

SPORTS



LARRY BONDS



KEVIN MORGAN

SAHARA

FIGHT

NIGHT

Kevin Morgan will defend his Nevada State Welterweight Championship Monday night at the Sahara Hotel in the "Sahara Fight Night" 12-round main event, but he risks losing more than the title.

The 23-year-old slugger stands to blow a shot at the United States welter weight championship. Morgan, who will be defending in the Sahara Hotel's Space Center against smooth-moving Larry Bonds of Denver, is scheduled to fight in the World Television Boxing Championship Tournament early next month in San Juan, P.R. — providing he doesn't lose before then.

The card starts at 8:30 p.m. Monday with the title bout beginning at approximately 10 p.m. Two 10-round preliminary fights are on the undercard—undefeated welterweight Bruce Curry (11-0 with 9 KOs) against Wayne Beale (14-1) and brawling lightweight Jorge "Kid Dinamita" Morales (11-1 with 10 KOs) against Mario Mendez (17-2-1).

Tickets are available at the Sahara Hotel's casino cage and will be at the door Monday night. This is the fourth card in the monthly programs presented by the Sahara Hotel and Tony Trudnich's Las Vegas Sports Promotions.

Morgan, who has a 17-3-1 record, captured the Nevada championship on June 1, 1975, by knocking out Las Vegas' Ezra Davis in the fourth round.

Bonds has a 20-1 record, is a slick boxer and, much to Morgan's concern, is left-handed. Morgan isn't at all hesitant to admit that he does not like to fight southpaws.

Morgan, who has stopped seven of his last eight opponents, first gained national recognition when he KOed Nick Ortiz, then the No. 3 welterweight in the world, in the second round on Sept. 19, 1975, in San Juan. He proved it was not a fluke by doing it again in their rematch on Nov. 3 in San Juan. This time hometown favorite Ortiz was KOed in the fourth round, much to the dismay of a packed Roberto Clemente Stadium, site of the recent George Foreman-Jimmy Young fight.

Morgan has made short work of his last two opponents. On Oct. 11 he stopped Ramon Serrano by knockout in the first round at San Juan and on Nov. 30 at the Sahara Hotel he KOed Jorge Ramirez at 2:43 of the second round.

Bonds, who is managed by Bobby Lewis, former trainer of Ron Lyle, will be making his first appearance in Las Vegas in nine months.

Bonds won all four of his fights last year. The two most impressive wins were over Julio Gomez and Antonio Leyva. His 10-round unanimous decision over Gomez on March 31 was the first loss for highly-touted youngster from Chile. Gomez recently lost a split decision to the No. 1 welterweight contender in the world Pete Ranzany in Ranzany's hometown. The other big win was on Feb. 11 when he stopped Antonio Leyva by TKO with 36 seconds gone in the seventh round. Leyva recently met Armando Muniz, who has fought for the world championship three times.

Morgan, however, has been TKOed by Gomez on a cut. Bonds has not lost in the past two years, 10 months.

The undercard features puncher Curry, from Los Angeles, against Beale, who has stopped former world champion Mando Ramos. Beale is from Los Angeles.

Free-swinging "Kid Dinamita", also from Los Angeles, has stopped his last seven opponents. He made Las Vegas sports fans take notice when he upset previously undefeated Billy Turner last fall. Mendez, one of the top prospects in Mexico, is originally from Mexico City but now fights out of Los Angeles.

This is the second straight "Sahara Fight Night" card that has presented a title bout. Last month,

Las Vegas Rocky Mosley beat Jimmy Jackson for the Nevada junior middleweight championship.

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