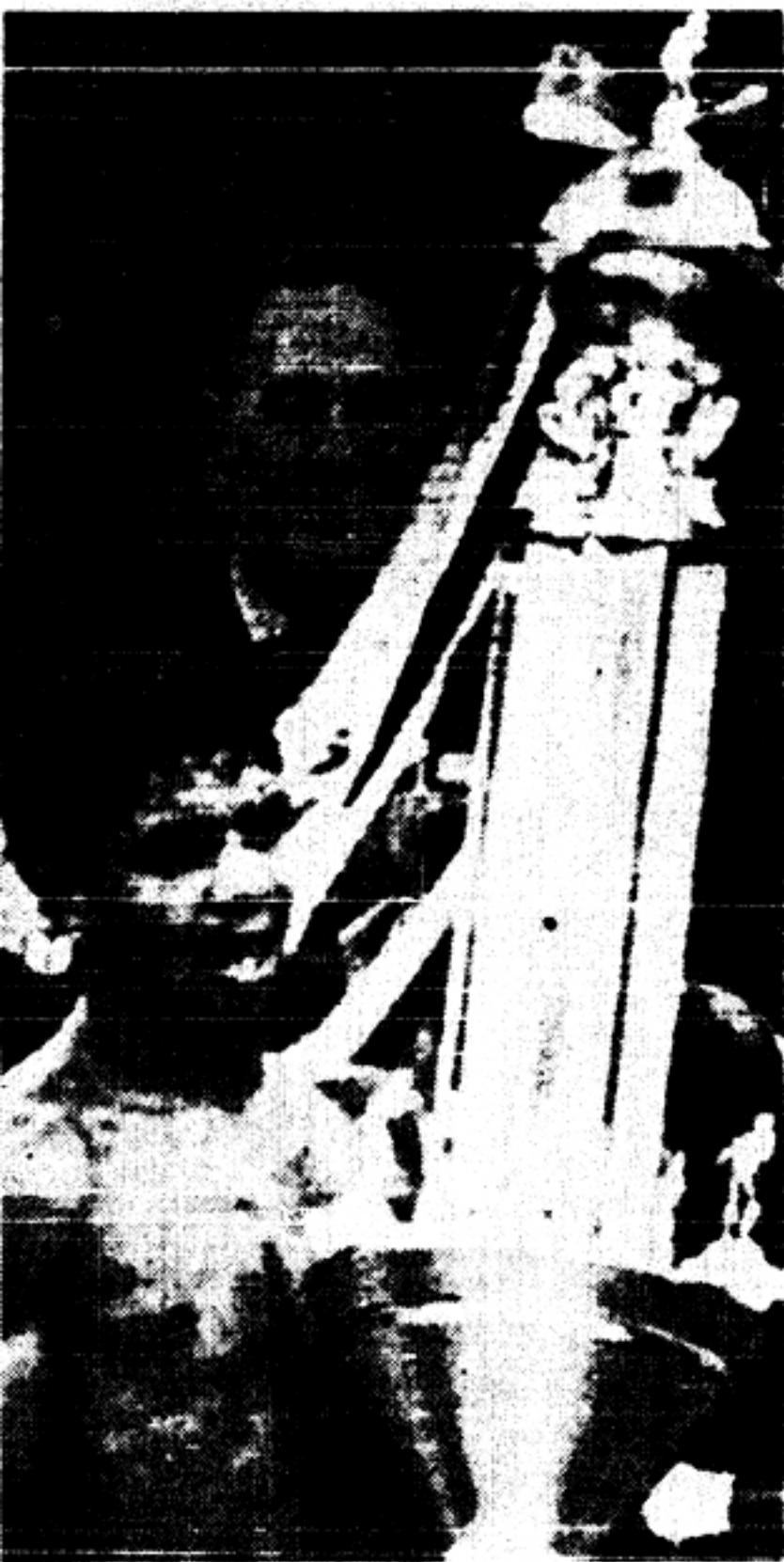


# ROSE TAKES WORLD TITLE



ABOVE: Lionel Rose stands in the ring holding the big championship trophy as wellwishers pour congratulations on him for his victory over Fighting Harada.

## TITLE

Australian bantamweight champion, Lionel Rose, 20, last night outpointed Japan's Masahiko "Fighting" Harada to become world champion and the first Aborigine to hold a world title.

Before a television audience estimated at 30 million, the shy bush boy from Drouin became the second Australian to win a world boxing title.

In his first 15-rounder, Rose coolly and scientifically out-boxed Japan's Harada with a brilliant left hand, backed by a damaging right.

Rose had Harada's face looking red and blotchy by the third round, opened up a right eyebrow cut in the eighth and scored a knock-down in the ninth.

By the 15th round Rose, his trunks covered in blood from the champion's eye and nose, played matador to Harada's brave, wild bull.

Although cautioned several times for allegedly striking with an open glove, and warned by the referee to take a more aggressive role, Rose turned out a unanimous points winner.

A jubilant Rose, with his manager, Jack Rennie, embracing him in the ring, fell sprawling as the decision was announced.

The new champion was nearly floored again when the huge and heavy championship trophy was plonked in his arms in mid-ring.

In his dressing room an unscarred Rose grinned delightedly as Australian reporters crowded in.

"He was a tough, game fighter. I didn't feel I had him until the 13th or 14th round — that's when I

thought he started to tire," Rose said.

But according to "The Age" Tokyo correspondent, Max Suich, Rose told trainer Jack Rennie at the end of the third round: "Don't worry about me—this bloke can't punch."

## Big wink

In the sixth round he was confident enough to tip a wink to Rennie's wife, Shirley. Shirl looked a bit worried—I thought I had better cheer her up so I gave her a big wink," Rose said later.

About 60 Australians made the trip to Tokyo specially for the fight, among them the head of Stadiums Ltd, John Wren.

Meanwhile, in a small room in a house at Essendon, Mrs. Jean Rose and Lionel's younger brothers, Ray, 18, and Michael, nine, sat glued to a radio.

They had gathered at the home of Mr. Maurice Dyonon, a friend of Jack Rennie to hear the blow-by-blow fight description.

Puffing nervously on a cigarette, Mrs. Rose closed her eyes and shook her head as the fight progressed. Ray rolled his shoulders with every blow, smacking his clenched right fist into his left hand as his brother landed his punches 4000 miles away.

Then, as the decision was announced the hushed group around the radio exploded into tears and laughing—the shy bush boy from Drouin had made it.