Clay seeks 2 more fights; lauds Chuvalo's 'gallantry

TORONTO (UPI)—Cassius Clay said Wednesday that he may be able to make two more defenses of his heavyweight title before he is drafted and paid tribute to Canadian mauler George Chuvalo's gallant but losing effort to dethrone him.

Unmarked after Tuesday night's 15-round unanimous decision over the 215-pound "Iron Man" from Toronto, Clay said he has been advised that he may not enter the Army until June 1 and named British Heavyweight titleholder Henry Cooper as his most likely next opponent.

"After him, maybe we'll give George another chance," said Clay, who repeatedly expressed admiration for the much - ridiculed, oft - beaten Canadian challenger. "He's tougher than Ernie Terrell, tougher than Sonny Liston, he's tougher than all of them.

"The 6-foot, 3 - inch, 214½-pound Clay, making the third successful defense of the title he won from Liston, Feb. 25, 1964, ripped Chuvalo with lightning - fast, spear - like jabs.

It was the first time he ever went more than 12 rounds and it was the first heavyweight title fight to go 15 rounds since Rocky Marciano in 1954.

* * *

A 7-1 FAVORITE, Clay said he was told by his handlers that he was behind on points after the seventh round and explained that was why he "began to trade more punches with him."

Clay knew he was in a fight from the opening bell when Chuvalo waded in with flurries of rights and lefts to the body. Clay raised a bruise on Chuvalo's forehead by the end of the first round and had the challenger bleeding from cuts around both eyes in the latter rounds.

"His out on his feet," yelled manager - trainer Angelo Dundee to Clay near the end of the 14th round. "Go get him. Just let him fall."

* * *

BUT CHUVALO never fell—preserving his proud record of never being knocked off his feet in 48 pro fights — and earned the respect of the crowd of 13,540 in Maple Leaf Gardens.

His round - house rights and lefts frequently landed below Clay's belt but he kept carrying the fight to the champion.

"I just hope to get another chance to fight him," said Chuvalo. "The next time I'd be in better condition and I'd knock him out in a return bout."

There were no knockdowns although Chuvalo was badly mauled by the end of the bout.

The gate was announced as between $165,000 and $175,000, and it was estimated that the income from 40 closed circuit television, various delayed telecasts and motion pictures might reach $250,000.

"You got him, you got him, just let him fall," yelled Dundee at the end of the sixth round after a savage attac by Clay caused Chuvalo's legs to buckle.

* * *

CLAY RIPPED into Chuvalo again in the seventh round but slowed down the pace in the eighth. Chuvalo landed two of his round-house left hooks late in the round and the crowd cheered, hoping for one of the great upsets in boxing history.

Chuvalo more than held his own in the eighth and ninth rounds but lacked the speed or punching power to take command of the champion.

In the 10th round, Clay was stabbing with his wicked lefts again and in the 12th the crowd of about 14,000 screamed as Cassius sent a savage right to the jaw. Chuvalo's eyeballs seemed to spin but he lowered his head and fought blindly forward.

It was obvious at the end of the 11th round that Chuvalo had to score a knockout to win. He couldn't because Clay danced at long range. Lurching drunkenly, Chuvalo twice hooked Clay below the belt in the 12th and Referee Silvers warned him to keep the punches up.

Chuvalo caught Clay with a sneak right at the beginning of the 13th round but the champion shook off the punch. He then unleashed a flurry of lefts and rights that had Chuvalo blinking.

Clay staggered Chivalo at the end of the 14th round and Dundee screamed from the corner, "He's out on his feet, go get him."

* * *

CHUVALO PLAYED out the string gamely in the 15th but lurched from side to side as he chased Clay, and his rights and lefts fell short and low. They were still fighting at long range, —Clay stabbing and running and Chuvalo plodding and throwing leather— when the bell sounded ending the 15th round and the blood-letting.

The crowd of about 14,000 meant that the gate would approximate $150,000 at the gardens. The bout was televised in 40 locations in the United States and broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Company.

To the bitter end, the Ontario Athletic Commission refused to recognize it as a title fight but Clay's succession to the title is recognized by tradition and the majority of boxing fans.

The 24-year-old Clay, who angered officials by his comments about the war in Viet Nam, proved his fighting courage in the ring.

It turned out that Clay couldn't avoid this war. Chuvalo brought it to him like a man who wears cuts and bruises like other men wear the Legion Of Honor.

Globetrotters here on April 9

The Harlem Globetrotters, famed basketball road team, and its sensational show, are scheduled for two shows in Washington Saturday, April 9.

The Trotters will appear in an afternoon and night show at the Washington Coliseum.

THE FIGHT
Round By Round

ROUND ONE

Chuvalo muscled Clay into the ropes on several occasions, landing lefts to the champion's body. The challenger was the aggressor, moving in on Clay with both hands although never landing a really solid blow. I gave this round to Chuvalo.

ROUND TWO

Clay was throwing more punches in the second round and landed a hard right to Chuvalo's jaw and a left to the head as the challenger tried to move the champion against the ropes. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND THREE

Clay connected with both hands throughout the round and began taunting Chuvalo as he danced about the ring. Chuvalo appeared defenseless to ward the end of the round as Clay hammered away. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND FOUR

Clay concentrated on throwing lefts to Chuvalo's forehead with success. A cut opened on the right side of Chuvalo's forehead. Clay seemed to be landing at will. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND FIVE

Chuvalo landed two sharp rights to Clay's body to highlight the round. The champion used his right hand more often and kept the Canadian off balance with his speedy foot work. I gave this round to Chuvalo.

ROUND SIX

Clay started coordinating his punches in the sixth and throwing them with more authority. He seemed to be connecting with ease toward the end of the round when Chuvalo's left eye started bleeding. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND SEVEN

Clay centered his attack on Chuvalo's head, particularly on the cut over the challenger's left eyebrow. Clay smiled as Chuvalo forced him into a clinch against the ropes. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND EIGHT

Clay slowed down the action in the eighth but continued to throw a lot of punches. Chuvalo landed a left to the body and a hard right to the jaw near the end of the round that bounced the champion off the ropes. I gave this round to Chuvalo.

ROUND NINE

Chuvalo continued to drive blows into Clay's body while the champion punched at the Canadian's head. The action slowed down considerably in the ninth round. Chuvalo muscled Clay to the ropes and got the best of the in - fighting. I gave this round to Chuvalo.

ROUND TEN

Clay drove a hard left to the nose and flicked six lefts to the head as Chuvalo attempted to drive him into the ropes. Clay continued to land looping lefts to the head and body. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND ELEVEN

Clay dominated all the action in the eleventh round, hitting Chuvalo with both hands to the head and body. The referee warned Chuvalo for hitting low in the middle of the round. Clay was landing at will throughout the round. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND TWELVE

Chuvalo was warned twice about low blows during the round. Still concentrating on the head, Clay fired away with both hands, landing punches with apparent ease. The champion scored with a hard right to the jaw as the round ended. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND THIRTEEN

Clay landed flurries of punches, half a dozen at a time, throughout the round. The champion fired away at the head while Chuvalo missed only a weak body attack. There have been no knockdowns in the fight. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND FOURTEEN

Chuvalo's right eye was almost closed and his left eye was swelling up in the fourteenth. The challenger wrestled Clay into a clinch without throwing any punches. When they separated Clay landed looping lefts and jabs with ease. I gave this round to Clay.

ROUND FIFTEEN

Clay continued to fire away in the last round. He kept Chuvalo away with a flickering left jab and landed several solid rights to the face. Clay drove a right to the jaw as the fight ended. I gave this round to Clay.

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Cooper 'ready and willing' to fight Clay

LONDON (UIP) — Henry Cooper, the British and Empire heavyweight champion, was reported ready and willing Wednesday to accept an offer to fight Cassius Clay for Clay's world title — if the offer is made.

Clay Tuesday night named Cooper as the next logical contender, shortly after outpointing Canada's George Chuvalo. Jim Wicks, Cooper's manager, agreed that Cooper—who once decked Clay with a left hook—should be the next to try for the title.

"I am now awaiting a call from Clay's managers to discuss the fight," Wicks said. "When I talked to them a little while ago, I told them that it was not any good staging this fight in Toronto.

"I said that if it could be set in London at the end of May, we could draw a quarter of a million pounds ($700,000) in cash alone at the gate, apart from closed-circuit television, film and broadcasting fees," Wicks said. "I said that Clay could take home 100,000 pounds ($280,000) as his share of the purse—and I believe he needs money before he goes into the Army."

Cooper's manager said he would be willing to promote the bout if no regular promoters would stage it. He said he had no site in mind but would prefer a large soccer stadium.

Clay and Cooper met on a drizzly evening in June, 1963, at Wembley and 34,000 turned out to see the young American battle the proud Britain. Clay won on a technical knockout when the referee refused to let Cooper fight in the fifth round because he was badly cut around the eyes.

British fight fans still savor the awesome left hook that Cooper used to send Clay sprawling onto his back. Clay was saved by the bell.

FSC students high in national test

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.—Top performances of Fayetteville State College students in the recent National Teachers Examination revealed that Sherry Spencer, a mathematic major, recorded a score of 706.

Others were Joyce Fauleon and Gail Black, history and Political Science majors, with scores of 650 and 596 respectively. Elementary education majors Emma McEachern, 640; Judith Wilkins, 611; Mary McIver, 594; and Jannie Harriot, 590.

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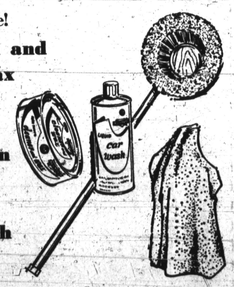
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