

WEEKEND SPORTS WEEKEND

Lineker's double turns the Lions into pussycats

LONDON, Feb 7: Gary Lineker, whose goals knocked Cameroon out of the World Cup, turned destroyer again in Wednesday's friendly, scoring twice in England's 2-0 win over the listless Africans.

The Indomitable Lions, the first African side to reach the World Cup quarter-finals, where they were beaten 3-2 by England, were a pitiful shadow of the side which set soccer alight with their exciting play in Italy.

Sub-zero temperatures and pre-match bickering left the lions tamed pussycats as England controlled the game throughout.

England went ahead in the 20th minute when man-of-the-match Lineker scored from the penalty spot after Cameroon goalkeeper Joseph Antoine Bell pulled him down with a desperate lunge.

His second goal came in the 61st minute when he pounced on a corner which had dropped behind the keeper.

Cameroon's veteran striker Roger Milla refused to play after his request for a match fee was refused. But the English Football Association were only told of his omission as the teams walked on to the pitch.

The conditions were in stark contrast to the last time the teams met on a sultry night in Naples.

The Cameroon players all wore gloves as they battled against snow showers and temperatures that dipped to minus five Centigrade.

England overran Cameroon in the first 20 minutes as the first African side to play at Wembley adjusted to the atmosphere and playing together for the first time since the World Cup.

They conceded three corners in the opening five minutes as the defence struggled to keep Lineker in check.

When the Tottenham striker ran into the box in the 19th minute he had only Bell to beat and the keeper, who never made a World Cup appearance, first kicked out and then pulled Lineker down with his hands.



GARY LINEKER ... twice on target

For Lineker, who had scored 37 international goals before this game, the penalty was a formality.

Cameroon did not have a shot in goal until the 30th minute and only tested Arsenal keeper David Seaman once during the second half.

The fast flowing soccer that earned Cameroon a quarter-final berth and Africa an extra place in the next World Cup finals was rarely apparent.

England continued to dominate throughout the second half and in the 60th minute Cameroon captain Stephen Tataw almost scored an own goal as he headed a cross just wide.

From the corner taken by

Stuart Pearce the ball was flicked over the keeper and Lineker darted in for his second goal.

In the 40th minute Andre Kana Biyik was carried off on a stretcher with a leg injury after colliding with John Barnes.

England captain Bryan Robson, making his first international appearance since he was injured at the World Cup finals, said: "It was hard to break them down because they dropped so many men behind the ball."

Lineker said: "They did not really come at us and attack us. I think they were worried about getting a good hiding." AP adds: It was billed as an

exhibition rematch of that World Cup game. Apart from Lineker's brace of goals, it could not have been more different.

Instead of a warm, balmy evening in July, it was played in sub-zero conditions. And there was no Roger Milla.

The 38-year-old Cameroon star, who won many friends at the World Cup with his goalscoring flair, never made an appearance, reportedly upset that he would not be paid a fee.

Without him, Cameroon held few aces against an England side that looked well balanced and comfortable on the ball.

England worried Cameroon with its aerial power by forcing four corners in the opening five minutes. But goalie Joseph Antoine Bell, who was kept out of the first team lineup in the World Cup by Thomas N'kono, handled confidently.

While Bell was busy from virtually the first moment, England goalie David Seaman had little to do in the entire game and spent his time running around his area to keep warm.

Cameroon's approach work was neat but not sharp enough to worry the England defence. Its first shot came on 29 minutes and the 20-yard (meter) effort from Andre Biyik rolled harmlessly wide.

Lineker's second goal came 16 minutes into the second half after Cameroon's captain, Stephen Tataw almost headed the ball into his own net.

TEAMS

England: David Seaman; Lee Dixon, Des Walker, Mark Wright, Stuart Pearce, Trevor Steven, Paul Gascoigne (sub: Steve Hodge 67 minutes), Bryan Robson (sub: Gary Pallister 73 minutes), John Barnes, Ian Wright, Gary Lineker.

Cameroon: Joseph Antoine Mell, Stephen Tataw, Bertin Ekwelle, Jules Onana, Emmanuel Kunde, Andre Biyik (sub: Thomas Libih 44 minutes), Emile M'mouh, Louis Paul, M'Fede, Jean Pajal, Eugene Ekeke (sub: Guy Tapoko 80 minutes), Francois Omam Biyik.

The rise and fall of Cash

Pat Cash felt great when he stepped on to the court to play a first-round match at the Lipton International Players' Championships at Key Biscayne, Fla., on March 16, 1990.

One year before, almost to the day, Cash had severed his Achilles tendon during a match against Bill Scanlon in Japan. But now he was back. He was fit. He was eager. He was ranked somewhere in the 400s on the computer, but that hardly mattered - he had been through this kind of thing before.

Cash was optimistic that morning on Key Biscayne. He'd been practising for his comeback on the slow hard courts for weeks. He was relaxed, accustomed to the bright winter sun of Florida. His opponent was Bruno Oresar, a journeyman who preferred clay, a guy who'd never even broken into the top 50.

Cash felt clammy and sharp in the warm-up. He won the toss and elected to serve, but when he stepped up to the service line he had a sickening realization that grew and grew in his consciousness until he felt the protagonist in Alfred Hitchcock's film, Vertigo.

Forgotten

"I didn't know what I was going to do," he called six months later, at the 1990 U.S. Open. "I had no bloody idea of what to do next. It all came at me in a rush - I realised that I'd forgotten what it was like to be in a match situation. I thought, 'Whoa, am I going to serve the first ball and volley, or stay back? Did I have to decide right then or not?' I really felt out of my element, because no amount of practice substitutes for playing matches under fire."

Of course, Cash could run but he couldn't hide. Oresar tagged him 6-2, 6-2. The disappointment was so severe that shortly after the match, Cash approached the man who's been his coach since Cash was 12, Ian Barclay. They discussed the option of quitting the game cold.

"At that moment," Cash said, "it didn't matter that I'd been through one comeback before. I just realised how bloody far I had to go and I wasn't really sure I was ready to pay the price again. I mean, it wasn't that long ago that if I didn't beat Oresar by 2 and 2, I would have been (kicked) off. It all became a very emotional thing, a 'Why me?' kind of thing."

And who could blame Cash for feeling that the gods must be crazy, or for wanting to quit the game? He is merely 25 years old, but if you were to draw a graph of his career, it would have more peaks and valleys than all of Colorado.

1982 - Cash wins the junior Wimbledon and U.S. Open titles and is runner-up at the junior French Open.

1983 - Cash leads Australia to its first Davis Cup title since 1977.

1984 - Cash cracks the top 10 after reaching the U.S. Open semifinals (where he held two match points against Ivan Lendl).

1985 - A chronic back injury sidelines Cash for eight months.

1986 - Cash, ready to play again, undergoes an emergency appendectomy in London, just three weeks before Wimbledon. Nevertheless, he received a wild card and advanced to the Wimbledon quarterfinals. His subsequent leap in the rankings, from No. 413 to 99, is the biggest jump since the computer rankings were instituted in 1973. He also leads Australia to another Davis Cup title.

1987 - Cash wins Wimbledon. He also reaches the final at the Australian Open.

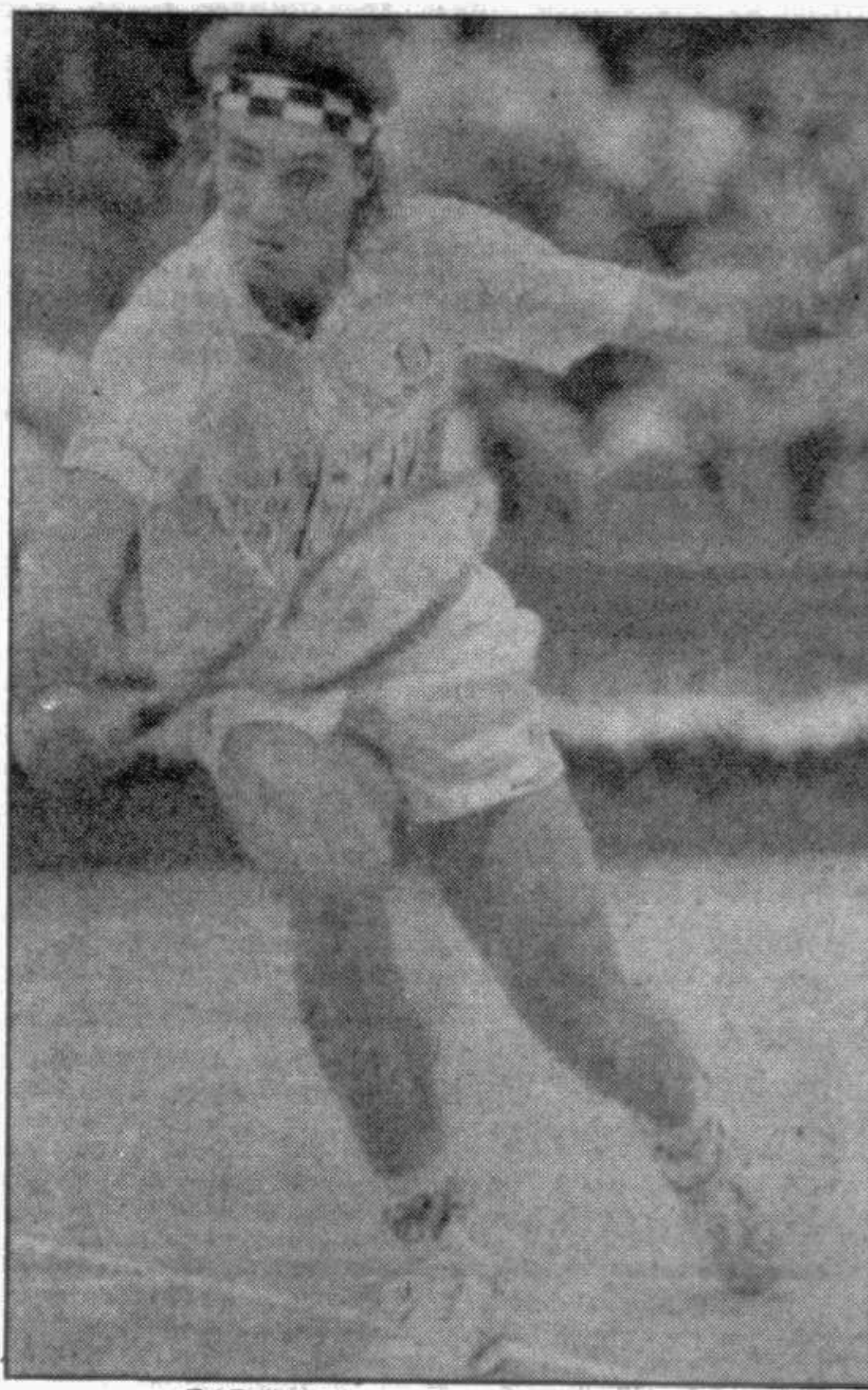
1988 - Cash reaches the final of the Australian Open, losing to Mats Wilander 8-6 in the fifth. He attains a career-high rank of No. 4.

1989 - Cash reaches the round of 16 at the Australian Open, then severs his Achilles tendon shortly thereafter. His ranking falls to No. 368.

1990 - Cash, in his first tournament back, plays doubles and wins the Sydney/New South Wales title with fellow Aussie mark Kratzmann. Oresar spoils his singles debut at the Lipton, but a month later, Cash is runner-up in the KAL Korean Open and the following week he wins both the singles and doubles titles at the Salem Open in Hong Kong.

He goes on to reach the round of 16 at Wimbledon and the third round at the U.S. Open, surviving two five-set matches before he succumbs to the No. 9 seed, Aaron Krickstein.

No player in the Open era has fallen as far after climbing



PAT CASH ... a chequered career

so high, or clawed his way back into the upper echelon of tennis as successfully as Cash. Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe, Mats Wilander all of them took a significant amount of time off from tennis, but only McEnroe proved that he could regain a semblance of his past form (the jury is still out of Wilander).

Yet those players were not even injured; the only thing hurt in them was their motivation. Thomas Muster, the Austrian who made a miraculous comeback from a knee injury sustained in 1989, is the only player who has travelled a path similar to the one Cash walked not once but twice.

There is no more harrowing reminder of a man's mortality than serious injury, no more lethal doubt in the mind of a tennis player than the fear that his body will betray him.

In dealing with injury and its poisonous psychological residue, Cash truly has been a giant among men. Who could have predicted that this bold, brash child of the Heavy Metal age would lead a life calling for all the forbearance of Job?

Changed

As 1991 approaches and Cash prepares for another frontal assault on the Grand

No player in the Open era has fallen as far after climbing so high or clawed his way back into the upper echelon of tennis as successfully as Pat Cash ... Peter Bodo takes a look at the Australian's career

Siam tournaments, he is a changed young man. His bouts with frustration, a final split with his common-law wife Anne-Britt Christiansen, and his subsequent marriage to Emily Bendit all have tempered him and altered his perspective.

"The frustrating part of coming back," he said, "is that just when you're starting to play well, all of a sudden you go out and play a shocker. I mean, a real stinker of a match. And then the doubts begin, all the confidence you've built up comes crashing down. You begin to ask yourself, 'Have I lost it, or what?' The hardest thing is to believe that it's just a slip, not a fall."

Fortunately for Cash, there are always people there to take him by the hand and help him up when he skips. Cash is flamboyant. He continues to pass out his trademark checkered headbands after every match. He often is controversial, especially at home, where he has had frequent skirmishes with a national press that seems to want aw-shucks tennis he roes who line their hats with wet cabbage leaves.

Yet he is not at all fleckle, and he harbours and inspires great loyalty. Besides his family and Barclay, Cash's trainer Ann Quinn, sport psychologist Jeff Bord, and former Aussie Davis Cup player Paul McNamee have all been steadfast friends.

"A lot of people don't understand that when I climbed in to the players' guest box (after winning) at Wimbledon, it was a genuine, spontaneous thing. It really was the only way to show how much all the people in my support system

had to do with me winning. They've stood by me. I owe it to stand by them."

Support

Cash maintains that one of the positive by-products of his latest injury was the new perspective he gained on the game during his enforced absence. With a sudden abundance of time to think, Cash realised that tennis wasn't the end-all and be-all, and he also came to grips with the fact that his relationship with Christiansen, the mother of his two children, Daniel and Mia, was over. The realisation led to the only major change in Cash's support system.

"I'd love to deny that personal stuff affects me, but it does. And the really strange thing is that the worst period in my relationship with Anne-Britt coincided with the time I played my best tennis, when I won Wimbledon. I guess things were so bad that the only way to deal with them was to throw myself into tennis like a wild maniac."

"I was totally absorbing everything, rebounding everything. I neglected the problems I had with Anne-Britt and not wanting to face them made it that much easier for me to become a tennis robot. All I

mind myself to slow down. After all, we've got a whole life to live."

But they couldn't apply the brakes for long. Bendit was present when Cash won the Hong Kong tournament in April. In late July, Cash and Bendit took a break from the rigours of his tennis comeback to wed in Jamaica.

Wedding

His children attended the wedding. After a brief honeymoon, Cash began to work at his tennis again. "This time," he said, "I decided to keep my priorities in order. This time, I wasn't going to be a wild maniac. I was just going to be a regular maniac."

It is almost impossible to overstate the achievement represented by Cash's first major comeback, and difficult to articulate the quality of his determination in his current, second resurgence. As he freely admits, "I'm not a patient person by nature. In fact, I tend to go at things like a bull at a gate."

Each time Cash has come back from a forced hiatus, he has found it that much tougher to succeed. For one thing, the competitive depth of the pro tour increases all the time. "It's one thing, not to have heard of a player," Cash said, "but these days, Ian scouts a guy and he's never ever heard of the country he comes from."

Furthermore, Cash feels increasingly like a middleweight thrown into the heavyweight division. (Cash's eyes widen when he speaks of the likes of Boris Becker, Lendl and even Goran Ivanisevic. He says, "I mean, these guys are big.") He is strong as a bull, but he is relatively small bull. He plays the serve-and-volley game, but without big power.

"My serve isn't the strongest in the game. I've got the strength but not the reach and the snap. A Becker can get out of a tight spot by serving two aces and two unreturnables. Even at my best, I can't quite do that. I always have to back it up with good volleys."

The key to Cash's success is his mobility. I allows him to cover the net like a blanket, and enables him to get into position to hit flat ground strokes that resemble precise laser beams. At his best, he can't be passed at the net and he hits winners like a man throwing darts. Because of this reliance on athleticism and mobility, the damage to his Achilles tendon was particularly threatening. And even Cash tends to downplay the shock and agony of such a major injury.

Painful

"Your forget how bloody painful a thing like this is," Cash said. "I wouldn't wish a snapped Achilles on my worst enemy. I couldn't run for eight months, and I still limp, from habit. I honestly think I'd rather have broken my ankle in a few places. But the good thing is that unlike a knee, the Achilles tendon usually comes back to full strength."

Knowing how such an injury can play on a young man's mind, Barclay convinced Cash to refrain from running or hitting tennis balls until fully two months after physicians said it would be permissible to do so.

Still, after the last Grand Slam event of '90, Cash could not quite jump as high as he did before his injury. He also felt that his leg could get stronger yet. With more work, he hoped to find that extra pinch of quickness to lay the foundations for a great year in '91.

One thing that did come back mobility. It allows to cover the quickly for Cash was the basic mental toughness that always made him such an outstanding player in the later stages of any match. After playing badly and falling behind Marc Rosset by two sets to none in the first round of the U.S. Open, Cash came back to win in five sets, in vintage style, he later said, "I knew once I got the third set that I'd win the match."

In his next round, Cash survived a see-saw five-set battle with Kratzmann. He was more pleased with his mental toughness than his stroke production, but one round later, against Aaron Krickstein, he was disappointed by both.

"There's nothing like experience," Cash reflected after the loss. "And the weird thing is that it's all a new experience to me again, even though I've been through it before. I'm only 25, but I've been through more things than most tennis players endure in a career. I've been through more than a lot of regular people go through in a lifetime. In fact," he added, "you could say that I'm just learning to walk."

Leonard takes the show to Madison Garden

NEW YORK, Feb 7: Sugar Ray Leonard takes his famed boxing show to Madison Square Garden on

Saturday in test of his ageing, but still cunning boxing skills against a man 11 years his junior, reports Reuter.

Leonard, 34 will try to win his sixth world championship by taking the World Boxing Council's (WBC) 7-kg super-welterweight crown from fellow-American Terry Norris in a scheduled 12 round fight, the first time Leonard has fought at the Garden in his 13 year professional career.

"This is Broadway. Yeh, this is Broadway," Leonard said about the Garden. "I'm going to do whatever's necessary to win. I'm going to be as pretty or as funky as I possibly can be and do whatever I can do to win."

Leonard, 35 in May, has not fought in 14 months, since December, 1989, when he battled the chilly night air in Las Vegas and a lukewarm Roberto Duran to win a points

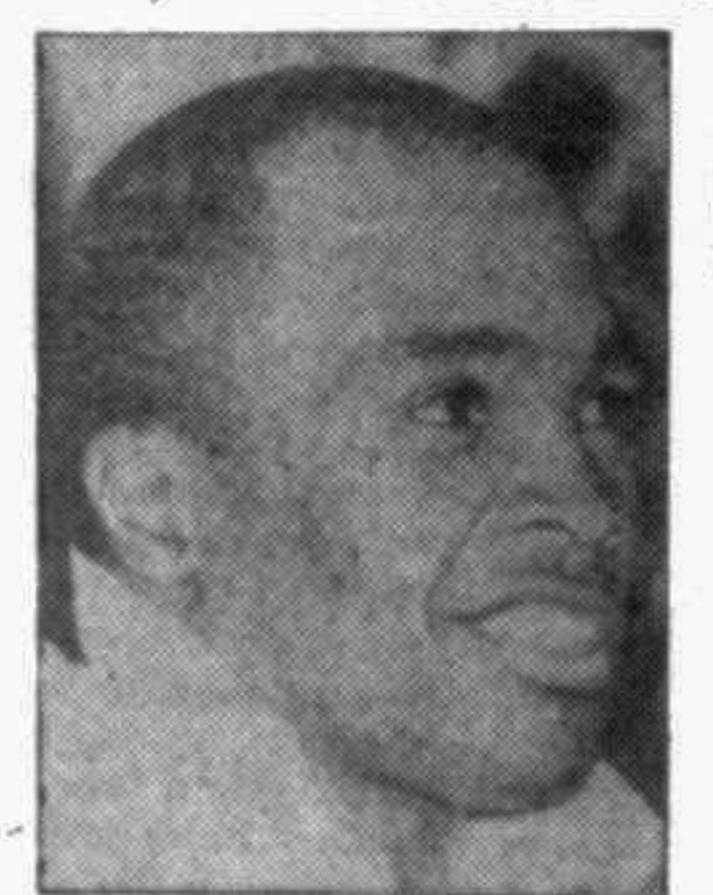
decision. But both fighters were booed for being boring.

There is no doubt that Leonard has been one of the greatest fighters ever—an Olympic gold medalist in 1976, five world titles and a 34-1-1 record against the best fighters of this era. But his talents have been eroded by time.

Even in beating Duran, Leonard, who has earned an estimated 105 million dollars in this career, was hit often enough to be cut and bruised for one of the few times in his career.

And many boxing people think Leonard lost to Tommy Hearns in June, 1989. But the judges in Las Vegas — who have never been accused of disliking Leonard — said the 12-round fight was a draw. Even Leonard has hinted very strongly in recent months that he thought Hearns, who knocked him down twice, won that fight.

In the fight just before that in November 1988, the mostly-talented Donny Lalonde knocked Leonard down. But Leonard came back to knock



SUGAR RAY LEONARD out Lalonde.

Norris, 23, is somewhat of an unknown quantity despite his 26-3 record.

Norris, who says Leonard was his idol when growing up, first fought for a world title — the World Boxing Association's super welterweight crown — against Julian Jackson in July, 1989.

Norris pummeled Jackson in the first round, breaking his cheekbone and opening up a deep cut on his mouth. But

Norris got cocky in the second round and Jackson knocked him out.

Last March Norris used his speed and power to knock out John the beast Mugabi in the first round for the WBC title.

"My only problem is experience in big fights, Norris said. "I'll endure more than Ray, try and take the fight into the later rounds to try to burn Ray out."

Norris should earn about 700,000 dollars, according to Mike Trainer, Leonard's manager and promoter of the fight. Trainer said Leonard would get about four million dollars.

"He's like my son, Leonard said of Norris, so I'm going to have to show him something. He's never experienced anything like this ... he's talking more trash. That's all the Motivation I need. Winning ... and looking good."

Some of the trash Leonard apparently is referring to is Norris's comment when asked about Leonard retiring.

"They'd lose a great fighter, Norris said, but I think it's time for him to move on."



Players and officials pose with chief guest A K M Musa, Presidential Advisor for Industries, at the conclusion of the fourth Nissan Cup tennis championships at the Gulshan Club yesterday.

— Star photo