

Ali, Bugner Up the Beat At 'Play-In'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, June 28—To the beat of ceremonial drums and waving colored coconut fronds, heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali and British challenger Joe Bugner met in the ring today to weigh in for their Tuesday title fight.

Both fighters marched to the ring in the center of open-air Merdeka (Freedom) Stadium followed by small processions of orange-coated drummers provided by the Malaysian promoters. Bugner entered first and weighed 230 pounds.

Then Ali, the favorite here, entered to the cheers of some hundred onlookers and construction men who were putting up seats. Ali waved his arms and chanted, "He's got to fall, he's got to fall," over the beating of the drums.

As he climbed into the ring, Ali shouted, "No man shall take my crown, I'm the champion of the world. You don't stand a chance," he yelled as he pretended to lunge at Bugner, who was standing quietly by.

The champion's retainers followed right on cue, pretending to hold back Ali while Bugner's men did the same for their fighter. There was an air of good humor about the play-acting and when they finally got Ali on the scales he weighed 225 pounds.

"I'm in the best shape of my life," Ali said for the benefit of people "who think I'm old." Lunging at Bugner again, Ali said, "we can do it right now" and Bugner obligingly put up his fists as the retainers again held them back.

Ali is the heaviest he has been for a title fight and his trainers expect he will weigh a few more pounds by the day of the fight. Bugner's manager, Andy Smith, said Bugner probably will be three or four pounds lighter by Tuesday.

After the weighing-in ceremony, which means nothing as heavyweights do no have a weight limit, the two fighters made their way through the crowds of children waiting for autographs. The Malaysian promoters have provided a black Rolls Royce for Bugner and a black Cadillac for Ali, and as the Cadillac rolled away small boys ran after it shouting, "Ali, Ali, Ali."

TALE OF THE TAPE

	Bugner	Ali
Age	25	33
Weight	230	225
Height	6-4	6-3
Reach	80	80
Chest normal	40	44
Chest expanded	49½	46
Neck	17½	17½
Biceps	16½	15
Forearm	14	13½
Waist	34	34
Thigh	24	26
Calf	16½	17
Wrist	8½	8
Fist	13	13
Ankle	10	9½