SPORTS

Ali's old image gone forever

The inside jacket of Muhammad Ali's new book "The Greatest" sums up precisely what the book is all about, and what makes it uniquely different from all the other books written by athletes.

"This is no documented scrapbook of wins and losses strung together with anecdotes; nor is it a thin potpourri of locker-room gags. This book, like Ali- who has incited every reaction except indifference - goes straight to the place where responses to him have always been - the gut.

Whatever glossy perfumed storys you may have read about Ali can be tossed out the window. Ali's story relates the incidents of hatred and prejudice that have followed him into the ring and throughout his life. One of the more dramatic incidents occurred when he returned to his home town of Louisville, Kentucky in 1960 with a gold medal from the Olympics in Rome, and literally defended it with his life.

The overwhelming feeling one gets after reading a few chapters is to ask yourself: Is this really Muhammad Ali telling his life story? The grim drama of Ali's life that is brought out for the first time is so different from anything that has been written about him before that the reader begins to wonder if the Muhammad Ali created by the media and the one in the book are vaguely connected.

If there is one incident that can be said to have made Ali the most hated and at the same time the most admired athlete in America, it was his refusal to be inducted into the armed forces during the Vietnam war. Ali's quote has now become famous in its simplicity and honesty - "I ain't got no quarrel with the Viet Cong." In a country that regards religious freedom as a basic right, Ali was denied to earn a living at his trade because of his refusal to join the army, by reason of his religious beliefs. A black man was denied to earn a living for 3½ years while as a boxer he was in the prime of his life.

Ali could have taken the easy way out like many before him. A politician promised that a Colonel would see that the heavyweight champion would never have to go overseas to fight. "You come to camp a few days a year, and drill a couple of hours a day. You'll be free. Just like a thousand other baseball, football and basketball players, the biggest names in sports."

But when the time came for Ali to take one step forward and be inducted into the army he took the hard way and decided to fight the system rather than capitulate to it.

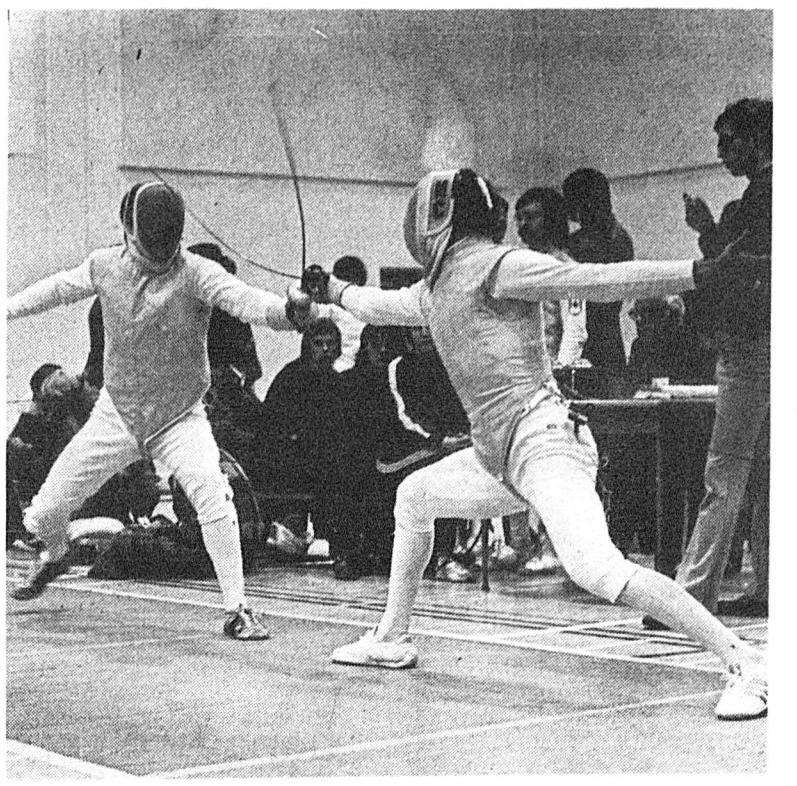
Ali has never been afraid to "tell it like it is" and in his book he is very critical of the black personalities who have deserted the black people after they attained financial freedom.

Ali has always been an intriguing personality for millions of people even with the distorted image the media has created. This book makes Ali even more intriguing, for when the artificial icing is removed we can see for the first time the core of the man.

The text is so different from any other account of his life that its difficult to realize that this is the same man we have come to know over the past decade. The brash outspoken braggert isn't in evidence in this book but the psyche of the man is.

Readers can get the feel of the brutal nature of boxing, the impersonality of the sport, and the unique breed of the heavyweight fighters.

Ali would probably receive a great deal of satisfaction if the readers took away just one thing from the book - what it means to be a black athlete in America.



Ken Turner

Golden-blades "foil" tourney

by Tim Hogan

The U of A Goldenblades' Fencing team captured all four top spots at the Saskatoon Novice and Team Foil Tournament, January 25 and 26.

John Stothart beat out his Bear teammate Curt Burke for top honours in the Novice Men's Foil, while four of the five top finishers in the Novice Women's Foil were from Alberta. Diane West finished first with Mary Jane Henning third and Rae Lightbody fourth. In the Women's Open Team Foil the trio of Henning, Laura Sawyer, and Marga van der Lugt finished first, while the team of Monica Chapin, Diane and Margret Beswetherick placed third.

In the Men's Open Team Foil first place went to the Alberta team composed of Jed Chapin, Helmut Mach and Alex Pozniak. Third place again went to another team from the U of A, this time with Bill Robertson, Stephen Leung and Walter Hauser. There were a total of 10 men's teams and 6 women's teams competing from Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Edmonton.

Intramurals

Upcoming Deadlines

Curling
1 p.m., Tues., Feb. 3
Slalom Skiing
1 p.m. Tues. Feb. 10
Snooker
1 p.m. Tues., Feb. 17
Table Tennis
1 p.m. Tues., Feb. 17

Slalom Skiing

Provided that the snow is still with us, the annual ski race will be held on Saturday, February 14, at Rabbit Hill. Races will start at 9:30 a.m. and continue until approximately 1 p.m. Depending upon the number of entries, the race may run as a "dual" slalom elimination. This should provide a lot of laughs for everyone.

Entries will be accepted by the Intramural Office according to the following categories:

Expert - some racing experience and good skiers.

Intermediate - can ski down most hills proficiently.

Beginner - good luck and have fun.

Be sure your edges are sharp and waxed for particularly hard snow. See you there.

3 on 3 Basketball

Congratulations to the L.D.S. unit for capturing both "A" and "B" events in the 3 on 3 basketball tournament. The "A" team consists of Rick Smith, Wayne Sefcik and Monte Court. The "B" team consists of Gane Olsen, Mulley Hansen and Dan "Crazy Dog" Court.

Volleyball

The Men's Volleyball League will get underway on Tues. Feb. 3 in the Main Gym. Game days are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Be sure to check the schedule, across from the Intramural office, for the times your team plays.

Notable Participants

Dave Webber, the Law Unit Manager, is most deserving of a pat on the back, or elsewhere if you wish. Dave managed to enter 13 teams in the Volleyball league. Special mention is also extended to Larry Wall, the P.E. Unit manager, for managing the smooth unit he runs, and for his enthusiastic participation. Keep up the good work boys.

Rugby reminder

There will be an organizational meeting of the Golden Bears Rugby team on Monday, February 2nd in Room W-124 of the Physical Education building at 4:30. The pre season winter training programme will commence on Wednesday,. February 4th at 8:30 p.m. in the Education Gym. For further information contact coach Tony Bauer, Rm E-469, Ph. 432-5505.

Dinwoodie Social

This Weekend!

Saturday, January 31

ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

Available at HUB.

ratt*

food service
9 AM till 11 PM

"refreshments"
3 PM till 11 PM
(fri & sat till 12)

* 7th floor SUB There's Room at the Top

Introducing

TRANS ARCTIC OUTFITTERS

High Quality DOWN FILLED Clothing

Ski Jackets/Sleeping Bags

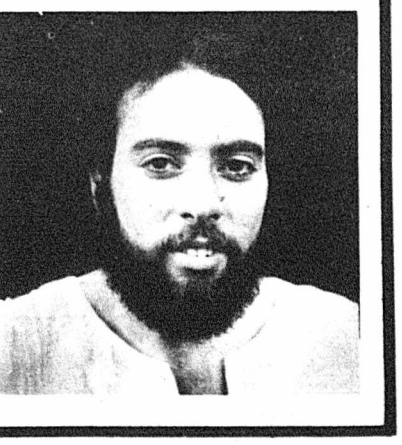
7935 - 71 St (Coop Mall)
466-6812

* Club Rates
* Reduced Rates for U of A students (with ID card) on ALL CURRENT STOCK till the end of February.

BRING AD WITH YOU

in ratt

JANUARY 31

Jan Randall

pianist/singer/guitarist