

CAESARS PALACE MATCHES U.S. & RUSSIAN BOXING CHAMPS

The most magnetic rivalry in sports -- the United States against the Soviet Union -- will be resolved in the ring Saturday, October 25, at Caesars Palace when the boxing champions of these world powers meet for the first time in a precedent - setting home-and-home series.

This historic "first", which will take place in the resort hotel's 1,200-seat Circus Maximus, launches a major plank in building the U. S. boxing effort to-

ward the 1972 Olympics to an all-time peak, and marks the first head-to-head matches between these long-time rivals outside of the Olympic Games. And, in a unique switch, these boxing champions take over as main-eventers in the same showroom occupied by such headliners as Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Petula Clark, Eddie Fisher, Andy Williams, Harry Belafonte and Anthony Newley.

The competition is being held under the auspices of

the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States and will be televised live and in color on ABC-TV's "Wide World of Sports" from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. (PDT). There will be no sale of tickets and admission will be by invitation only.

A product of four years of delicate negotiations between the U. S. State Department and the Russian Foreign Office, the program will consist of eleven Championship matches in the Olympic weights. Each bout is three rounds duration.

Russia, which has been finishing ahead of the U. S. in the last few Olympics, is expected to put into the ring its strongest team ever. A youth revitalization program, which in Russia involves over 200,000 boxers, has resulted in almost the entire Soviet squad being made over since its strong showing at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

The Soviets won three championships and many silver and bronze medals at the recent European championships in Warsaw. In that tournament the Russian


trampled, among others, Italy's national team. The Italians edged the U. S. squad, 6-5, last Monday night in a dual match in New York's Madison Square Garden.

The Americans, however, also are making line-up changes in an effort to cope with the greater threat of the Russians. The U. S. coaches are gathering their fighting personnel early, re-evaluating them at a selected camp and insuring peak condition for what may be the greatest amateur boxing contest in fistic history.

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