

SPORTS

The Kid Berg—Laurie Stevens Fight

WOULD A DRAW HAVE BEEN THE BEST DECISION?

THERE has been much controversy resulting from the decision in favour of Laurie Stevens, the South African champion, in the great light-weight boxing battle which took place on Saturday night in Johannesburg. There was an immense audience of fifteen thousand people.

Added interest to the fight was the announcement that it was to be for the British Empire light-weight title. The fact that the world-famous Kid Berg was appearing against a South African lad, brought together the biggest crowd of fans in South Africa's boxing history.

And what a fight it was!

It was a thrilling encounter in which two splendidly equipped young athletes battered each other unmercifully and cleverly in 12 eventful and exciting rounds. There was no doubt about the stamina and ring-craftship of Kid Berg—a youngster, yet a veteran of three hundred fights. He gave a superb display of attack and defence. The manner in which he met the whirlwind attack of the South African champion will always remain indelibly imprinted in the minds of those amongst the audience who understand boxing science.

As for Laurie Stevens, one could only thrill at the heart and courage of this cyclone of a fighter. He rushed in like a tornado. Berg drew first blood and the ultimate closing of Stevens' left eye by the Jewish fighter, did not in any way stem the hurricane attack. The fight was between two gladiators who were engaged in an electrifying and homeric struggle.

When the fight was over, I was puzzled at what the decision would be. Stevens' outstanding courage and attack should earn for him a laurel crown, yet Berg's splendid scientific display had surely won for him the points necessary for victory. I felt that the announcement of a draw would be a just reflection of the splendid struggle.

And then the hand of Stevens was lifted up in victory!



IN ACTION!

Kid Berg (on the right) countering a heavy left-hand punch from Laurie Stevens. It will be noticed that Berg has the Magen Dovid sewn on his shorts. The Jewish emblem was also proudly worn on his dressing gown as he entered the ring.

He danced with joy and the crowd went delirious with enthusiasm. I sat near the ring and noted the genuine look of surprise upon the face of Kid Berg. He honestly thought he had won the fight. As regards the utterance of his manager in the heat of his disappointment—let us cast a shadow upon same. Several policemen were nearly knocked over by the vehemence and the sensibilities of a journalist were rudely shocked.

(Concluded in next column.)

I happen to be a disciplinarian in my sporting enthusiasms. Although I feel that a draw would have been a fairer decision, I am willing to admit that Stevens, by his magnificent attack and the fact that he set the pace almost throughout, may have secured the two or three extra points which earned him the victory.

With many others I regret the "inquest" which has been proceeding since the fight was held. In any case, credit is due to the Transvaal National Sporting Club for initiating the promotion, which from every point of view, was a splendid success. Mr. Harry Carter's handling of his position as the third man in the ring was excellent. The attendance of so large an audience at a boxing contest leaves one to hope that South Africa has now earned a place for itself on the world's boxing map, and that many other important boxing championships may take place here.

D.

A Correction

New Hebrew School for Capetown

In our issue of December 6, under the above heading, a wrong impression is gained in the last paragraph in connection with the option. Whereas from the report in question is made out that the Capetown Hebrew Congregation should exercise the option for the purpose of purchasing property adjoining the Great Synagogue, known as University House, we now learn that at that particular meeting, it was agreed that the option should not be exercised.

"CHUG IVRI"—"BNEI BIALIK."

A protest meeting against the formation of a Legislative Council in Palestine will be held on Saturday, the 18th inst., at 8.30 p.m., at the Hebrew High School.

The Hebrew-speaking public is cordially invited.

Middelberg (Tvl.).

Mrs. N. Brozin, hon. secretary of the local branch of the S.A. Jewish Orphanage, has forwarded to that institution the sum of £3 5s., being £2 5s. monthly subscription collection and £1 proceeds of raffle of box of chocolates kindly donated by Mrs. M. Birman.

"HECHALUTZ" (Johannesburg).

On Sunday, the 19th inst., at 8.15 p.m., a lecture will be delivered at the Hechalutz Hall by Mr. Aaron Abrahamson Organiser-Secretary of the S.A. Zionist Youth Council) on "The Organisation of Zionism in South Africa." Sympathisers are cordially invited.

On the 23rd inst., at 8.30 p.m., a debate will be initiated at the Hechalutz Hall by Miss V. Levin on the "Haavarah."

The monthly social will take place on the 25th inst. An enjoyable evening is assured. Roll up and bring your friends!

Bulawayo Women Zionists

The Women's Zionist Organisation of Bulawayo arranged a series of functions in aid of Kfar Ussishkin, as a result of which the Fund will benefit to the extent of £50.

"PARIS IN SPRING" AT THE PLAZA.

A musical play, with an amusing plot, is the attraction at the Plaza Theatre for this week. This is entitled "Paris in Spring," and the leading roles are played by Mary Ellis as Simone, a cabaret singer and Tullio Carminati. Some convincing scenes of Paris life are seen, including a delightful interlude on the Eiffel Tower, from which the hero threatens to throw himself, for the love of Simone. Others in the cast are Ida Lupino and James Blakely, and altogether the film is a light musical farce, well worth seeing. The supporting programme at the Plaza Theatre this week is an attractive one.

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