

Burke Ready For Beaupre Wednesday

There is a great deal of interest in tomorrow night's main bout at Memorial Auditorium. Promoter Jack O'Brien finally was able to secure the services of Roger Burke of Montreal to oppose Buster Beaupre in the feature 10-rounder, for the blond welterweight has been in constant demand in Chicago and other Midwest centers in recent months.

The local interest lies in the fact that these two boys collided three times early last year with Burke being declared a decision winner each time over 10 rounds. However, improvement is looked for from both corners tomorrow night. Burke has gained a wealth of experience in the year's time that has elapsed, while Beaupre is in much better shape now than he was at this time last year when he was just starting his comeback.

CLOSE DECISION

The third of the slugfests last year was the best, for Buster was better able to fathom Burke's tricky style that features a talented left hand. Beaupre lost the third decision by an eyelash and after Burke had been counted out of the ring after a fall. Then he was given a few minutes rest before he continued.

Two six-rounders precede the main go. Fernand Cervan, young Montreal lightweight sensation who appeared here last fall under different promotion, is scheduled to match leather with Teddy Moore of Quebec City. Cervan has gone as high as semi-final bouts in the Montreal Forum of late and boxing critics up in the Canadian metropolis stamp him as a sure bet in lightweight circles.

In the other six-spot Elmer Ward steps up just a little by moving out of the four-round class to tangle with Lou Bart of Quebec. Ward has been brought along slowly by his manager, Nelson Brice, and has possibilities of rounding out into a pretty fair club fighter. He's an aggressive lad and packs a wicked wallop as his several kayo wins indicate.

Ossie Barry of Hinesburg gets the show under way at 8:40 in a four-rounder with Florian Bideault of Quebec.

Beaupre Wins Split Decision Against Burke

Burlington Fighter Is Given Close Nod In Fast, Brawling Bout

By WALT HICKEY

In a mauling, brawling bout that saw just about everything happen while nearly 1,000 fans yelled their lungs out, Burlington's Buster Beaupre, the Vermont welterweight champion, squeezed out a split decision over Roger Burke, (Gaby Ferland) of Montreal in the Memorial Auditorium last night.

With Burke sobbing after the decision and his manager and handler, Pete Audette, yelling "robbery" and wanting the decision reversed, the crowd milled around the ring for some minutes, but the decision stands. Two judges gave Beaupre clean cut verdicts, while the third favored Burke. In total voting, Beaupre had 15 rounds, Burke 11 and four were even.

The Free Press score card saw it a draw, four rounds apiece and two even. But everything happened, from claims of "foul blows" to a brief wrestling match on the scoring table when the boxers tumbled out of the ring.

But no matter how it is looked at, Beaupre won the decision, and in doing so put the blonde Montrealer on the floor three times in the eighth round and again in the 10th. Despite all the yelping of "low blow" in the 10th, Burke was not hit by any low blow in this round as far as the press table could see. The blow was to the pit of the stomach and doubled him over. Referee Johnny Kaspar, who says he had a clear view of the blow, stated it was not even close to being low.

That aside, however, the real fireworks came to the fourth and eighth. In the fourth they wrestled through the ropes onto the press table, where Burke, who claimed Beaupre had rabbit-punched him, proceeded to bang Beaupre's head on the table edge until his arms were grabbed.

From this point until the eighth both kept attempting to tag each other, with Burke having a slight edge through here with his flicking left, which kept a cut over Beaupre's left eye opened.

Things suddenly changed in the eighth. After a mild sparring session in mid-ring, Beaupre caught Burke coming out of a corner, and he smashed him to the canvas with a terrific right shot to the jaw. Burke regained his feet at eight, wobbling, and a moment later Beaupre caught him on the ropes and three shots to the jaw and head dropped Burke for a nine count.

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Faced in the ninth, but Burke got his left working again and with the cobwebs cleared, came back strong. He forced Beaupre into the ropes with a two-fisted attack

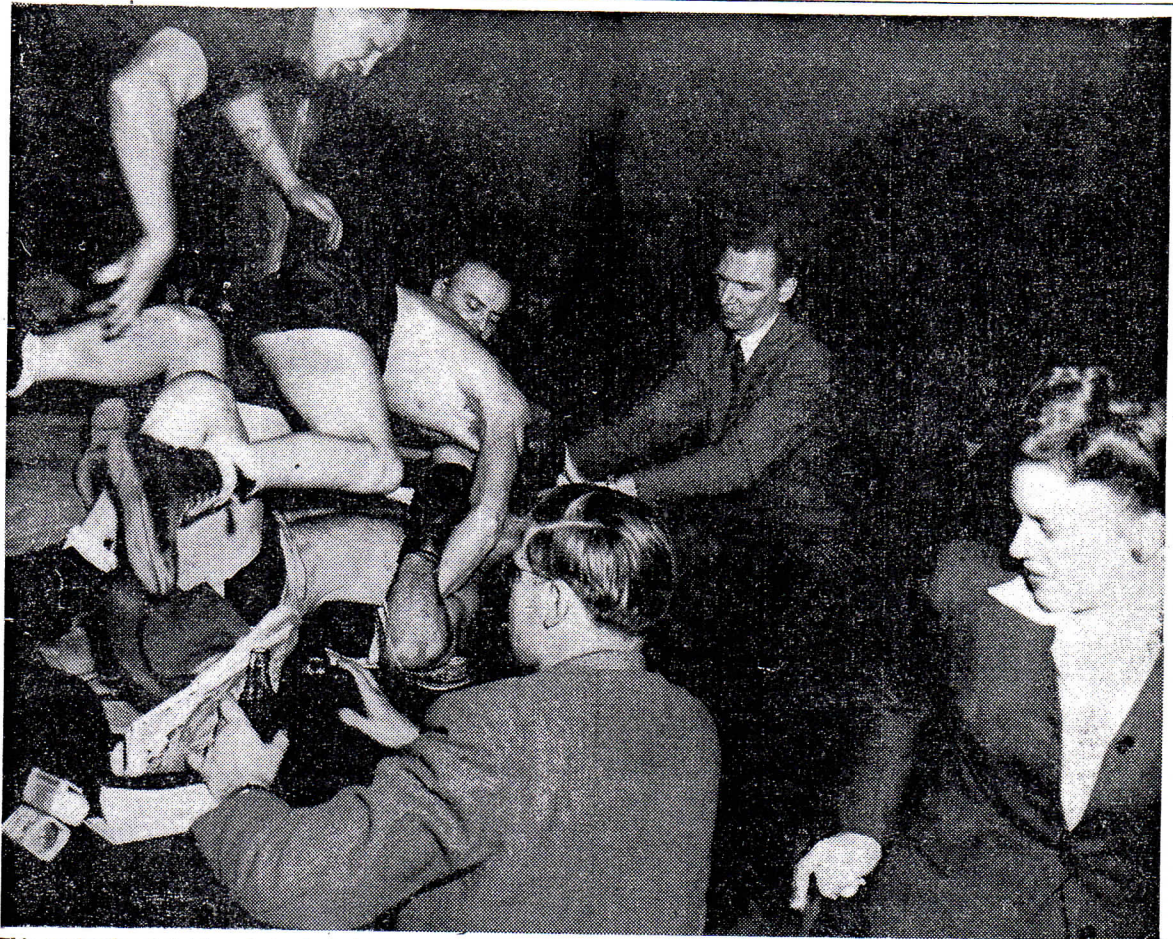
Bassett Scores KO At Binghamton; DeMille Decisioned

Special to the Free Press
BINGHAMTON, N. Y., May 7. — Sparky Bassett, classy Burlington, Vermont, light heavyweight, scored a startling 58 second knockout over Bradley Jackson, Buffalo, N. Y., colored light heavy, in the semifinal bout of tonight's boxing card here. More than 3,000 fans saw the Vermonter drop his opponent with a vicious right to the jaw in less than one minute of the opening round. Another Burlington fighter, Dick DeMille, dropped a four-round decision to Joey Taylor of Troy, N. Y., in a close and hard fight.

As Beaupre bulled back across the ring, Burke kept that flicking

low blow, but from any angle it could not be called even close to low. Numerous spectators agreed with the press — the only ones howling "low blow" were those who had bet against Beaupre or who go to the local shows to see the Buster beaten. They can't take it when he wins.

In a poor six-round semi-final, Fernand Cervan, 134, Montreal, took a fourth round TKO over Teddy Moore 136, of Quebec. The



This spectacular shot taken during last night's feature boxing bout at Memorial Auditorium, shows Burlington's Buster Beaupre and his opponent, Roger Burke of Montreal, as they plunged through the ropes onto the press table, in the fourth round. Beaupre, who is on the bottom, went on to win an unpopular split decision. Also pictured are Referee Johnny Kasper leaning over the ropes; Pete Audette, Burke's manager, just visible over the struggling athletes; Walt Hickey of The Free Press in foreground; Gil Wood, News Sports Editor, catching 'em on first bounce. The alarmed young lady making a hasty retreat is Mrs. Wood. See Page 15.—(Daily News Staff Photo.)

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