

# Ali Ready to Take On Bugner and Heat

Special to The New York Times

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Sunday, June 29—Muhammad Ali will defend the world heavyweight title against Joe Bugner here Tuesday morning (Monday night in New York) in what the champion has announced will be his last fight. But most boxing people believe that it will be only the first curtain call on his celebrated career.

"He's like a man taking en-

cores," says Don King, the American promoter. "I think he'll keep taking one more bow."

King hopes to persuade the 33-year-old Ali to accept what the promoter calls a "concrete deal" for a multi-million dollar title defense against Joe Frazier, possibly at Madison Square Garden. But the champion's future, naturally, depends on his ability to retain the title.

Ali is an 11-to-4 favorite

in London bookmaking shops to retain the championship.

"I predict I shall win every round," Ali has said, "and I predict he will not go the limit."

Ali has also predicted that the 28-year-old challenger will fall in the seventh round. Bugner has no prediction other than boasting that the champion will not be able to defeat him psychologically.

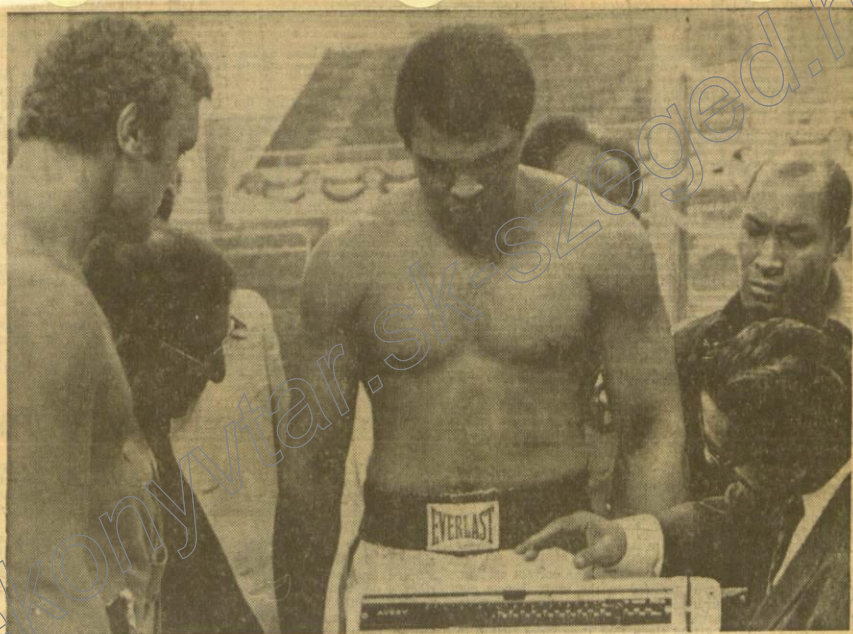
"He knows he can't psyche

me," Bugner says. "I'm not a violent man, neither am I a gentleman."

Ali weighed 225 pounds and Bugner 230 today at a weighing ceremony that featured costumed Malay warriors and natives carrying imitation multi-colored palms. The warriors drummed each gladiator into the ring at Merdeka Stadium, where the bout will be held.

Continued on Page 5, Column 6





Associated Press

Joe Bugner watching as W. R. Newton, right, vice president of the Malaysian Boxing Federation, weighs Muhammad Ali yesterday morning in Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

# Ali Ready for Bugner and Heat

Continued From Page 1

Ali's trainer, Angelo Dundee, expected that Ali's weight would increase to about 227 by Tuesday morning. Bugner's manager, Andy Smith, predicted that Bugner's weight would drop to about 227 by then. At 225, Ali was the heaviest of his career for a title bout. Ali's heaviest for any fight was 227 against Buster Mathis in Houston four years ago.

The high weights are a precaution against each boxer losing too many pounds in the thick, moist tropical heat. If the sun is out, it will be that much hotter. In addition to the normal heat and humidity here, a battery of TV lights have been placed near the ring to illuminate the fighters for the closed-circuit audience.

If Bugner were to register an upset, he would be England's first modern heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimmons held the title from 1897 to 1899.

The boat will begin here at about 9:30 A.M. to accommodate closed-circuit TV locations in the United States on Monday evening.

The heavyweight title match is part of a triple

header in which Carlos Monzon will defend the World Boxing Association middleweight title against Tony Licata, and Victor Galindez will defend the W.B.A. light-heavyweight title against Jorge Ahumada at the Garden.

The Garden program will start at 8 P.M. Monday and the heavyweight fight will be shown in New York at 10:30 P.M.

Four satellites—two over the Atlantic, one each over the Pacific and Indian oceans will beam the Ali-Bugner bout from this tropical metropolis of nearly one million population.

Ali has received a flat fee of \$1.2-million, with Bugner collecting \$500,000 for a rematch of Ali's 12-round bout in Las Vegas two years ago during George Foreman's reign as champion. Ali cut Bugner over the left eye in the first round but couldn't fulfill his prediction of a seventh-round knockout. He won by decision.

"He's a little better than I thought," Ali said that night. "I didn't know his legs were so good. He's three times better than when I sparred with him through the years."

Ali has sparred with Bugner

over a total of 40 rounds, beginning in 1970 during his exile. Ali was paid \$1,000 by a London newspaper to spar with the Hungarian-born boxer. That was four months before Ali was permitted to begin the comeback that culminated with his eighth-round knockout that dethroned Foreman as champion in Zaire last year. Foreman defended the title in Asia's only other world heavyweight title bout. A first-round knockout of Joe Roman two years ago in Tokyo.

This will be Ali's third title defense in approximately 100 days in his second reign as champion. He stopped Chuck Wepner in the 15th round outside Cleveland on March 24, and stopped Ron Lyle in the 11th round in Las Vegas on May 16.

Ali will be appearing in his 50th professional fight. He has 47 victories, including 34 knockouts, against only two losses—a 15-round decision to Frazier at the Garden in 1971, a 12-round decision to Ken Norton at San Diego in 1973, when Ali suffered a broken jaw. In rematches, Ali defeated both Frazier and Norton in 12-round decisions.

