

Today's Sports Parade

By OSCAR FRALEY
United Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fourteen years ago the mother of a 15-year-old Cuban youngster sought out a Havana fight manager and asked him to handle her boy because he wanted a career in the ring.

"I want you to take good care of my Nino, my little one," she admonished.

The manager promised and then almost fell over in a faint.

For the "little one" was a strapping six-footer who towered head and barn-door shoulders over anything which ever had come out of the sugar cane fields.

Thus "little" Geraldo Ramos Valdes became "Nino" Valdes. And after 13 years as a professional, weary unsuccessful years in which he once quit the ring in disgust, Nino climbs through the ropes at Madison Square Garden on Friday night with high hopes of eventually winning a shot at the heavyweight championship of the world.

Opponent Named

His opponent will be James J. Parker, another behemoth who matches Nino's six feet, three inches and 210 pounds. It is a bout unmatched for sheer poundage by anything since Primo Carnera fought the mammoth Ray Impellitteri in 1935. It also promises to be a better fight than that one because Parker has won 17 straight, 13 by kayoes.

And because he won't be fighting the Valdes who was kayoed by Joe Louis in a 1950 exhibition and the following year turned his back on the ring to return to the cane fields.

A new manager and new hope changed all that for Nino.

Bobby Gleason, who piloted Phil Terranova to the featherweight championship of the world, picked up Valdes at the end of that year of idleness. His first chore was to build up Nino's confidence and instill a new incentive in the big man.

Wasn't Easy

"It wasn't easy," Gleason admits. "We won a few but then we lost four in a row. We couldn't get heavyweights to fight us and the light heavies moved too fast for Nino after his long layoff."

The turning point came when Nino went back to Havana and beat Omelio Agramonte for the Cuban heavyweight title last July.

"Since then," Gleason says happily, "Nino has been a different fighter. He wants to train hard and he stays up in spirits."

The record would seem to substantiate him. In his next bout, Valdes upset Ezzard Charles, although Ezzard admittedly took it easy in training for this "soft touch." Nino then won two more before he went to Germany and quickly flattened Heinz Neuhaus, the European heavyweight king. And, in his last bout, Nino won from Archie McBride to run his victory string to six in a row.

Nino is even convinced that he should have won all 15 fights under Gleason's management instead of having dropped those four in a row.

"It was the black trunks," he insists. "In those four fights I wore black trunks. Not in any of the others. Never again will I wear black trunks."

To which the elated Gleason responds: "If I can get him into the ring against Rocky Marciano, and Nino gets the white trunks, we will win the heavyweight championship of the world."

Coach Everett Case Gets Another Honor

DURHAM (AP)—North Carolina State basketball Coach Everett Case today had one more honor to go with those which he and his team have won this season.

Case received the Gerry Gerard Memorial award as the outstanding coach in the Atlantic Coast Conference in ceremonies between the halves of last night's NCAA playoff here between his ACC champion Wolfpack and Southern Conference titleist George Washington.

Last week State defeated Wake Forest in the final round of the first ACC tournament to give Case his seventh conference title in eight years as coach at West Raleigh. The only time Case's team lost the title was last year when the Pack bowed to Wake Forest 71-70 in the finals of the Southern Conference tournament.

WATCHED GAME

After receiving the award last night, Case watched the Wolfpack edge George Washington 75-73 to win a berth in Friday's NCAA Eastern Regional Tournament at Philadelphia.

The award was presented by Merrill Whittlesy of Washington, president of the Atlantic Coast Sports Writers Assn. who voted the honor to Case. Case received 12 votes to 11 for Hal Bradley of Duke.

Other coaches receiving votes were Frank McGuire of North Carolina, B. Bud Millikan of Maryland and Murray Gresson of Wake Forest.

Spruill On Sports

By FRANK SPRUILL, JR.
Record Sports Writer

Lillington was eliminated in the semi-finals of the sectional Class A Tournament at Massey Hill Friday by a 43-39 decision Broadway scored over the boys from the Harnett County seat.

Three players hit in the double figures in this fairly low scoring game with the top man being Lillington's James Howington who had 16. The other two were from Broadway. Buchanan got 14 and Phillips made 12.

Broadway (43) — Kelly 7, Phillips 12, Lett 4, Darden 5, Buchanan 14, Cameron, N. Buchanan. Lillington (39) — Kelly, Langdon 8, Bain 2, Howington 16, Long 6, Whittington 7, Black.

Lillington's record for the season now is 21 wins and only two losses. Both losses came in tournament play.

The Campbell College Camels will play their first game of the National Junior College basketball tournament Wednesday afternoon at 4:45.

There are eight first round games with one starting Tuesday afternoon at one o'clock. The Camels are scheduled in the last first round game and their opponents will be the team from Trenton Junior College of Trenton, New Jersey.

Since the 1953 winner, El Dorado Junior College from El Dorado, Kansas, is out of the picture because it has been eliminated in play-off games and therefore failed to qualify, Lou Morris Junior College of Jacksonville, Texas, and Northeast Junior College of Booneville, Mississippi are rated as co-favorites to sweep the tourney.

Both of these teams play during the first day of the affair, which is being held in Hutchinson, Kansas. Campbell recently won the North Carolina Junior College Conference Tournament in Bule's Creek and has displayed a sound basketball team. The Camels had a little trouble in the first round from a stubborn Gardner-Webb team, but they went on to win their next tournament games — including the championship contest with Winstate — rather handily.

NEW YORK (AP) — George (Red) Sullivan of the Hershey Bears already conceded the American Hockey League's scoring crown, today set his sights on an all-time AHL point totaling record. Sullivan had 164 points in games played through last Sunday giving him an 18-point lead in the race for this season's title. He needs 14 points to reach the league's all-time high of 178 set by Carl Liscombe in 1947-48.

NEW YORK (AP) — Neil Johnston of the Philadelphia Warriors again will enter as the most likely player in the National Basketball Association this season, as well as its leading scorer. Entering the final week of the regular season, the Warriors' half-back center entered a lead of 243 points in the scoring parade and over a 40-game stretch, averaged 43.9 minutes of playtime per game. Last season, Johnston established a league record with an average of 48.2 minutes of action.

NEW YORK (AP) — Gordie Howe, three-time scoring king in the National Hockey League, maintained a 10-point lead in the 1953-54 race today, but Detroit teammate Red Kelly increased his lead for goal recognition as the highest scoring defenseman in the circuit's history. Howe's 29 goals and 41 assists in games played through Sunday gave him 71 points, a comfortable margin over Maurice (Rocket) Richardson of the Montreal Canadiens, who had 61 points.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Pat Brady of the Pittsburgh Steelers, whose machine left-footed snails chased safety men back into their own end seven times today as the leading center of the National Football League with a 1953 season average of 45.5 yards on every boot. Brady, who won the two-year hold Horace Gillson of the Cleveland Browns' bid on the crown, also picked Pittsburgh to the team championship, the official league statistics showed. He did all of the Steeler punting and kicked 88 times during the season.

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Lou Boudreau singled out pitching today as the only thing the Boston Red Sox might need this year to win the American League pennant. He's convinced that in all other phases, his club has what it takes, possessing of course, that injured Ted Williams, return to the field and wide-eyed effort from his broken collection. "I'm not going to say we're

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Met Has

(Continued From Page One)

Rudolph Bing, general manager of the Metropolitan, and other company officials personally handled pieces of scenery for a dress rehearsal of Bellini's opera "Norma" during the day. Plans were made to present the evening performance of "Tannhauser" without scenery if necessary.

Not until 7 p. m., an hour before curtain time, was a back-to-work agreement reached with the stagehands. Contract negotiations resumed today under a new formula.

NEW YORK (AP) — Middleweight Haligh (Tiger) Jones of Yonkers, N. Y., said today, "I've returned to the ring as a knockout puncher because an operation on my elbow lets me hit straight with the right hand now." With that straight right, 26-year-old Jones scored a fifth-round knockout of 13th-ranked Bobby Dykes of Miami twice Monday night and won an upset technical knockout at 2:12 of the 10th round before 2,000 in Esplanade Eastern Parkway Arena. It turned probable defeat into victory.

NEW YORK (AP) — Duquesne's long-frustrated but heavily-favored Holy Cross' high-scoring Crusaders hope to prolong tonight the uninterrupted march of seeded teams into the semi-finals of the National Invitation Tournament. Second-ranked Western Kentucky and fourth-seeded Niagara set the style for the "class" teams Monday night as they won their quarter-final games, Western easily by a 55-51 count over Bowling Green (Ohio) and Niagara in a ruse-stopping 77-74 triumph over Dayton.

MIAMI BEACH (AP) — Light-heavyweight champion Archie Moore, making his first start since his successful title defense last month, meets heavyweight Bob Baker of Pittsburgh tonight in a 10-round bout at Miami Beach Auditorium. Moore was expected to weigh about 165, some 20 pounds less than his Pennsylvania opponent. The champion scored an easy decision over Joey Maxim at Miami Stadium Jan. 27, and was reported in excellent condition for the fight tonight.

IN NICK OF TIME

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DURHAM (AP) — North Carolina State today was on its way to Philadelphia for its fourth NCAA

the city were candidates today for straight-A report cards. During their one-day tenure, they telegraphed Gov. Allan Shivers an endorsement of a proposed pay raise for teachers.

GRAND PRAIRIE, Tex. (AP) — Five Grand Prairie high school students who administered the affairs of

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