Clay mocks knockdowns in workout

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI) Cassius Clay was floored twice Wednesday in his next-to-last sparring session for the title defense against Floyd Patterson Monday night —but it was all a big joke.

In fact, the heavyweight champion's entire workout was a farse.

• • •

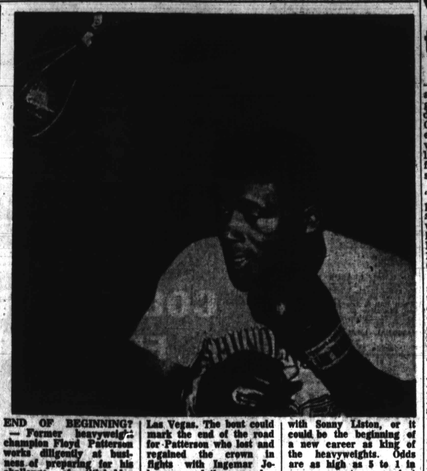
CLAY'S TWO mock knockdowns occurred during the first round of a four - round sparring session with rugged Cody Jones. He started the bout imitating Patterson's style, including the ex-champ's famous "ear muff" defense and kangaroo - like leaping punches.

Then midway in the round, Clay slumped to the canvas after Jones tapped him with a light left. A sly smile on his face, the champion wobbled to his feet and plopped down again when Jones landed another powder puff blow.

• • •

"A LOT of people wanted to see how it would look, me being on the canvas, so I decided to let you see," Clay told some 700 spectators, who paid one dollar each to watch him workout at the stardust hotel.

"It's the oniiest time you'll ever see me in that position, I promise you," Clay added.



END OF BEGINNING? — Former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson works diligently at business of preparing for his challenge of titleholder Cassius Clay, Monday, in Las Vegas. The bout could mark the end of the road for Patterson who lost and regained the crown in fights with Ingemar Johansson and then was humiliated in two matches with Sonny Liston, or it could be the beginning of a new career as king of the heavyweights. Odds are as high as 5 to 1 in some quarters against Floyd achieving the latter.

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Prayer first Versalles reaction to MVP choice

BOSTON, (UPI)—Zoilo Versalles, the Minnesota Twins shortstop fined for listless play before the season began, Thursday was named the American League's most valuable player for 1965.

A committee of the Baseball Writers' Association of America made the 24-year-old infielder an overwhelming choice by giving him 19 of 20 first-place votes and a single second-place ballot.

• • •

VERSALLES, a go-go guy whose solid hitting, determined base running and far-ranging fielding was a key to the Twins' pennant march, was on a ticket-selling mission at Altoona, Wis., when he learned of his runaway victory over Twin outfielder Tony Oliva in the annual voting.

"Oh my God," he told United Press International. "Excuse me, I've got to go pray."

• • •

IT WAS just about eight months ago that Versalles' rifled Sam Mele, Minnesota's American League manager of the year, by his failure to go all-out after a ground ball in a preseason exhibition game with the New York Mets.

Mele immediately pulled Versalles from the lineup and touched off one of the funniest disputes of the season in which the fiery Cuban talked his way to a $300 fine.

• • •

VERSALLES, who played briefly in Washington in 1959 and 1960 before becoming a club regular when the Twins moved to Minnesota in 1961, collected 182 base hits including a dozen triples and 19 home runs over the regular season.

He drove in 77 runs from his leadoff spot in the lineup and stole 27 bases.

• • •

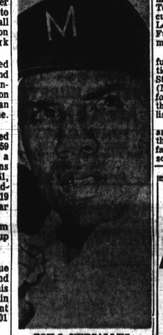
OLIVA, American League rookie of the year in 1964 and batting champion in both his freshman season and again this year, landed a distant second in the voting, 101 points behind Versalles.

Brooks Robinson, the League's most valuable player a year ago, was third this season followed by Chicago White Sox relief pitcher Eddie Fisher.

• • •

MELE, in New York for a speaking engagement, said of Versalles' selection, that's terrific. He certainly deserved it. He should have got 20 of the 20 first place votes. He inspired us to a pennant. His play in the field, his work at bat and his leadership led us. Others, of course, did contribute but not as much as Versalles.

"That $300 fine I hit him with in spring training means nothing to what he's going to make now. A few times when I mentioned to Versalles that he should get the MVP, he said "All I want to do is win for this ball club," Mele said.



ZOILO VERSALLES he just wanted to pray

Clay's mother picks champ to stop Patterson in 3 or 4

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (UPI) — A roundfaced, middle-aged woman in the audience giggled with delight Thursday during another hilarious Cassius Clay press conference following the heavyweight champion's final public workout for his title defense against Floyd Patterson.

"Oh, gee, he's a card, "Mrs. Odessa Clay kept repeating as her loquatious son regaled sportswriters with humorous predictions of how he plans to "whup" Patterson in their scheduled 15-rounder at the Convention Center Monday night.

"I'm going to beat Floyd so bad he'll need a shoehorn to put his hat back on," the champ bellowed while seated on the stage of the Stardust Hotel Nightclub, where he had just finished sparring three fast rounds with Cody Jones.

Mrs. Clay, seated at a table in the rear of the club laughed so loud the three - inch long ear rings on either side of her jolly face jiggled up and down.

"I just hope ol' Floyd shows up Monday night," Clay added. "He's already offering excuses, claiming the Black Muslims have been pestering him. That's crazy talk.

"Man, if he dies before the fight, I'll kill him."

This produced another round of laughter from the audience, but none laughed as loud and long as the champ's mother. Seated across from her was Clay's father, Cassius Marcellus Clay Sr.

• • •

THE ELDER Clay, asked how he felt about his son's devotion to the Black Muslim cause, sidestepped the question neatly.

"There's two things we don't discuss in our family—religion and politics," he said.

However, he did admit he still addressed his son as Cassius despite the champ's insistance on being called by his adopted Muslim name of Muhammad Ali. As for Mrs. Clay, the champ is still "baby" to her, she revealed.

Clay, asked again to predict how long it will take him to "whup" Patterson, declared, "it could be over in round one." Later the champion hedged a little

"If I knock Floyd out real quick, the public will complain about it," he said. "If I let it go two or three rounds or more, they'll claim I'm a phony. I'm wrong if I do; I'm wrong if I don't. So there's no sense predicting."

Clay's parents weren't so coy.

"He should finish Patterson in three or four rounds," said the Elder Cassius.

"I'm picking the third round," said Mrs. Clay.

Teacher units contribute to defense fund

NEW YORK — Associations of teachers have contributed more than $302,000 to the Teacher Information and Security Division of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, according to a report made public this week.

The report said most of the funds came through the National Council of Officers of State Teachers Associations (NCOSTA), an organization founded in 1955, shortly after the Legal Defense Fund established its service for teachers.

The Fund has provided legal and financial assistance to thousands of colored teachers facing dismissal as southern school districts desegregate.

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Classy field set for Pimlico stake

PIMLICO, Md. — Headed by Mrs. Ethel D. Jacobs' Straight Deal, winner of the recent Ladies Handicap, 94 fillies and mares have been nominated for the 14th running of the Gallorette Stakes at Pimlico tomorrow (Saturday).

The race is at a mile and an eighth with $25,000 in added money.

Straight Deal, in addition to winning the Ladies, was the winner of the Hollywood Oaks earlier in the season and has been in the money in five other stakes this year.

Among the top contenders are Howell E. Jackson's Cordially, successful in the Mother Goss and Rosenna; P. T. Carr and D. R. Noviello's Basking, who won the Barbara Fritchie; J. T. Jones' Star Maggie, first in the Spinster; and Mrs. Donalsan Christmas' Sue Baru, who scored in the Black-Eyed Susan here in the spring and in Laurel's First Lady.

Branch Rickey still in extended coma

COLUMBIA, MO. (UPI) Baseball's fabled Branch Rickey continued his fight for life this week but doctors said he showed no signs of improvement.

Rickey, 83, has been in a coma since he collapsed from a heart attack Saturday night Nov. 13, while being inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Doctors at Boone County Hospital say Rickey's condition is unchanged.

Rickey is credited with developing the farm system during a tenure as general manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, and as general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947 broke baseball's race barrier by putting Jackie Robinson in a Dodger uniform.

Gregory fined in march incident

CHICAGO (UPI) — Entertainer Dick Gregory was fined $400 this week on disorderly conduct charges that resulted from a civil rights protest march.

Gregory said he would post an appeal bond yesterday after spending several days in jail.

About 20 demonstrators carrying a wooden cross protested the conviction of Gregory and four others by an all - white jury Friday.

A police guard was thrown around Richard Elward, who prosecuted the case, when the demonstrators met him on the seventh floor of the criminal courts building.

SEWERAGE BREAK — This was the scene at 608 and 610 Edgewood St. Tuesday, as a main line sewerage break flooded the cellars. Despite repeated calls to the Bureau of Sewerage, the break occuring early in the day was not corrected until Wednesday morning. Residents charged the workmen with being hesitant to probe the break. A Bureau spokesman confirmed this to the AFRO. Panel 1 — Lloyd Taylor tries to mop up the incoming water in his basement at 608 Edgewood. Panel 2 —Net door at 610, home of George Ryles and family, water was rising fast on this baby carriage in the basement when this photo was taken.

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Reopens SUNDAY REGENT LORNA PLUS—CO-FEATURE....

—Mello resents

(Continued from Page B-16)

can be done."

The western district has a staff of 300 serving 200,000 civilians.

"We take a lot of abuse on this job and even when we try, we can't please everyone," Captain Mello said.

When the question period was opened, one club member who lives in "Hell's Kitchen" commended the captain for the prompt police attention to calls since Captain Mello's appointment with the district, Oct. 14.

• • •

FONTIERSMAN President Maurice Jones informed the group of a survey soon to be printed that shows the large percentage of youth in the district with strong animosity toward policemen.

President Jones called on the members to lead strong support of the patrolman on the beat in order to curb juvenile offenders.

Dr. Bernard Harris, Dr. Max Zerwitz and Andre Pitts took part in the opening remarks.

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TUES.-WED. NOV. 23-24

DEAN MARTIN in "WHO'S GOT THE ACTION" ALSO VAN HEFLIN in "UNDER TEN FLAGS"

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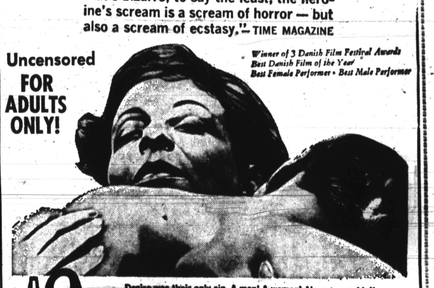

A STRANGER KNOCKS Desire was their only sin. A man! A woman! Alone in a cabin!

2ND HIT "THEY WERE SO YOUNG"

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Dandridge death caused by drugs

NEW REPORT

LOS ANGELES, (UPI)—Dorothy Dandridge died last September as a result of an overdose of drugs used to treat psychiatric depression causes, the coroner disclosed Wednesday in a reversal of an earlier report.

In a rare modification of a prior released, Coroner Dr. Theodore Curphey said the September report was due to a "lack of a complete study and pressure from news media."

When the original report, based on evalution of medical tests, was released, it said the cause of death was an embolism caused by bone marrow from a broken toe entering her blood stream in a highly unusual manner.

• • •

DR. CURPHEY, at an afternoon news conference, said his office would not attempt to determine whether the death was accidental or suicidal. He identified the drug as torfanil, a new one.

Miss Dandridge, the society club singer who was the star of "Porgy and Bess" as well as "Carmen Jones," was found dead in the bathroom of her Sunset Strip home. She was nude except for a blue scarf around her neck.

The "extreme rarity" of the condition to which death was first attributed led to a decision to seek outside laboratory assistance. The first decision had been to limit analysis to the coroner's laboratory.

"In retrospect we now consider this to be a tactical error," he told a news conference. But, he said, another local laboratory eventually took part in the analysis that led to the final evaluation of cause of death.

The death certificate was issued Wednesday.

Casino Club marking 25th anniversary

Twenty - five years ago, Pennsylvania Ave. was buzzing with excitement and eager anticipation. There were two reasons for this happy state of mind.

It was June 20, 1940 and Joe Louis was an odds - on favorite to demolish Arturo Godoy —which he did in eight rounds —and the Avenoo was set to welcome its first "classy nightclub."

In the midst of the excitement was a businessman with mixed emotions —glad that his dream of bringing a first class entertainment spot into a maze of mediocrity had come true, but was sad because he would not be able to see his personal friend score another ring triumph.

That's how it was when the Casino Nightclub, 1519 Pennsylvania, burst upon the scene under the personal guidance of William (Little Willie) Adams.

He recalls it all this week on the eve of the 25th anniversary celebration of the club which has consistently offered a high caliber of entertainment.

Beginning 8:30 p.m. Friday (tonight) Casino will celebrate for 10 days featuring continuous entertainment by Mis Tommy Mosley, a West Coast favorite; Shirl-ee May, just off a smashing stand at Club Harlem in Atlantic City, and the Soul Brothers.

• • •

IN EMPHASIZING that the club has lived up to his intentions, Mr. Adams gave this reason for opening it:

"We wanted it to serve as a club where people could feel safe while enjoying themselves. Fortunately, we have been able to do that for 25 years."

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SUN.-WED. NOV. 21-24

1. "ECCO" 2. "SIGN POST TO MURDER" 3. "SKI PARTY"

St. James homes to be tax exempt

An apartment project for the elderly, under sponsorship of a corporation formed through St. James Episcopal Church, Lafayette and Arlington Aves., will be among such city apartment houses now ruled tax exempt.

The St. James Non-Profit Corporation plans the project in the 800 block N. Arlington Ave., facing Lafayette Square. Approval has already been granted by the Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals.

Judge James K. Cullen, in a court decision Wednesday, held that St. Mary's Roland View Towers Inc., which is operated by an Episcopal Church, was exempt from city taxes.

The ruling held in effect that this tax exemption will also apply to other non-profit apartment projects owned or sponsored by churches.

John G. Arthur, city assessment director, has predicted the city will lose as much as $500,000 a year, as a result of the ruling.

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