



Associated Press

Muhammad Ali tells newsmen he has first-round plan for title defense against Britain's Joe Bugner.

Ali 3-to-1 Pick To Whip Bugner In Fight Tonight

Bugner, after his workout in the morning, told reporters that he hoped Ali would come on strong for the first four or five rounds "like a maniac" because Bugner's tactic will be to wear out Ali and win on points in the later rounds. "I don't think Ali can knock me out," he said.

Bugner has been knocked out only once in 59 fights—his first bout when he was 17—and only one other time has he been knocked down, by Joe Frazier in 1973. Bugner fought Ali in 1973 and lost on points.

Bugner has not got the hitting power of Ali, nor the speed. But he is hoping that his youth will see him through in the debilitating tropical heat and dehydration that is expected. The fight will be held in the open air of Merdeka Stadium. The ring is protected from rain by a translucent plastic shield which will contain the heat and make it very hot indeed for the two fighters. The humidity in Kuala Lumpur can climb as high as 90.





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