

Baker Beats Valdes as Fans Jeer

DREARY MATCH DETOURS BOTH TITLE HOPES

8,380 See Lausse
Win Co-Feature

Fight Decisions

LAST NIGHT

Cleveland — Bob Baker beat Nino Valdes [101]; Eduardo Lausse stopped John L. Sullivan [5].

(Picture on page 6)

Cleveland, Dec. 7 (P)—Pudgy Bob Baker plodded to a unanimous decision over Cuban Nino Valdes tonight in a dull 10 round match that probably eliminated both the No. 2 and No. 3 challengers from any chance of a heavyweight title shot.

In a co-featured bout on a Christmas fund show, Eduardo Lausse, Argentine middleweight contender, stopped England's John L. Sullivan in one minute of the fifth round for his 30th straight victory.

8,380 Watch Waltz

The drab heavyweight battle left Archie Moore standing alone as the only man left for Marciano in rematch, probably next June.

Boos and catcalls from the crowd of 8,380 paying \$63,392 to see the nationally televised show serenaded Baker and Valdes. At one stage the crowd sang "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Later, in tune with the Christmas motif, they switched to "Jingle Bells" while the big men tugged and shoved.

Referee Tony La Branche chanted continuously, yelling "Come on, let's start. Shake it up. Quit holding. Let's see something." Before the seventh round he visited the corners of both, advising them to step up the pace—or else.

Pilot's Blows Sting

Bobby Gleason, Valdes' manager, punched as hard as the 207 pound Cuban as he bopped him on the seat at the start of each round. Baker's corner kept yelling "Move in. Don't step back."

Judge Herb Williams scored it 99-91, Judge Charlie Bill, 98-92, and Referee La Branche, 97-75, all for Baker.

Baker, at 213½, failed to show the fire expected of a No. 2 contender who hoped to gain a fight with Rocky Marciano by a convincing victory. The Pittsburgh fighter did the more effective punching, but it was far from convincing.

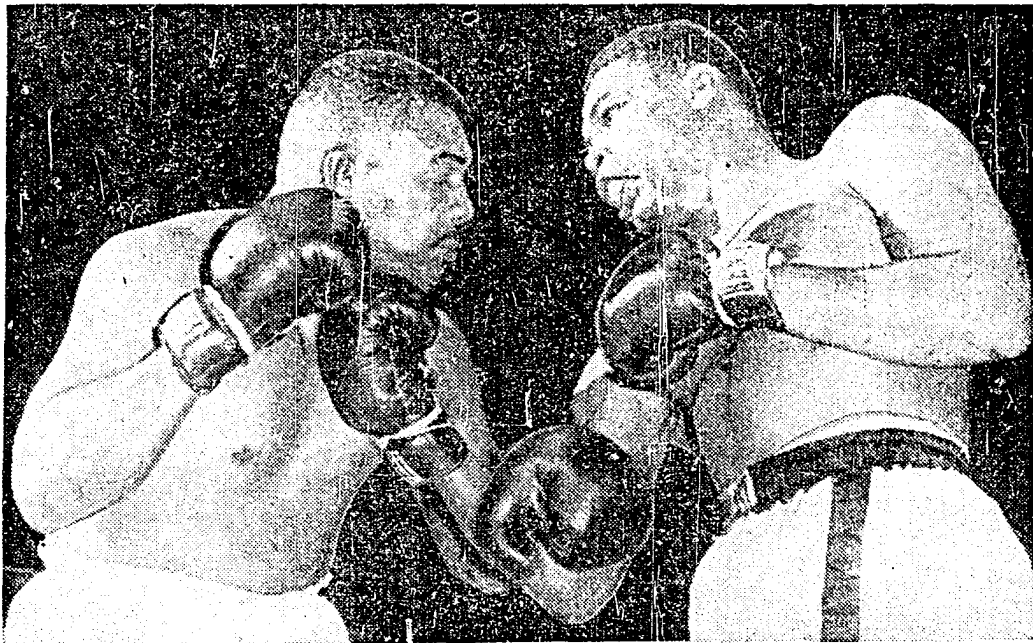
Best Punch in 4th

The best punch was a right to the jaw by Baker in the fourth that caught Valdes as he backed to the ropes. Baker never was able to follow up his advantage.

Each reportedly received about \$12,500 for his efforts in the bout, a rematch of Baker's 1953 victory.

In the dressing room, Valdes shouted loudly in Spanish that Marciano hadn't given him a chance while he was the No. 1 contender a year or more ago. Said Baker: "I had no excuse."

Valdes Scores as He Loses Fight with Baker



[Associated Press Wirephoto]

Nino Valdes gets thru Bob Baker's defense in fourth round of their bout last night in Cleveland. Baker went on to win unanimous decision in fight which fans jeered.

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