SPORTS

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

Nov. 12, 1981

Wilfred Benitez Faces Carlos Santos At "Boat"

Wilfred Benitez, perhaps the best boxer in the sport today, defends for the first time his World Boxing Council junior middleweight championship Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino and Bowling Center against undefeated Carlos Santos.

The 15-round title bout, which will be televised nationally over HBO, is presented by Azteca Promotions, Inc., in association with the Showboat. Doors to the Showboat Sports Pavilion open at 5: p.m. with the first bout of the

card starting at 6. The Benitez-Santos championship fight begins at approximately 7:15.



Benitez

Benitez-Santos is the first of two world championship bouts to be

held at the Showboat in November. One week later, on Saturday, Nov. 21. Alexis Arguello defends his WBC lightweight title against Roberto Elizondo in a bout scheduled for 15 rounds.

This is the second time Benitez and Santos have attempted to battle at the 'Boat. The fight originally was set for Sept. 5, but was postponed after Santos developed a blister on the index finger of his left hand.

Benitez, who's only 23 years old, is one of just six persons to win

professional world championships in three different weight divisions: WBC junior welterweight, WBC welterweight and WBC junior middleweight.

The soft-spoken young man is a master-ful boxer, a true craftsman. He's slick and quick of foot and hand; he's a deadly counterpuncher, and he's superb defensively.

Born in The Bronx, N.Y., but now living in Puerto Rico, Benitez enters with an outstanding 41-1-1 record with 26 knockouts.

Sanos, also from Puerto Rico, is a southpaw with a 14-0 record and 10 knockouts. Like Benitez, he's not a devastating puncher, but he is an awkward opponent and could present problems for the champion.

Although it's only his first 154-pound defense, this is a must-win situation for Benitez if he's to take on, as scheduled, former lightweight and welterweight world champion Roberto Duran in a big-money junior middleweight title bout early next year.

Benitez won the junior middleweight championship on May 23 by destroying then finally stopping Maurice Hope in the 12 th round.

Benitez' captured his second world title on Jan. 14, 1979, by decisioning welterweight king Carlos Palomino.

On March 6, 1976, at the tender age of 17,

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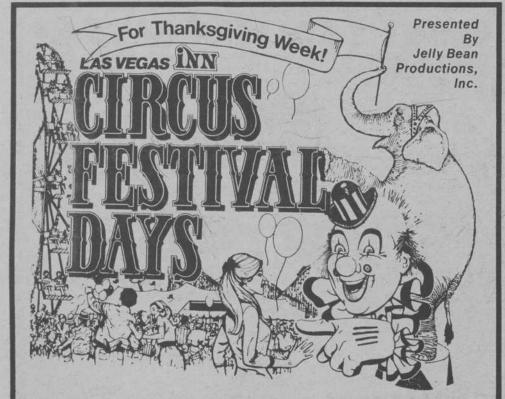
UNLV SUFFERS LOSS TO FRESNO

UNLV suffered through another dismal performance last Saturday in a 42-26 loss to Fresno State.



Michael Morton

While UNLV dropped to a season record of 4-5 and their third straight embarrassing loss, the See UNLV, Page 11



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