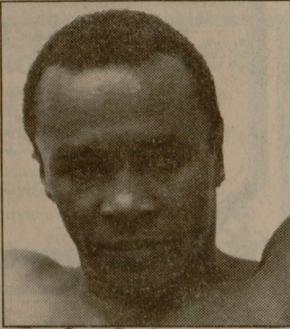


# Sports

## Leonard strips Hagler of crown Sugar Ray scores controversial split decision

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Sugar Ray Leonard returned to the ring in spectacular fashion after a three-year layoff and upset Marvellous Marvin Hagler Monday night to become middleweight champion.



Sugar Ray Leonard

Leonard won the 12-round bout on a split decision to become boxing's 10th triple champion.

Leonard circled and impressed judges with flurries in the late rounds in one of the great comeback stories in boxing history, although some thought the aggressive Hagler had an edge.

Judge Lou Filippo scored it 115-113 for Hagler while judge Dave Moretti saw it 115-113 and Jojo Guerra had it 118-110, both for Leonard.

The Associated Press favored Hagler, 117-112.

"I see myself taking him out," Leonard said of a dream he had in the days before the fight. Leonard couldn't take him out, but he did what the oddsmakers gave him little chance to do.

Hagler, losing for the first time in 88 fights, dating to 1976, was a 2½-1 favorite.

"He, to me, is still the champion," the jubilant Leonard said in the ring

after the fight as a sellout throng of 15,366 in an outdoor arena at Caesars Palace cheered him on.

The only belt Leonard will get is the World Boxing Council belt. The International Boxing Federation didn't sanction the fight and will declare the title vacant. The World Boxing Association has stripped Hagler of the title.

Leonard, fighting for only the second time since his last undisputed

welterweight title fight in Feb. 1982, came out circling and made Hagler miss badly in the first four rounds. Then in the fifth, Hagler landed some head shots and hurt Leonard with a left to the head.

Throughout the fight, the stalking Hagler seemed to land the harder shots. But Leonard, looking very tired from the sixth through 10th rounds, never quit fighting, landing several combinations although they seemed to lack sting.

In the 11th round, Leonard went flat-footed and outpunched Hagler with several flurries to the head, followed with a beautiful hook to the body and a hook to the head.

Throughout the fight, Hagler trapped Leonard on the ropes, only to have Leonard flurry to get free.

Both men went at it toe-to-toe in the final round and on a couple of occasions Leonard circled his hand in the air to lead cheers for himself. Hagler hurt Leonard with a left to the head, but then the bell sounded.

"I beat him," Hagler said. "I beat him, and he knows it."

"I told you about Vegas. They stole it. I stayed aggressive, and I won the fight."

"I made a comeback that was the

greatest accomplishment of my life," Leonard said. "It was an impossible task. I prepared myself for one year, so it was a case of a young guy coming back against a young guy."

Their ages weren't really in question. The questions coming in were whether Leonard could overcome inactivity and if Hagler had slipped badly.

Many observers felt Hagler had showed signs of slowing down during his 11th-round victory over John Mugabi on March 19, 1986 in Las Vegas.

Another question was Leonard's eyes. He had retinal surgery on the left eye in 1982 and a surgical procedure on the right in 1984.

The eyes were never a factor Monday night.

After the fight, Leonard indicated he might fight again.

"It depends on the contract," he said.

The victory gave Leonard a 34-1 record with 24 knockouts as he became the seventh welterweight or former welterweight champion to win the middleweight title. One of the first six was Leonard's namesake, Sugar Ray Robinson.

## Sugar proved sweet in outing with Hagler

By Hal L. Hammons  
Sports Writer

Angelo Dundee, Sugar Ray Leonard's manager, said Ray would do it.

Angelo was outspoken. Angelo was confident. Angelo was lonely. Angelo was right.

Sugar was sweet. Marvellous was not. And Monday night found Ray Leonard on top of the middleweight division.

### Viewpoint

And on top of the world. Standing on top of Marvellous Marvin Hagler.

And now self-proclaimed sports experts across boxing fandom will have claimed to have seen it coming.

Right. Ask them what they did with all the loot they took home from Vegas.

And Hagler supporters will scream "robbery!" as long as they have their breath. Let them. Smile. And score one for the underdog.

Whether or not the victory was earned is immaterial. The point is the boxing world failed to see anything but a media-hyped event that would end in disaster for an overmatched Leonard.

Surprise, surprise. This one lived up to the hype.

In all the hoopla over what round Hagler would take Sugar out, people forgot some big facts. Leonard is the fastest fighter and the best boxer Hagler has ever faced. Maybe the best in the world since the heyday of Muhammad Ali.

And, as fans may have overlooked, he is one of the hardest hitters in recent memory in any of the lower divisions.

Of course, Thomas Hearns will probably go down in history as the one who couldn't win The Big One. His fight with Leonard was a classic, but Ray's speed in the early rounds, coupled with his

stamina and power toward the end, proved too much for Hearns.

In Hearns' Superfight II with Hagler, Hearns looked strong and hit Hagler well, but succumbed to a Hagler onslaught in the third. The fight was marred by an injury Hearns said he sustained early in the fight. No telling what would have happened if Hearns had kept punching.

Common Opponent Comparison I — draw.

The real comparison centers around Roberto Duran. Discount the first Duran-Leonard matchup on account of a combination of Leonard's youth, enthusiasm and stupidity.

In the second fight, Leonard fought the way he fights best; and he embarrassed Duran severely.

In the Duran-Hagler fight, Duran was at the peak of his comeback. And he gave Hagler the fight of his life and made him look bad. Hagler won by a nose.

And remember this is the Duran that turned to Ray, at ringside during that fight, and told him there was no way Hagler could beat him. That was the fight that formed Dundee's strategy to combat Hagler.

Common Opponent Comparison II — big edge, Leonard.

Everybody wondered, could Leonard carry the extra weight, more than he ever has in his career? Could he shake off the ring rust of five years with only one fight? Could he show the same speed of hand and foot that made him a legend?

And could he muster enough confidence to face Hagler, perhaps the best middleweight of all time, after a mediocre showing against a mediocre opponent in his previous comeback attempt?

Everybody knew the answer to all of those questions would be discovered in the last two or three rounds if Leonard could stay alive that long. He did, and he shined.

## King, Arum engage in scuffle after Leonard-Hagler bout

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Rival promoters Don King and Bob Arum engaged in a pushing and shoving match at the end of the Sugar Ray Leonard-Marvellous Marvin Hagler middleweight title fight Monday night.

With the ring crowded and the fans waiting for the decision, King moved along press row gesturing and shouting, "I told you, I told you," and headed for Leonard's corner.

Arum, who promoted the fight, caught King from behind as his long-time rival started up

the steps to the ring.

He tugged at the jacket of King's tuxedo, tearing a pocket, and succeeding in getting King back down the steps.

Security guards separated the two and no punches were thrown.

Arum seemed composed after the scuffle.

"That man had nothing to do with this fight," he said. "There was no way he belonged in the ring."

"I asked security to remove him. I'm not getting down on that man's level."

## Leonard's eye unscathed

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Promoter Bob Arum had insisted all last week that Ray Leonard's damaged left eye was "a non-issue" in his middleweight championship fight against Marvellous Marvin Hagler Monday night.

He turned out to be right.

Hagler did not make the eye a prime target as he stalked Leonard around the ring throughout the 12 rounds. He hit the eye for the first time in the second round, but Leonard showed no particular reaction.

The eye, which underwent corrective surgery for a detached retina in 1982, prompting Leonard's retirement from the ring, was unmarked at the end of the fight. It underwent

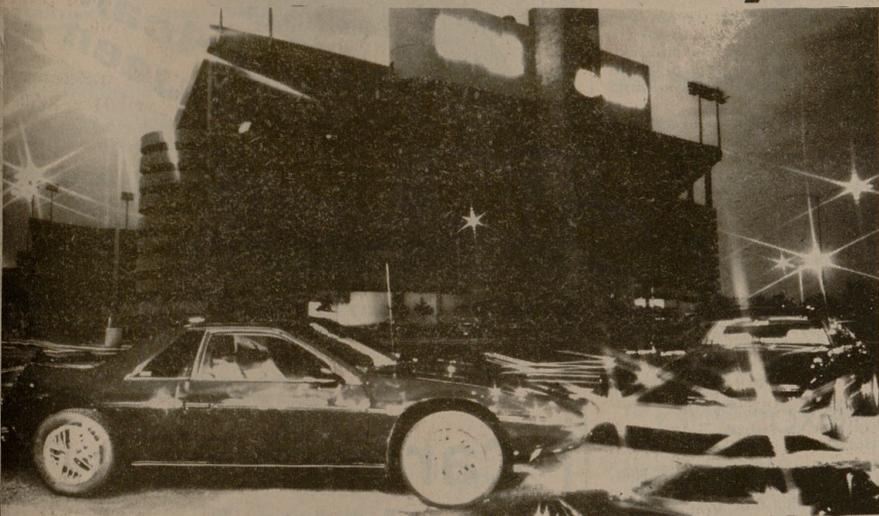
its stiffest test in the fifth round, when Hagler tagged it at least three times.

Leonard never blinked, though, dancing his way out of trouble.

In the ninth round, Hagler backed Leonard into a corner and punished him with combinations, a number of them connecting with Ray's left eye. Again, there was no apparent damage.

Leonard had undergone extensive examinations by ophthalmologists in the months before Monday night's title fight. Dr. Louis Angioletti, director of the retinal evaluation center at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary, gave Leonard a clean bill of health on the eve of the fight.

## Give Yourself The Graduation Present You Deserve Today!



with no payments for 90 days.

Quality Pontiac-Buick-GMC Trucks and Subaru is offering guaranteed financing for graduating Aggies and graduate students. With your proof of employment and good credit or no credit, we'll finance your purchase for up to 60 months through GMAC. With no payment due for 90 days. With as little as 5% down. You've worked hard for your degree so give yourself the present you deserve.

We have a special shipment of cars just for this very special event. Congratulations!

Gary Stevenson's

# QUALITY

Pontiac • Buick • GMC • Subaru

601 S. TEXAS/BRYAN/779-1000



## MSC VARIETY SHOW

RUDDER AUDITORIUM



# THE START OF SOMETHING BIG!

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 7:30 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MSC BOX OFFICE

AND ALL TICKETRON OUTLETS

\$4<sup>00</sup> AND \$5<sup>00</sup>

ALL SEATS RESERVED

Emcee:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Andy Andrews