

SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

FEBRUARY 6, 1986



Cruz Starts World Title Quest At Showboat

Former national amateur champion Stevie Cruz, with realistic hope of fighting for the world featherweight title in 1986, begins his quest when he faces once world-ranked contender Jorge "Rocky" Garcia in the monthly ESPN professional boxing card main event Friday, Feb. 7, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino, Country Club and Bowling Center.

The 10-round bout is one of six fights on the card

promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank, Inc., in association with the Showboat. Also in a 10-rounder are lightweights Ernie Landeros and Victor Acosta. Undefeated heavyweight slugger Avery Rawls (7-0) appears in a six-round bout against Oscar Holman.

The card starts at 6 p.m. with doors to the Showboat Sports Pavilion opening at 5.

Tickets, priced at \$10 for general admission and \$15 for ringside reserved, are on

sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the Showboat Sports Pavilion Ticket Office.

The 22-year-old Cruz, the National Golden Gloves champion in 1981 at 119 pounds, has a professional record of 24-1 with 13 knockouts and is coming off

an impressive ninth-round knockout of highly regarded and popular Tommy Cordova Dec. 3 at the Showboat. Cruz also holds wins over Las

Vegan Dana Roster and Nicky Perez, who fought three-time world champion Wilfredo Gomez for the World Boxing Council super bantamweight title.

Cruz combines power with good boxing ability and fine ring savy, a trio which should get him world ranked with a win over the veteran Garcia. Cruz fights out of the same Fort Worth, Texas, stable as World welterweight champion Donald Curry and former World Boxing Association junior welterweight champ Gene Hatcher.

The 28-year-old Garcia, from Placentia, Calif., has a record of 27-6-2 with 14 knockouts. Those draws came in exciting 10- and 12-round bouts with Cordova in 1984 at the Showboat.

Top Nevada Amateur Boxers Take On San Diego-U.S. Navy Feb. 8

Mike Beasley, a 178-pound Las Vegan with international experience and both a Western regional and state championship in 1985, paces a squad of Nevada amateur boxers against a combined team from San Diego and the U.S. Navy in a dual meet Saturday, Feb. 8, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino, Country Club and Bowling Center.

This will be the first in a series of regularly scheduled dual meets this year between Nevada and other teams from the western United States. Nevada had a record of 4-3 in 1985.

More than one dozen bouts in the open, Junior Olympic and novice classes in various weight divisions are scheduled for the Showboat Sports Pavilion. The card starts at 2 p.m. with door opening at 1.

Tickets, all general admission, are priced at \$5 for adult and \$2.50 for those 14 years of age and under and are on sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the Showboat Sports Pavilion Ticket Office.

SPORTS ON PARADE

By B.J. RICHARD



Tennis Players Urged To Join

As the new head tennis professional of Center Court Racquet Club, I will extend the following program to all interested tennis players in Las Vegas. Plans are underway for the Junior High and Senior High Tennis Leagues. The event kicks off March 4. Deadline to enter is Feb. 14. Those eligible for the Junior High League are boys and girls in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades who did not play on a high school team in the fall of 1985. Participants must be able to rally, serve, and keep score. In the Senior High League boys and girls in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh and twelfth grades are eligible. Matches will be played on Tuesday and Thursday beginning March 4. Players will be given group instructions and placed on various teams.

The adult tennis players anxious to compete against other recreational players of similar ability levels, the USTA/Volvo Tennis League, can be the answer. This program is open to men and women, age 21 and over, from public to private facilities. You can sign up individually or as a team (a minimum of eight players of a similar ability level is a team.) Starting in April, each team will play other teams in their same level. Winners from Las Vegas will travel to Sun Valley, Idaho for the Sectional Championships, with the Nationals to be announced. Matches will be played on Saturdays. Deadline to enter is March 1. Sports fans you don't have to be Zina Garrison or John

McEnroe to participate. If you are interested give me a call today: BJ 735-8153.

Special programs are also underway at reasonable fees. Call for rates and time on Junior Clinics ages three years to 16; Women's Beginners Clinic; Women's Advance Clinics; Men's clinic and Drill Session; and Doubles Strategy.

Quote of the Year

Zina Garrison, age 21. Highest ranked black female tennis player in the nation. At present number six.

After beating and nearly beating the top one and two players of the world, respectively, Zina said, "I think the win over Chris Evert Lloyd helped me a lot. When you can go out and beat someone who's a legend, it makes you realize a lot of things. If an individual believes she can be number one, it doesn't matter whether she comes from a public park or country club. I am starting to believe I can be number one."

Local tennis tournaments for the February:

Feb. 12-16 — Sweetheart Mixed Doubles, Twin Lakes Racquet Club.

Feb. 25 - March 2 — Las Vegas Sugar Daddy, Center Court Racquet Club.

Valentine Candy-Making Workshop

The City of Las Vegas and the Mirabelli Community Center, located at 6200 Elton Avenue, will be hosting a Valentine's Candy-Making Workshop on Wednesday, February 12. Fee is \$10. Persons must register by February 10.

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