

SPORTS

SANFORD RICKS' CONTRACT PURCHASED



Chocolate City/Casablanca recording artist, CAMEO leader, Larry Blackmon recently purchased the welterweight, Sanford Ricks.

Ricks will be trained by Blackmon's father Lee Black. The young contender is pictured here working out to get into champion shape. L to R: Lee Black (holding the sand bag), Sanford Ricks (center) in sparring position and Cameo's leader, Larry Blackmon anxiously looking on.

World Jr. Welter Title Defense

Aaron Pryor Challenges

Antonio "Kid Pambele" Cervantes

The moment Cincinnatians have long waited for will come to pass on the afternoon of Saturday, August 2, when local favorite Aaron Pryor finally challenges for a world title. Pryor steps on the world stage when he battles Colombia's Antonio Cervantes for the world's Junior Welterweight championship at the Riverfront Coliseum.

Pryor steps up from the lightweight division to battle Cervantes. William Neal, Secretary of the Cincinnati Boxing Commission notified the WBA of Pryor's intentions to campaign as a Junior Welterweight and the championship fight was set. Thus, a world's championship fight will be held in Cincinnati for the first time in over twenty years.

Cervantes, the world champion, is a master boxer whose clever techniques are executed with a silky smoothness. The bout will pit his finesse and grace against the bruising power of Pryor, a deadly puncher.

Cincinnati's Tony Tubbs, a big hit in his first professional fight, returns to the fistic wars in a six-round heavyweight encounter against Raul Gorosito. Tubbs made his professional debut in the same ring on June 14, and knocked out Bruce Scott of Fort Worth.

The big boxing card begins at three p.m. The supporting card will soon be announced.

Tickets for the championship card will be \$30, \$20, \$15, and \$10. They will be on sale at the Coliseum and at all Ticketron locations in Cincinnati, Dayton, Hamilton, Columbus, Louisville, and Lexington.

Muhammad Ali Professional Sports is promoting the show.

"We promised the people of Cincinnati



that we would bring them a championship fight, and we've done just that," said Sammie Marshall.

"This community responded to our first show and made us feel at home. We will keep our word by promoting this championship show and other major boxing shows in Cincinnati. This is just the beginning of a great relationship," Marshall concluded.

Officials of the bouts, in addition to Marshall, are Norm Henry, matchmaker; Don Elbaum, producer, and Harold J. Smith, executive producer.

The bout will be shown nationally on CBS. The Cincinnati metropolitan area will be blacked out.

**BREAK THE HATE HABIT
UNDERSTAND
THY
NEIGHBOR
BLACK, WHITE or BROWN**

Cuevas vs Hearn's SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1980

When informed that Sugar Ray Leonard had said he'd like to fight the winner of his welterweight championship bout with Tommy "Hit Man" Hearn's, fight Roberto Duran again and then retire, champion Pipino Cuevas smiled, something he seldom does and his devilish eyes sparkled with delight.

"I'd gladly defend my title against Sugar Ray Leonard," Cuevas responded through his interpreter, Rafael Mendoza.

"We were ready to fight him before," Cuevas continued. "We didn't fight him because the conditions were not fair. But it will be different this time. After I defeat Hearn's, then Leonard can be next. Only I will be the champion and he will be just a challenger."

Pressed to predict the outcome of a confrontation between himself and Leonard, Cuevas hesitated and then said, "I'll knock him out. Duran hurt him a few times. I punch a lot harder than Duran. When I hit him, I'll knock him out."

He responded more readily when asked about fighting Duran. "I'll knock him cold quickly. But for now it is Hearn's that I am thinking about."

The champion then politely walked away with cold self assuredness. One could not fail to recognize that he believed in himself and had supreme confidence in the slashing power of his fists.



"If Sugar Ray Leonard wants to fight Roberto Duran again, he'd better fight him first," says Tommy "Hit Man" Hearn's, the undefeated Detroit bomber.

Hearn's remarks came when he was appraised of statements made by Leonard in Washington over the weekend. Leonard stated that he would like to fight the winner of Hearn's' bout with Pipino Cuevas for the WBA welterweight title in October or November; then fight Duran again and retire.

"I've got some advice for Sugar," said Hearn's. "You'd better fight Duran first, because if you fight me first, I'll end your career."

Hearn's predicts he will knock Cuevas out in their August 2, encounter at the Joe Louis Arena in his (Hearn's') native Detroit.

"After defeating Cuevas, I'll be ready to defend my crown against Leonard or any worthy welterweight in the world," Hearn's said. "Sugar Ray also said that if Duran moves up in weight, he'll move up too. That may be just another way of them both avoiding me."

Sammie Marshall, President of Muhammad Ali Professional Sports, promoters of the Hearn's-Cuevas fight, says, "We have said from the beginning that Hearn's-Cuevas is a better and a more exciting fight than Leonard-Duran. I think it highly probable that the winner will meet Leonard this fall, perhaps in the Pontiac Silverdome."