

Leonard scores 9th round KO

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Sugar Ray Leonard got up from a fourth-round knockdown to knock out Donny Lalonde in the ninth round and write boxing history Monday night, becoming the first fighter to win titles in five weight classes.

The sensational victory gave Leonard the World Boxing Council light-heavyweight title held by Lalonde and also the vacant WBC super middleweight title.

After Lalonde went down for the second time in the ninth round, referee Richard Steele didn't even bother to count, but rushed to Lalonde's aid as Leonard threw his arms high in triumph.

Lalonde seemed to have Leonard in trouble earlier in the ninth when a flurry of punches backed Leonard up. But Leonard fought back and suddenly nailed Lalonde with a right hand and followed with a flurry of punches that put the defending champion down.

Lalonde struggled up at two and took a mandatory 8-count. Then Leonard resumed the attack and smashed the Canadian to the floor, where he remained for several seconds. He would not have beaten a 10-count. The time was 2:30 of the ninth.

Leonard, 32, went down at 1:27 of the fourth round from a left-right to the head, with the right being the big punch. Leonard got up at two and took a mandatory 8-count. Lalonde landed several more head shots but Leonard escaped further damage.

Leonard moved to the attack in the fifth round, when he scored with several left jabs and a couple hard rights to the head. In the sixth round, Leonard continued his assault, with punching left jabs and several three-punch combinations to the head. The 28-year-old Lalonde scored with several punches late in the round.

Leonard hurt Lalonde with a right and then followed with six punches to the head that had Lalonde holding on in the seventh. Lalonde fought back in the eighth, with four good lefts to the head that sent Leonard back to the ropes, where Lalonde scored with four more punches.

Then came the ninth, and it looked as though Lalonde might have Leonard in serious trouble, but Leonard called on his champion's heart to turn the tide.

"I'm not only fighting an old welterweight, but an old, fat welterweight," Lalonde said after Leonard weighed in at 165 pounds Monday morning. Lalonde scaled 167, one pound under the super middleweight limit. The light-heavyweight limit is 175.

Leonard might not have been the dazzling fighter he once was, but he still had determination and pride.

Leonard's previous championships were the undisputed welterweight title, the World Boxing Association junior middleweight title and the WBC middleweight title.

"The Leonard of 1981 (when he beat Thomas Hearns) was someone to be in awe of," Lalonde had said before the fight. "He was a great fighter then; time takes its toll."

There were indications Monday night that time might be catching up with Leonard.

"I knew the guy could fight," Leonard said of Lalonde. "Hell, he fought like a champion."

Lalonde did give an estimated crowd of 12,000 in the outdoor arena at Caesars Palace their money's worth.

Harris vital to A&M offense

Revitalized passing game due in part to senior

By Doug Walker
Assistant Sports Editor

Texas A&M's 56-17 mauling of Louisiana Tech may have provided more than just a big win over an overmatched opponent. The Aggies may have developed an adequate passing game to compliment their potent running attack.

As he did in the Louisiana Tech game, senior split end Rod Harris will have a large effect on any success the Aggie offense will have in this Saturday's showdown with undefeated Arkansas. Without an effective passing game, A&M will have virtually no chance to win against the nation's best defense against the run.

Harris has been quarterback Bucky Richardson's main receiver in the last two games as Richardson has set personal career bests for passing yards with 98 yards against Rice and 123 yards against the Bulldogs.

In moving into eighth place on the A&M career receptions list with 77, Harris extended his personal streak of games in which he has caught at least one pass to 11. He grabbed five passes for 91 yards against the Bulldogs.

He added a 27-yard punt return which ended in a fumble. It was his only bad moment in an otherwise excellent day.

"The guy just came up and put his helmet on the ball," Harris said.

Harris has been on the edge of breaking a punt return for a few games now.

"It takes a lot of work and a lot of time, but we're getting close," he said.

After the game, the easy-going Harris was more pleased with the progress of the passing attack.

Player of the Week

Rod Harris

"Bucky can pass the ball pretty well," Harris said. "We've just been making a lot of mistakes."

They cut down on the mistakes Saturday as Harris made a couple of catches that keyed touchdown drives.

Richardson isn't sure why the passing offense is improved, but he knows Harris is one of the reasons.

"I don't know what it is," Richardson said. "I've felt comfortable passing the ball. (Harris) surprised me. Rod really made a couple of great catches. I was just glad to get a few completions."

Trailing 14-8 early in the second quarter, the Aggies mounted a 62-yard drive to take the lead for good. A pass from Richardson to Harris got the drive going.

On third-and-ten from the A&M 38, Richardson dropped back and fired a 21-yard toss which Harris gathered in at the Tech 41. A 15-yard personal foul penalty against the Bulldogs added to the gain and keyed the drive which ended with a 3-yard run by running back Larry Horton which tied the game. The Aggies never trailed after Scott Slater's conversion kick gave A&M a 15-14 lead.

Harris also played a key role in the Aggies' offensive explosion in the third quarter with catches on successive plays in a drive which extended A&M's lead to 42-14.

Once again, a third-down catch by Harris jump-started the move.

Facing third down from the A&M 19 and needing seven yards for a first down, Richardson hit Harris on a down-and-out pattern for 11 yards and a first down at the A&M 30. On the next play, Harris made his best catch of the afternoon as he bobbled a pass before catching it and kept possession despite a vicious hit by Tech free safety Demise Loyd. The play gained 23 yards to the Bulldog 47.

Harris' difficult catch confirmed the confidence Richardson has in him.

"I just tried to throw the ball near Rod and let him go get it," Richardson said. Bucky's confidence is evident in the statistics from the Aggies' wins over Rice and Louisiana Tech. Richardson has completed 15 passes in the last two games. Seven completions have been to Harris.

The Bulldogs used man-to-man coverage against Harris and he took advantage of it.

"They were in man coverage all day and I love the man-to-man," Harris said. "Today (the passing game) was pretty good. We just had to get some things down."

A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill said the passing game must be working against Arkansas for the Aggies to win.

"Louisiana Tech is a lot like Arkansas in the way they play good run defense," Sherrill said. "Bucky threw the ball well today, and Rod Harris made a couple of major-league catches."

A&M women place third in golf tourney

The Texas A&M women's golf team finished third Monday at the Lamar Lady Cardinal Invitational at Wildwood Country Club in Wildwood.

Texas Christian won the tournament with a three-day total of 904. Southern Methodist placed second with 919, and A&M followed with 935.

A&M's Adriana Penuela tied for 11th place in the 11-team field with a 233 total.

Kellie Kiefer tied for 16th at 234, and Caroline Basarab tied for 26th at 238. Leigh Dickie took 31st with 240, and Rebecca Sims finished right behind with a 241 total.

TCU's Chris Miller won the individual honors with a score of 220.

The tournament ends the fall schedule for the women's team.

Howe returns to Houston as manager

HOUSTON (AP) — Art Howe, who played seven seasons for the Houston Astros, came home as manager Monday with a two-year contract and a vow to return the Astros to the playoffs.

Howe, 41, a coach for the past four seasons with the Texas Rangers, replaces Hal Lanier, who was fired at the end of last season.

"My most vivid memories as a player here were the 1980 playoffs, probably the most exciting playoff series that has ever played," Howe said.

"I like the talent we have here right now, and we hope to bring that excitement back and go farther than we did in 1980."

Howe and Astros first base coach Matt Galante were finalists to become the 10th manager in the franchise's history.

Howe said his first priority would be to fill the remaining coaching vacancies and said former Astros player Phil Gar-

ner would be among the candidates.

Galante will remain with the team, Howe said, and likely move to third base coaching. He said Yogi Berra, also retained from the previous staff, would serve as hitting coach.

Les Moss remains as the pitching coach.

The Astros won the National League Western Division title in 1986 with Lanier as the rookie manager.

But the Astros faded in September the next two seasons and finished in fifth place last season, 12 1-2 games behind champion Los Angeles.

Astros General Manager Bill Wood stressed Howe's player communication skills, a point on which Lanier often received criticism.

"His communication skills checked out well with every source and his motivational skills ranked high with all those we talked to," Wood said.

Howe left the Astros as a free agent after the 1983 season and closed out his career with the St. Louis Cardinals.

He had a career .260 batting average and hit a career high .296 with the Astros in 1981.

Howe said he would continue the aggressive style of baseball that Lanier brought to the team.

"I agree with Hal on that phase of the game and we've got some guys on the team that can steal bases, especially (center fielder) Gerald Young," Howe said.

Howe has managed in the Puerto Rican League four seasons.

Astros second baseman Bill Doran said his brief experiences with Howe in 1982 made him feel comfortable with Howe as manager.

"He was really a good influence on me when I first came up," Doran said. "Some older guys go out of their way to

help younger players and he was one of those who helped me a lot."

"I really appreciated that. He didn't have to do that and no one asked him to do it."

Howe played through several injuries with the Astros, including a broken jaw in 1978 when he was hit in the face by a pitch from Montreal's Scott Sanderson.

He was back playing three days later wearing a protective mask.

"He was a hard-nosed, aggressive player and I'm sure he'll bring the same style back to the Astros," Wood said.

Pitcher Jim Deshaies said he liked both Howe and Galante.

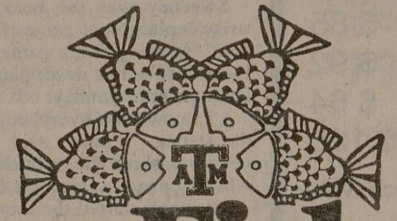
"When they reduced the finalists to Matt and Art, I knew we couldn't lose," Deshaies said. "Art won't have to go through that get-acquainted stage. He can go right to work because he already knows the organization."

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