get" him. "Nobody rooted any more for him to beat Ali than we did," Louis policeman told me. "He came back to the city and was anxious to help him, not that he never gave us the chance."

Basically, Leon Spinks, like too much fuss made, probably because he isn't a hero and he isn't quite sure he is with it.

Only a few days after the championship, for example, his brother, Michael, dropped the office of Top Rank, which was being moved up one floor simply sat on one of the cases in the room.

While he was doing a Rank aide sent out for a sandwich himself and when it was asked Spinks whether he had some lunch.

"That'd be nice," said Leon. The aide then suggested the fancier restaurant neighborhood, saying it was any trouble at all to drive any of them.

Leon wasn't the least interested.

"Just a sandwich like you're ing would be fine," he said and cheese on white, and a container of tea.

Ultimately, the sandwich was delivered and Leon Spinks ate it. From the obvious pleasure which he did, you'd have thought he had just finished the main course of a gala banquet.

Allen says he never had chance

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — George Allen says the Rams didn't give him a chance.

Carroll Rosenbloom, Allen as coach after two losses, agrees.

In interviews published in the Los Angeles Times, Rosenbloom also indicated unusual intensity and his serve as both coach and manager were key factors in his dismissal.

"If we'd won those games even if we'd won one of them, we wouldn't have happened," said Allen. "You'd give any coach a fair chance, more than that."

"I didn't have a fair chance. I'm not bitter. I like Coach Rosenbloom and I enjoy my association."

Rosenbloom countered. "George is right. He didn't give me a fair chance. I only wish I could have been a player and coaches and families to think about a change would have been made. It had to be made on the way Allen was a player," but added:

"I was concerned about his health. I'm not a player's side. I feel I'm on George's side."

"I was deeply concerned about his health if he kept driving this way, and I could see it. I wasn't going to let him destroy himself."

The two men seemed to be in conflict in their assessment of "perfectionist" attitudes, owner suggesting that his going overboard.

Rosenbloom also said Allen may have been treated by not being in close aspects of the Rams' football team.

"George's way works. He has the whole responsibility," "total control. That's fine coach. Without it, it wouldn't work."

Again, Allen seemed to be in a quandary. "When I take another look at it, it will be as head of general manager."

"I'm sorry it didn't work out," he said. "I wish the season."

Crenshaw wife to have homecoming

United Press International
HARRISON, N.Y. — Mrs. Crenshaw's home week for Mrs. Crenshaw when her husband plays the Westchester Golf Classic tomorrow.

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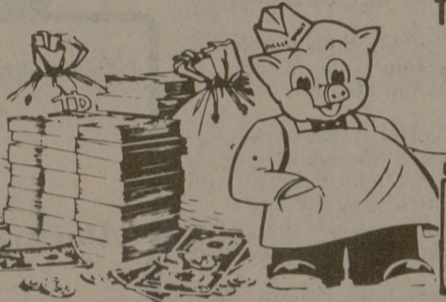
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100.00	274	15,644 to 1	100.00	1,815	to 1	10.00
20.00	855	6,512 to 1	20.00	467	to 1	2.00
5.00	2,192	2,086 to 1	5.00	144	to 1	50.00
1.00	7,130	609 to 1	1.00	43	to 1	1.00
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