

SPORTS

Will Be Televised Nationally

'Friday Night' Fights At Caesars

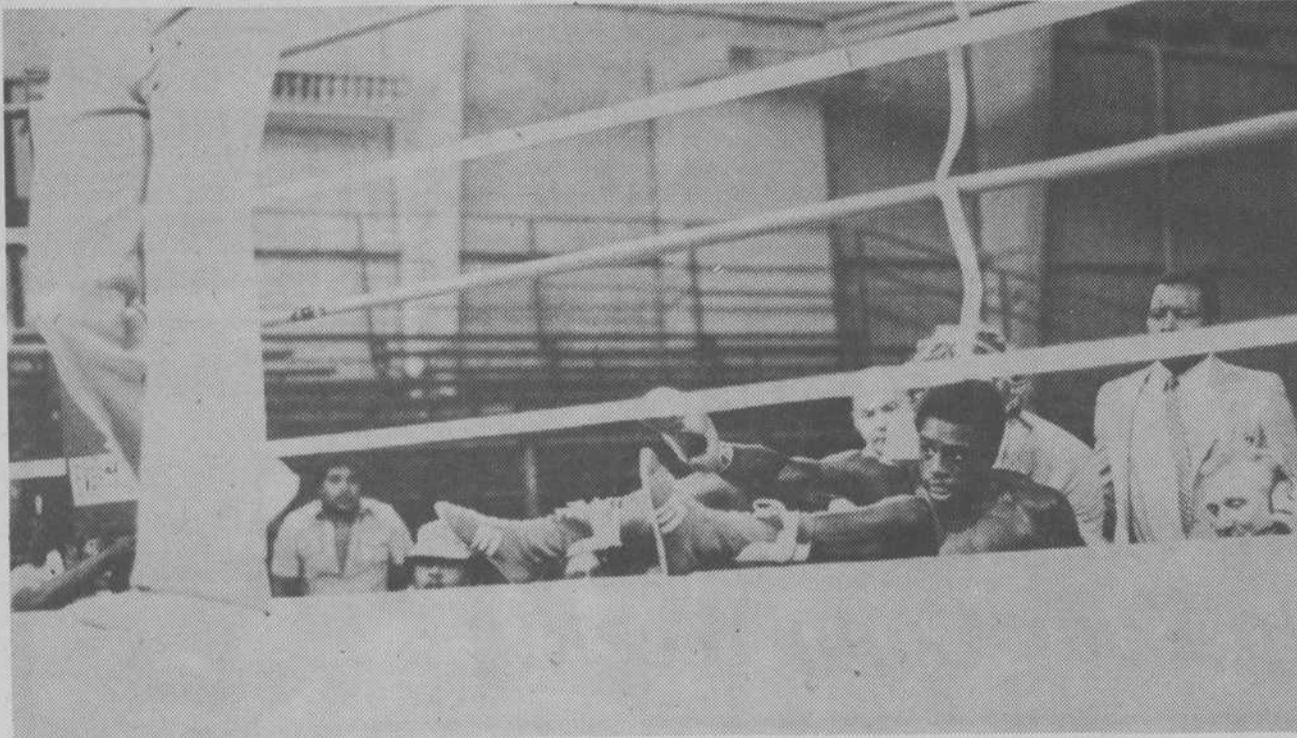


Photo by Linda Platt

McGrady Crawls Back To Win

McGrady's Stunning Comeback

By Ed Brown

Randy McGrady, promising middleweight, called this writer last Friday morning shortly after completing our regular morning sports broadcast on KVOV Radio, excitedly telling us how much they appreciated my report of his fight the previous night at Caesars Palace.

McGrady, 21, had found himself in an em-

barrassing situation in round four of his fight against Guy Kennedy during the Western Regional middleweight championship bout at the Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion. McGrady had been knocked out of the ring by Kennedy.

Scrambling to his feet, McGrady returned to the ring, shook himself a little and charged Kennedy with both fists firing. Ken-

nedy, in a neutral corner, bent over in pain and covered his face with both hands.

Referee Richard Green sent McGrady to the other neutral corner and turned to pick up the "count." He was administered a standing eight-count to Kennedy who refused to continue in the fight. He claimed he was thumbed causing temporary blindness.

McGrady's TKO win at 2:38 of the fourth round earned him the Inter-Regional middleweight boxing crown in the four-site tournament sponsored by Top Rank, Inc.

Both fighters received \$3,000 for the bout.

McGrady improved his record to 11-1 while Kennedy's undefeated string ended in his eighth professional bout.

The "Friday Night Fights" series returns to the national television screens Friday night from Caesars Palace when former World Boxing Council welterweight champion Wilfredo Benitez of Puerto Rico meets Tony Chiaverini of Shawnee, Kan., in a scheduled 10-round bout at the Sports Pavilion.

The bout will be only the second for the 21 year old Benitez since losing his WBC welterweight crown to Sugar Ray Leonard at Caesars Palace Nov. 30 when the referee stopped the fight in the final seconds of the 15-round championship bout.

Benitez' only fight since then was a 10-round decision over Johnny Turner at Madison Square Garden.

Chiaverini lost to Leonard at Caesars



BENITEZ

Palace last year (June 24) when the former Olympic champion was enroute to the welterweight title.

Three other 10-round bouts are also on Friday's card.

The Benitez-Chiaverini fight will be telecast by NBC starting at 7 p.m.

Hearns Prepares for Title Bout

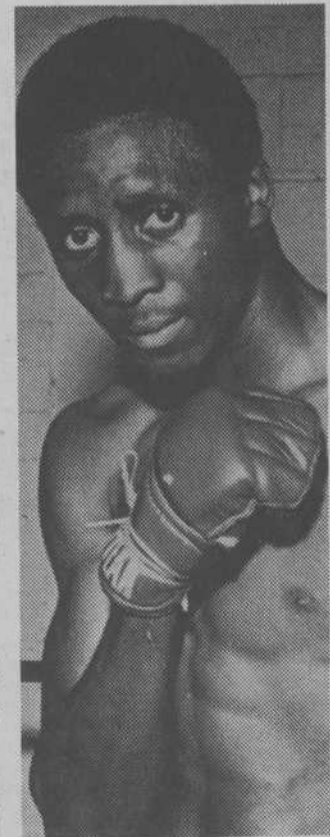
Thomas Hearns — alias the "Motor City Hit Man" or "Motor City Cobra" — has been working hard for this one big opportunity Saturday when he faces World Boxing Association champion Pipino Cuevas for the welterweight title.

"Hit Man" is a nickname Hearns disdains almost as much as he deserves. For a while, he had abandoned the name for "Motor City Cobra" but soon returned to the more popular "Hit Man" after fans pushed for the more deserving description.

On Saturday, the 21 year old Detroit native will climb into the ring in his hometown's Joe Louis Arena to fight Cuevas.

There will be no live television or radio but the fight will be carried on closed-circuit to most major cities in the free world, including Las Vegas' Caesars Palace.

Hearns is undefeated since turning pro in 1977,



HEARNS

recording 24 knockouts in 28 bouts and climbing to the No. 2 ranking in both the WBA and the World Boxing Council.

Just Who Is Doug Garner?

By Kermit Bayless

Doug Garner, a 26 year old, born in Roswell, New Mexico is now living in the Las Vegas, Nevada area.

Doug spent most of his childhood in Chicago, Ill. and in Los Angeles, Ca. Doug Garner was the only athlete in Southern Nevada that participated as a strong candidate for the 1980 Olympic trials in track and field.

At Chenshaw High School, Doug competed as an athlete on baseball and gymnastic teams. He

did not compete in track and field at all when he attended high school.

Doug, after three years, decided to go to college to further his education. Basketball wasn't really very much of his life style, but he did play a little. In 1977, Head Track Coach, Jim Santos, interested Doug into taking a track and field class. From this class, Coach Santos interested him enough to come out and try the long jump on the team.

Doug noticed John LeGrenande, the Division

II N.C.A.A. Champ, in the triple jump warming up. There was something about John that he admired. So later, he (Doug) entered the same event (the triple jump) but unfortunately, Doug damaged his cartilage on his third attempt in the triple jump and he was out for rest of the year. Cal State Univ. Hayward still went on to win the division II N.C.A.A. Championship. His first jump before the injury was an impressive 47 ft. 8 inches.

Joanne Dohollow worked with his injury the following year. Doug's complete season was in 1978 — He came away as the 1978 All American division II champ with a jump of 52ft. 11½ in. The following year after 1978, he repeated his second N.C.A.A. championship with a jump of 53ft. 5in. Doug explained that John Hayes, of Cal State also, pushed him all the way to be the division champion.

(See Doug, page 19)