

**SPINKS WINS SPLIT DECISION**

# Ali stripped of heavyweight crown

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Muhammad Ali, now a 36-year-old challenger for the world heavyweight boxing title, said "I'll be back."

"I'll be the first man to win the world championship three times."

All has backed up his boasts many times. But maybe an era really has ended.

Leon Spinks, a 24-year-old with seven previous pro fights, stripped the title from Ali on Wednesday night after applying pressure for 16 rounds.

Ali was resting at the final bell and Spinks gained a split decision.

It was a stunning upset matching Ali's triumph over Sonny Liston when he won the heavyweight title for the first time in 1964 and his knockout of George Foreman when he won it for the second time 10 years later.

"I tried hard," said Spinks who overcame Ali's advantage in size and experience with grim determination. He never lost his cool as so many of Ali's opponents did in the past.

"I thank God," the new champion said. "God's the main man. Lord knows I tried hard."

"I'll give Ali another chance."

Already, promotional infighting—often vicious—has begun. The fight in the ring is under way.

**TO FIGHT NOR.** ON Jose Sulaiman, president of the World Boxing Council, said Spinks and Ali made an agreement that the winner would sign by April 7 for a defence against No. 1-ranked Ken Norton within 90 days.

"Are you kidding?" said Bob Arum, who promoted Wednesday's fight and has a promotional contract for Spinks' next six fights.

"Sulaiman is a joke. Spinks will fight somebody respectable next and then fight Ali again. Spinks hasn't agreed to anything."



**LEON SPINKS**—new champ  
The battle to provide Spinks' next opponent, if it is not Norton, should be royal. Possible

opponents include Bernardo Mercado of Colombia, whom Ali might have fought in defiance of the WBC edict, and South African Kallie Knoetze, who recently knocked out Duane Bobick, and Gerrie Coetzee.

"I gave the best I could, said Ali. "I knew he was a good fighter. It was a close fight. He was the aggressor. It could have gone either way."

Judge Art Lurie scored 142-142 for Ali under the 10-point must system and when his decision was announced, Spinks' handlers looked stunned. But then the announcer read off the cards of Harold Duke, 144-141, and Lou Cabat, 145-140, and announced, "the new heavyweight champion of the world, Leon Spinks."

**AWARDED ROUNDS**  
The Associated Press scored it 143-142 for Ali but gave Spinks the last two rounds.

"What surprised me was his strength and stamina," said Ali, who wilted before the brawling Spinks in the final three rounds and who looked much older than 36 at the end.

All, trying to make Spinks punch himself out in the early rounds and picking his spots with jabs, hooks and an occasional right lead, still was in the fight after 12 rounds—he was leading on one card and even on another.

But then Spinks, who weighed 197½ or 27 pounds less than Ali, and who was a four-inch reach disadvantage, landed several good hooks and left-right combinations to the head in the 13th round.

Spinks swarmed all over Ali in the 14th and hurt the former champion with a left hook midway through the round. At the end of the round, Ali's left eye was swollen.

The final three minutes were toe-to-toe all the way, with both fighters staggered. Ali was punching desperately but he couldn't keep Spinks off



**MUHAMMAD ALI**—not finished  
and just before the bell he appeared ready to go down. Spinks' handlers jumped into the ring and jumped

slapped the 1976 Olympic light heavyweight champion on the back. Across the ring the 1960 Olympic light heavyweight champion stood with his head down while his aides tended to him.

While Spinks' fans rejoiced, all left the ring, a shadow of the man who made fiat like a butterfly, ating like a bee his battle cry.

Back in his dressing room Ali said quietly to a few reporters:

"Spinks sure proved you wrong. Sure of you said he would go in two."

All was such a prohibitive favorite that there was no betting line. But Spinks also proved the smart money guys wrong.

Spinks earned \$300,000 for his televised shock. His next purse will be much bigger.

All made \$3.7 million but has seemingly lost a fight with Norton that could have brought him in the area of \$10 million.

While Spinks was winning for the seventh time as a pro Ali was losing for only the third time in 58 fights and for the second time in title bouts.

**STOPPED LISTON**  
All won the heavyweight title in his 20th pro fight by stopping an aging Liston in seven rounds on Feb. 25, 1964, when Spinks was 11 years old. The only title bout he lost before Wednesday night—he was stripped of the crown in 1967 for failure to accept military draft as a challenger to Joe Frazer on March 8, 1971.

It would be an incredible feat to win it again, especially when he would probably be 37 before he gets another chance. But the incredible has often been made routine in his past by Ali.

As he was relaxing in his suite two hours after the fight, he said, "He's the champ now. I'm gonna let him have it for a couple of months and enjoy it. I shall return."

## CURLING CLUB NEWS

**By BOB HOUSTON**  
Vernon Curling Club Manager

Our club had the third largest number of rinks entered in the recent B.C. Curling Association Bonspiel in Prince George. Only the host club and Quesnel exceeded our entry.

Of our eight teams, the best was Wayne Laface with Chris Pieper and Mark and Barry Longway. They captured the 'B' event which is no easy task in the modified system.

Laface defeated the Kuroyama foursome from Kamloops in an extra end, to win four gold watches. Wayne and his team had already qualified for the provincial playoffs, but never set up and were great against Kuroyama.

Herb VanGrootel who had Ernie Bird, Wally Tuttsnik and Al Green with him, curled well and just missed qualifying.

Although Bert Gretzinger lost to Bernie Sparkes in the B.C. final, Gretzinger deserved to represent the Interior. Bert's third man, Barry Smith, heads for Nelson this weekend to compete in the B.C. Mixed Championship.

Gord Rowland of Vernon will be representing this area at the mixed final.

**SOME BUSINESS**  
It was decided, at the B.C. Curling Association meetings, that Cranbrook will host the 1979 BOCA spiel. Our bid looks good for 1980, but Penikese and Kamloops have also applied. If we can come up with 13 sheets of ice, including our club's eight, we should be a shoo-in.

**VALENTINE SPIEL**  
Congratulations to all the winners, both on and off the ice. Thanks to all the people who helped.

**GOVT. EMPLOYEES**  
This weekend, we will be hosting the 32-team Government Employees' Bonspiel. There are four sheets of ice open on Sunday, at 11 a.m., for anyone willing to pick up a game.

**SENIOR MEN'S PLAYDOWNS**  
Ralph Dargatzis, H. Wooliam, J. Thompson, D. Calvin, Tom Jenner, S. Ogasawara, G. Briscoe, and W. Nixon have qualified for the senior men's playdowns, in Kamloops, from Feb. 23-24.

**KELOWNA MIXED SPIEL**  
There are only two openings left in the Kelowna Mixed Spiel. Anyone interested should phone the Kelowna club immediately.



**B.C. CHAMP**  
Winner of the 1978 British Columbia Ice Racing Championship is 14-year-old Grant Stainley of Vernon. He is shown here with his

## Sabres, Blades battle to 4-4 tie

Coldstream Hidel Sabres and Vernon Blades fought to a 4-4 tie in the Valley Hockey League action, this week at the Village Arena.

Sabres led 1-0 at the end of the first period and the teams were deadlocked 1-1 after 40 minutes.

Mike Mondin scored two goals for Coldstream, including one on a penalty shot. Gary Clark and John Watson added singles for the winners.

Dave Thorsen, with two goals, Randy Pirnak, and Larry Fisher replied for the Blades.

**ROUGH GAME**  
Sabres were assessed 12 of 19 minor penalties and two misconducts.

In other action this week, Lotus Gardens dumped Village Green 7-0 and Burger Barons edged Lumby Royals 4-3.

Jay Horrochuk scored two goals for Lotus while Lou Holly, Dan Horrochuk, Ken Henzel, Scott McKinley and Jack Worth added.

Larry Lochhead scored twice for Merchants while Brian Jantz and Andy Vedan netted singles.

Village Green held period leads of 1-0 and 3-1 before Lotus exploded in the final 20 minutes.

## Pee wee reps suffer setback

**By DALE MAJOR**  
Daily News Correspondent

Kelowna stunned Vernon Watkin Motors' Pee Wee Reps 4-3 in the opening game of the best-of-three OMMHA semifinals on Wednesday night at the Civic Arena.

The outstanding netminding of Matt Skella and the smooth playmaking of Helmo Brandtetter gave Kelowna the edge in the wide open, end-to-end contest.

Paul Delcourt opened the scoring for Kelowna, at 14:45 of the first period. David Munk tied the game at 18:36, with an unassisted effort.

**QUICK GOALS**  
Kelowna took control of the game, early in the second period, with three quick goals. Brandtetter rushed the length of the ice and set up David Kraemer for the go-ahead goal. Greg Colby took a Brandtetter pass to make the score 3-1 and Andy Warren scored what proved to be the winner, at 6:09.

Vernon turned the game around with a flurry of its own, late in the period. Lance Marcoux banged in a rebound at 22:35. Then, three minutes later, Munk got his second unassisted goal.

On the game, Skella handled 17 Vernon shots. At the other end, Dale Abernack made 14 saves and allowed all four goals while Stan Walstrom made 16 stops and wasn't beat.

Vernon Coach Don Baran admitted his team was slightly over-confident.

Baran said, "We were a little cocky and it showed in our play. We weren't playing positional hockey throughout the night. Kelowna had a good game — they kept us from getting in close."

The series resumes Sunday, at 8:15 a.m. in Kelowna.

OMMHA playoffs resume tonight, at 7:30 p.m., when Vernon midget reps host Kamloops.

## Berger victorious in meet

Vernon native Bruce Berger won two gold and two silver medals in the 400m freestyle at the Vernon Swim Club of West Vancouver, placed first in the 400m freestyle, with a time of 4:06, and the 1500m freestyle, with a clocking of 18:16.

A time of 1:58.8 gave him second-place in the 200m freestyle. He was also runner-up in the 400m individual medley in 4:48.

For Berger, all four events provided him with personal best times. He has now qualified to compete in four events at the Canadian Winter Nationals.

## SPORTS ALERT

**MINOR HOCKEY**  
7:30 p.m., Civic Arena, Vernon midget reps vs. Kamloops in first game of OMMHA semifinal series.

**MEN'S BROOMBALL**  
At Centennial Rink: Semi-finals — 7 p.m., Ball-brushers vs. Block Brothers and 8 p.m., Vertebras vs. Raiders.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
At VSSS: 8:45 p.m., Firewreeds vs. Blue Demos and Tropica vs. Enderby.

**CHINO DAYS**  
Chino Days festivities continue until Friday at VSSS. Events will include wrestling, a staff/student hockey game, and a car rally.

**PVHL HOCKEY**  
11:30 p.m., Civic Arena, Tri-Lake Cougars vs. Brandtetter division semi-final game.

**BASETBALL**  
Kalamita Junior Secondary School will be hosting a two-day, eight-team tournament which gets under way Friday afternoon. First game is at 3 p.m.

**PIN POINTS**  
FEB 2—Thurs Mat.  
Women's high triple: Loraine Reily 253, high triple: Lorraine Reily 148, high average: Betty Chenoweth.  
Team high single: Camoes 109, high triple: Go Getters 340.

**TEAM STANDINGS**  
Go Getters 156  
Go Getters 156  
Happy Gang 137

## BCJHL reverses decision

Vernon Vikings of the B.C. Junior Hockey League received some surprising news on Wednesday.

The BCJHL has reversed an earlier decision and will eliminate the in-place team from playoff participation.

Vikings are in the league placement, four points back of Revelstoke Bruins.

Managers: Manager Vernon Vikings said, "I don't know why they made a change this late in the season. But, now it means we have to catch Brexton."

In BCJHL action Wednesday night, Beilham Blazers dumped Ninalna Clippers 7-0 and Kamloops Chiefs edged Kelowna Hurkansas 6-5.

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## ROYALS LOSE TOO

# Panthers bombed by Kelowna Owls

**Daily News**  
**SPORTS Page**  
DON KENDALL—Sports Editor  
PHONE 545-0571  
VERNON DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, FEB. 16, 1978

Kelowna Owls crushed Vernon Panthers 103-40 in high school basketball action Wednesday night at VSSS.

Panthers stayed with Owls for one-quarter, but then fell apart.

Kelowna Coach Jack Heilay was pleased with his team's effort, but disappointed with the display put on by Panthers.

Hoy said, "We held their gun (Brent) Zimmer to 18 points. I have to be happy with that. But, their ball club was just terrible on defence. We could get two points almost at will."

**STOPPED ZIMMER**  
Owls led 21-20 after one-quarter and Zimmer had 12 points. From then on, Kelowna takes on Penikese Vernon centre and kept him off the boards.

By half-time Owls led 53-31 and after three-quarters, the margin had been stretched to 75-30.

Arnold Gettensing scored 19 points for the winners while Dale Anderson and Mike Munoz sunk 15 apiece. Tony Menta added 14 for Owls.

Kelowna takes on Penikese Lakers, on Friday night, to decide the south zone championship.

Vernon, with a 2-7 won-lost record, is still tied for last place with Westside and North Kamloops in the north zone. Panthers are back in action Friday night when they host KLO Cougars, of Kelowna.

**ROYALS BEAT**  
In girls' play on Wednesday, Kelowna Owlettes dumped Vernon Royals 68-38.

The setback drops Vernon's worst record to 4-5.

The teams were tied 11-11 after the first quarter, but Kelowna came out flying in the second quarter to outscore their hosts 22-2.

Royals' Coach Deloy Routley said "We lost the game in the second-quarter. You can't do much when you get one field goal. In the first-half, we shot only 19 per cent. Tanya Kapicki was top scorer for Vernon with 12 points.

Royals are also in action on Friday, when they host KLO. Routley said "We lost the

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