

Bantamweight Aims At Crown

PARIS (AP)—Alphonse Halimi, a baby-faced little Algerian, was the new claimant of the world bantamweight boxing champion today. But he still has an argument and another fight on his hands before he can really call it all his own.

Halimi staked out his ownership Monday night with a decisive 1-round decision over Mario D'Agata, a deaf-mute from Italy, who had held the title since last June but was making his first defence. The battle was interrupted 15 minutes at the end of the third round by a fire which broke out among the lighting installations and hanging over the ring.

The fire provoked an argument about the title. Libero Cecchi, D'Agata's manager, claimed immediately after the fight that under the circumstances the referee should have halted it and called it "no contest."

MUST MEET MACIAS

Halimi's next fight involves Raul Macias of Mexico, recognized as the world bantamweight titleholder by the U.S. National Boxing Association. The world committee on professional boxing sanctioned Monday night's contest only on condition that the winner meet Macias before July 1.

As a fight, D'Agata and Halimi put on what must be classified as a dull show. D'Agata, constantly the aggressor, pushed Halimi back against the ropes and the two men stood head to head, flailing away. Halimi concentrated on the head, D'Agata aimed for the body. Hundreds of blows were exchanged, but little real damage was done.

At the end, D'Agata had a slight bruise on the cheekbone. Halimi's back was pinked by his frequent contact with the ropes. Referee Philippe de Becker, sole judge of the bout, pointed to Halimi as soon as the bell for the 15th round ended.

Remember When

A. B. Chandler, then commissioner of baseball, announced adoption of the major league baseball players' pension plan 10 years ago today at Cincinnati. The plan, which included both annuity and life insurance benefits, set a retirement age of 30 for players, coaches and trainers.

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SWEETHEART OF SWAP

Pictured above is Miss Ellen Diamond who, on Saturday night, was crowned Sweetheart of SWAP at the Y.M.C.A. Miss Diamond is being crowned by Brian Cudmore a member of the Centennial Y's Men's Club and she is being presented by Larry Black, Captain of the Centennial Basketball team. Each of the four teams in the "Sport With A Purpose" Basketball League chose a

SPORTS TRAIL

Ted Williams Is In Mid-Season Form For Press Copy

By WHITNEY MARTIN
NEW YORK (AP)—A few days ago a newspaper headline read: Williams Ready for Start of Season. It was an understatement.

Ted Williams isn't just ready for the start of the season. He's in mid-season form, physically, mentally, emotionally and loquaciously.

A verbal blast, aimed at the government, the U.S. Marine Corps, the late Senator Ribert A. Taft and "phony politicians," possibly can be traced to his smoldering resentment over being called back for a second hitch as a marine pilot at the age of 33, and personally we believe he has a right to be resentful over that.

But we think Joe Cronin, the level-headed vice-president and general manager of Boston Red Sox, had the right perspective on the situation when he remarked that it was "just one marine talking to another marine."

Any soldier, or sailor, or marine will know how that is. They air their gripes to one another, but just let an outsider start to put the rap on their particular branch of the service, and look out!

The big guy had the grace to apologize for his remarks concerning the Marine Corps, but we believe the rank and file of the corps knew he wasn't talking about them. He was blasting the brass, much as an employee of a business concern might refer to the boss as an old meathead, with no disloyalty to the firm intended.

Had practically any ball player except Ted Williams made the remarks they would have been laughed off, and never would have reached print.

But Williams is a big name in baseball and a man who speaks his mind.

We are sorry Ted made the remarks. We like the big fellow, knowing the kinder side of his nature, and hate to see him embroiled in another controversy.

He can't be called diplomatic exactly. He is blunt and expresses his opinions honestly.

Anyway, it seems that a season

D'Agata Asks For Return Title Bout

PARIS (AP)—Dethroned Mario D'Agata of Italy asked Tuesday for a return title bout with his conqueror, France's Alphonse Halimi, because of the fire that broke out over the ring in the third round of their world bantamweight championship contest Monday night.

Halimi, 25-year-old native of Algeria, outpointed the 30-year-old Italian deaf-mute in a 15 rounder interrupted for 15 minutes at the end of the third round by a fire which broke out in the ring lighting installation.

Libero Cecchi, D'Agata's manager, told reporters he has filed a protest with the French Boxing Federation and the World Boxing Committee that the fight should have been considered "no contest" after the "technical incident."

He said Halimi's manager, Philippe Filippie, told him he was in favor of a return bout at Milan, Italy, this summer.

Halimi, however, is committed to a title bout with Mexico's Raul Bob Halimi and D'Agata's promised that the winner of Monday night's bout would meet Macias. D'Agata had been recognized as world champion by all commissions except the American National Boxing Association, which considers Macias the champion.

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