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Portfolio

• Amusements

SECTION B

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TV TONIGHT

That Bandwagon Goes Rolling On

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They're saying that Muhammad Ali's refusal to talk to reporters was just a hype for his title defense tonight (his 20th) against Leon Spinks, but when you're picking up \$3.2 million to fight a man with only seven pro fights to his credit, it's a lot easier to think of questions than answers.

So what's CBS doing, televising it live (WTOP-9) from Las Vegas? Why, what every network is doing, getting on the primetime TV sports bandwagon.

There it is, somewhere during the three-hour boxing marathon that begins at 8, and the best fight of the night should be the prelim between Danny Lopez and David Kotey, for the featherweight crown. Leon's brother, light-heavyweight Michael, is also on the bill, for a 10-rounder with Tom Bethea. Brent Musberger and Tim Ryan serve as hosts, and on hand as analysts are Dr. Ferdi Pacheco, Angelo Dundee and Gil Clancy. Jack Whitaker will provide commentary.

The Ratings Game

Part 1 of the "King" miniseries last Sunday, boxed against two popular entertainments, was a ratings loser — a crashing disappointment to NBC, which is keeping a stiff upper lip about its last-place finish (64th). The rivals, Burt Reynolds' "Gator," finished eighth, Jim Arness' "How the West was Won," was 11th. ABC won last week, as usual, with a 22.1 to CBS's 20.7 and NBC's 17.4, and the top 10, in order, were "Happy Days," "Laverne and Shirley," "Three's Company," "Little House," "60 Minutes," "All in the Family," "Charlie's Angels," "Gator," "M*A*S*H" and "Rhoda." Note: viewers don't go for those "Trashsports" shows. "Challenge of the Sexes" finished 62nd, just ahead of the sinking "Police Woman."