

ROBINSON V. FUSARI

The World's welterweight crown goes on the block for charity - or it does if Champion Sugar Ray Robinson can make the weight.

Challenger Charlie Fusari says "No." Robinson didn't make it. Fusari himself has no trouble staying within the one-forty-seven-pound welterweight limit. But Robinson needs two steam baths before he finally hits it right on the nose.

That night, thirty thousand fans packing Jersey City's Roosevelt Stadium suddenly see Fusari, wearing dark trunks, come to life in the fourth round.

The Irvington, New Jersey milkman gives as much as he takes from the champ and wins the round.

Fusari's command is short-lived and, as the slow motion camera emphasizes, he gets a boxing lesson from the champ.

Fusari slips, but there's no count.

By the thirteenth, Robinson's had the fight all his way and Fusari, who needs a knockout to win, comes out fighting.

The champion, who's donating all but one dollar of his purse to the Damon Runyan Cancer Fund, gets the challenger onto the ropes, but Fusari frees himself.

In the last round, Sugar Ray slips, but there's no damage done. The experts predicted Robinson'd tire fast because of his ordeal in meeting the weight. But look at him go.

It's now or never for Fusari. The game challenger just hasn't got what it takes to wrest the crown from the masterful Robinson - winner and still welterweight champion of the world.