

WORLD BANTAMWEIGHT FIGHT:

Mario d'Agata of Italy (in the lighter shorts) deaf and dumb holder of the world bantamweight title, defends his crown against France's Alphonse Halimi at the "Palais des Sports" in Paris. Halimi has only had 19 professional fights, and he forces the Italian to think hard right from the start. D'Agata fights close to his opponent, but he can't damage him.

The Italian forces the pace but Halimi fights back. They go into a clinch, and the ref parts them.

Halimi delivers some lovely uppercuts. D'Agata's taking a lot of punishment, and clinching too often. The winner of this fight, by the way, will be meeting Raul Macias of Mexico, recognized by the National Boxing Association of America as the world champion. The World Boxing Association recognizes d'Agata, so this fight is the first stage in settling the issue.

Round 15 - and the Frenchman's way ahead on points, in spite of all the champion can do. It's the first time in his career that Halimi's had to go the whole distance, so it's been a hard battle - but a battle which brings him victory, and the world crown!

Congratulations from the crowd - but condolences, too for the deaf mute who, in spite of his handicap, held the title for nearly a year! It took a really tough fighter to win it from him!