

CONCEPT BY MARC CATALA / PHOTOGRAPH BY CATHERINE SHAW

SPORT MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

The Observer
**SPORT
MONTHLY**
NOVEMBER 2003 NO 45

**THE WORLD'S
GREATEST SPORTING
ICON**
THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY

COLLECTORS' ISSUE

CONTENTS NOVEMBER 2003

EDITORIAL

THE ALI ISSUE



IT'S ALI ALL THE WAY: OUR 30-PAGE EXTRAVAGANZA STARTS ON PAGE 20

MADE FROM CLAY

P22 **BUD SCHULBERG** ON THE GLORIOUS ASCENT OF THE YOUNG CHAMPION

BODY BEAUTIFUL

P30 **FERDIE PACHECO** ON THE FIGHTER AS SEX SYMBOL

THIS CHARMING MAN

P40 **THOMAS HAUSER** ON HOW THE MARVELLOUS MOUTH CHARMED THE WORLD

THE PARADOX

P46 **DAVID REMNICK** EXPLORES THE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS ZEAL THAT GRIPPED ALI

LIVING LEGEND

P52 **THOMAS HAUSER** ON THE LEGACY OF A FIGHTER

REGULARS

6 TEN

The ten best football dives, starring Herr Klinsmann (who else?).

10 LETTERS

Your responses to Ten, plus that full list of famous Belgians.

12 THE SPORTS COLUMN

John King, author of *The Football Factory*, on Abramovich, hooligans and the Bates Motel.

14 SNAPSHOT

England do battle Down Under.

18 A LETTER FROM...

James Eve in Parma on the religious conversion of Brazilian goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel.

BACK FLICK

61 FIRST AND LAST

Explorer Ranulph Fiennes on frostbite and beard etiquette.

62 MY TEAM

Dexy's Midnight Runners frontman Kevin Rowland on the wonderful Wolves.

63 COMMON GROUND

Racehorses named after London Underground stations.

64 HOW TO...

Hold your breath underwater. By freediver Tanya Streeter.

66 FROZEN IN TIME

When rock stars Elton John and Rod Stewart trained at Watford.

CONTRIBUTORS



DAVID REMNICK is editor of the *New Yorker* and a distinguished non-fiction writer. His works include books on Russia and *King of the World*, a study of Ali. He writes about Ali's political odyssey on page 46.



BUD SCHULBERG wrote the screenplay for *On the Waterfront*. His novel *What Makes Sammy Run?* was the *National Critics'* choice as Best First Novel in 1941. He writes about the rise of Cassius Clay on page 22.



THOMAS HAUSER is Ali's official biographer. He writes about Ali the entertainer, on page 40, and the eternal celebrity of the world's greatest boxer on 52. He is the author of 26 books.



FERDIE PACHECO is a doctor, novelist, painter, screenplay writer and boxing analyst. His books include *Muhammed Ali: A View From the Corner*. He writes about the sexual allure of Ali on page 30.

FOOTBALL COMES IN FROM THE COLD



BY **JASON COWLEY**

Last month, I was in the Ukraine to watch Arsenal lose to Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League. As an Arsenal fan, I was disappointed by the defeat and yet, at the same time, I wasn't. For the grandeur of the occasion seemed so much bigger than the result: 82,000 fans cheering on the home side with a thrilling intensity. From all over Kiev and beyond they came, mingling peacefully in the city centre hours before the game, their horns blaring. Inside the stadium, the atmosphere was intense, intoxicating but never nasty; none of Arsenal's black players was booed.

The past month or so has been bad for football. In this country, at least. Missed drugs tests, threatened strikes, gang rapes – to read the headlines you would have thought that the game had finally devoured itself. In truth, football remains a unifier, a benign agent of globalisation. What other event – except perhaps a political rally during times of stress – could inspire 82,000 people to come together in the same place on such a cold, wet night in October?

The day before the game, I travelled with the Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein to the small town of Chernigov, which is little more than 30 miles from Chernobyl. The radiation count in the town, more than 17 years after the catastrophe at Chernobyl, is three times the acceptable British limit and children there continue to be born with defects and abnormalities. We met some of these children and attended a session at which young Arsenal coaches worked, as part of an on-going scheme, with promising youngsters, many of whom were sick. In that blighted Ukrainian town I saw another, better side of football.

OSM: 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
020 7713 4300 osm@observer.co.uk

Editor Jason Cowley
Deputy editor Gordon Thomas
Assistant editor Leo Honeyball
Executive editors John Mulholland, Brian Oliver
Chief sub-editor Campbell Stevenson
Sub-editor Phillip Cornwall
Art directors Pablo Juncadella, Marc Catalt
Deputy art director Steve Salmon
Art editor Belinda Tighe
Graphics editor Michael Agar
Senior graphic artist Cath Levett
Picture editor Greg Whitmore
Deputy picture editor Jim Powell
Senior picture researcher Tony Bell
Researchers William Lee, Alex Gibbons
Advertising director Chris Pelekanou
Colour reproduction GMI, Imaging Dept

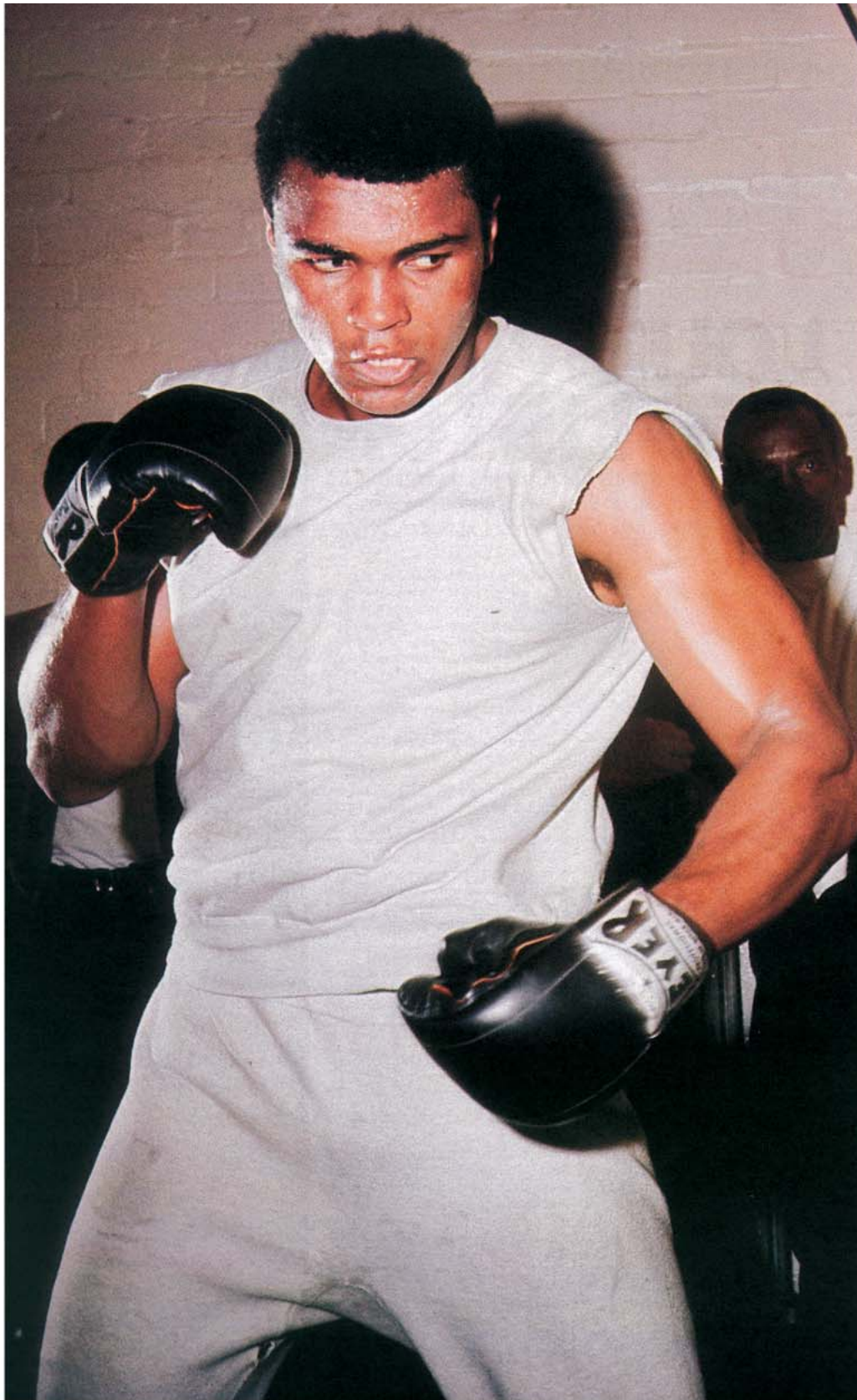
MUHAMMAD ALI: THE COLLECTORS' ISSUE

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY BOOKS ABOUT MUHAMMAD ALI. TOO MANY. NOW, AT LAST, HE HAS THE BOOK HE DESERVES

Ali attracted the best writers and photographers of his era - and they are all gathered together in *Ali: The Greatest of all Time*, a 800-page tribute to a fighter who, as the black tennis champion Arthur Ashe once said, 'helped give an entire people a belief in themselves and the will to make themselves better'. Over the next 30 pages, we publish exclusive extracts from this remarkable tribute to a fighter whose life embodied so much of the drama, tension and struggle of the twentieth century. There has never been anyone quite like him.

Portrait of a fighter as a young man: Ali in training, London, 1966
Photograph Corbis.

2003M November 2003



The history of *The Greatest of all Time* is the history of an obsession. To be published in January next year by Taschen, the book has been more than five years in the making, it cost £7 million to put together, it weighs 29kg (see above: the size of the book in relation to an apple) and includes 3,000 photographs. At more than 800 pages, it is destined to become a collector's item of extraordinary value, not least because the print run is limited to 10,000 copies. The first 1,000 copies, featuring original artwork by Jeff Koons, will cost £5,000; the remaining 9,000 copies, all signed by Ali himself, will cost £2,000.

Benedikt Taschen, the owner of Taschen, who is 42, recalls as a boy in Germany waking in the middle of the night to watch the great Ali fights of the 1970s. 'These were spectacular events,' he told me when we met at the Frankfurt Book Fair last month. 'Ali created a whole environment, an entire culture that made these spectacles possible. He is so much more than a sports star: to be interested in Ali is to be interested in the social and cultural history of the 1960s and 1970s.'

Taschen is a shrewd businessman, but will he make any money from this project, especially with such a limited print run? 'I expect to make some dollars,' he said, smiling. 'More importantly, I wanted to honour this great man by making an epic book, a book like no other.' That he has achieved.

Jason Cowley

WIN THE SPORTS BOOK OF THE DECADE!

We have one copy of this remarkable book to give away to an Observer reader. For your chance to win *Ali: The Greatest of All Time* (Taschen) read The Observer sport pages on Sunday November 9.

November 2003 OSM 21