

Sports



Pinpoint passing

Texas A&M quarterback Gary Kubiak, with Kent Adams (54) blocking, lets a pass fly during the Aggies' game with Cal-Berkeley two weeks ago, which the junior signal-caller and his team won 29-28. Kubiak and the Aggies travel Saturday to Boston to take on the War Eagles of first-year coach Jack Bicknell. Boston College posted a fine 7-4 record in 1980.

14th-round TKO worth \$8 million

Leonard tops feisty Hearns

United Press International
LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Even with the \$8 million he'll get for his 14th-round technical knockout over Thomas Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard short-changed himself a bit.

"I proved my point," he said after the fight, wearing dark glasses to cover a bulging purplish welt under his left eye. "I proved I'm the best welterweight in the world."

That he did. Plus a little more. He proved he could take it on the jaw from a fighter like the lanky, dangerous Hearns, and he also proved he has a good enough punch himself to dissipate the notion that he's basically a stylish boxer and little of anything else.

The first words Leonard said to Mike Trainer, his longtime friend and adviser, after the fight was over, suggested that Leonard knew there was a question among some people about those two points.

"We did it!" he said to Trainer. "We showed 'em."

"I pulled this one out by reaching down into my guts, into my heart," said the now undisputed world welterweight champ. "I knew I had to reach down and pull out the reserve and I did it."

He did it at an enormous cost, however. Although he was clearly in command when referee Dave Pearl stopped the fight and waved him off Hearns in the loser's corner at 1:45 of the 14th round, Leonard was in no condition to celebrate his victory by running around the block. He appeared at the post-fight news conference along with Hearns, then immediately went

up to his Caesars Palace hotel room and collapsed in exhaustion on his bed.

Leonard and Hearns actually fought two fights in one. Hearns, who received \$5 million as his share of the purse, started out like the whirlwind he had been advertised to be, winning the first five rounds on one judge's scorecard and four of those five rounds on the cards of the other two.

But the sixth round was altogether different. That was the round in which Leonard suddenly took the initiative. It was at this juncture much of the steam suddenly seemed to leave Hearns. Whether it was because he was tired or because he couldn't formulate an adequate defense, he allowed Sugar Ray to press his advantage in the seventh, eighth and ninth rounds.

Hearns rallied momentarily in the 10th but still wasn't the same fighter he had been in the early part of the contest.

After Hearns picked up the pace somewhat to take both the 11th and 12th, Leonard gave a foreshadowing of things to come in the 13th when he thundered into Hearns with such fury and force with both hands, he nearly drove him through the ropes.

Hearns, who never had been knocked to the canvas before and actually still wasn't, was so helpless sitting on one of the rope strands that Pearl began counting. The referee reached the count of nine when the bell rang, which was just about the time Hearns moved off the ropes.

Leonard was after Hearns like a flash to start the 14th, hammering away at him relentlessly with both

hands. Hearns again sought refuge in the ropes and by then the outcome was so clear in Leonard's mind that he raised both hands in a victory gesture even before Pearl stopped the fight.

Behaving perfectly at the end, Leonard didn't rub it in on Hearns at the news conference. He said the loser was "not just a good fighter, but proved he was a marketable commodity" and had given him the toughest fight he had ever had. He also apologized to Hearns for having said he had "no brains" before the fight.

"I asked him if he was hurt at the end of the sixth round,"

Leonard said, "but he didn't respond."

Hearns said Leonard had hurt him but he still had his wits about him in the 14th and felt the referee shouldn't have stopped the contest when he did.

"I knew I was ahead," Hearns said. "He's a very good fighter and I would like to say there is no animosity between me and Ray. Definitely, I'd like a rematch. I did the best I could but it just wasn't good enough. As they say in Detroit, 'I shall be back.'"

He managed a smile. "Better luck next time," he wished himself.

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Amazing Ayala wins again

United Press International
LAS VEGAS, Nev. — There are those who consider 18-year-old Tony Ayala the heir apparent to the junior middleweight title now held by Sugar Ray Leonard and Wednesday night he showed why.

Ayala, fighting shortly before Leonard stopped Thomas Hearns in the 14th round to win the world welterweight championship, had the most impressive performance of the evening. The youngster from San Antonio needed just 69

seconds to knock out Jose Baquedano, the former Mexican welterweight champion.

Ayala, who has not lost a fight since he was 8, reeled off his 14th consecutive victory without a loss when he dropped Baquedano with a left hook to the head. Baquedano was unable to rise for nearly 10 minutes after the fight, enabling Ayala to record his 12th knockout.

"I knew after the first left hook that I was going to take him out," said Ayala. "But I give him a lot of credit because he came to fight. When you've knocked out the

guys that he's knocked out, why should you worry about a little kid from San Antonio?"

Among Baquedano's victories was a first-round knockout of Marcos Geraldo, who went 10 rugged rounds with Leonard.

In earlier preliminaries, unbeaten Edwin Rosario of Puerto Rico scored his 20th consecutive victory with a unanimous 10-round decision over James Martinez, and fast-rising heavyweight Marvis Frazier ran off his sixth straight victory by stopping Guy Casale after four rounds.

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