

LOW BLOW COSTS THOMPSON HIS TITLE

Topliner at the star-studded re-opening of London's Olympia is the European title-bout between Yorkshire's curly-haired Billy Thompson on the left - and "Kid" Dussart from Belgium. A 10,000 crowd sees the mature-looking Belgian "Kid" dictate the battle from the start. Ex-miner Thompson, very much below his best, has few chances to shine.

It is in round two that the British boxer's European crown begins to topple. The Belgian sends over a well-timed right-hander, and to the fans astonishment, down goes Thompson.

Up at nine, Thompson is obviously dazed and can't hold off the swings and hooks of the curashing Belgian. Two murderous "left-rights" to the head - a glancing left swing - and Thompson is down again!!

Outboxed and outgeneralled, only Thompson's fighting heart - and the bell - save him from further punishment.

And that's how it goes all the way - with Dussart piling up a clear points lead. The end comes in round six, when in a clinch, Thompson hits his opponent below the belt. Having been warned earlier, he is immediately disqualified. Doubled up in pain is the new European lightweight champion - "Kid" Dussart.

For unlucky Billy Thompson, the road to world fame must begin all over again.