

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

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## Kacar-Czyz fight overshadowed

Michael Spinks is in the main event, officially at least, and Mike Tyson is providing a lot of the interest, but the best fight on Saturday night's card at the Las Vegas Hilton should be the Slobodan Kacar against Bobby Czyz.

With Spinks a lopsided choice over Steffen Tangstad and Tyson a heavy favorite over Alfonso Ratliff, the Kacar-Czyz matchup figures to be the most competitive fight on the program although it lacks the glamour of the other two bouts.

Kacar, a native of Yugoslavia, defends his International Boxing Federation light heavyweight championship against Czyz, of Wanaque, N.J., in a scheduled 15-rounder that will open Saturday's card at 4:55 p.m.

Kacar, of course, is little known in this country, but the fact that his manager-trainer is Angelo Dundee could tell something about Kacar despite his lack of prominence in the boxing world.

Dundee, who has trained seven world champions in addition to Kacar, has handled such former world champions as Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard, so Dundee isn't used to associating himself with slouches.

"I'm the reason he's a well-kept secret," Dundee says. "We haven't been

making a lot of noise about him."

For what he is lacking in marquee value in America, Kacar does have some credentials.

Kacar, who was born in Novisad, Yugoslavia, is undefeated as a professional with a 20-0 record since turning pro in 1983 under Dundee.

The 28-year-old Kacar captured the IBF version of the light heavyweight championship with a 15-round decision over veteran Eddie Mustafa Muhammad on Dec. 21 in Pessaro, Italy.

"Mustafa Muhammad fought the greatest fight in his life and it wasn't good enough to lick his kid," said the enthusiastic Dundee, who is never at a loss for words.

Before turning pro, Kacar was an international amateur standout, with a record of 244-17.

Kacar capped his amateur career with a gold medal in the light heavyweight division at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, which were boycotted by the United States.

Kacar's first four pro fights were in Europe before Dundee, who lived in Miami, brought him to Florida for his next four bouts.

Kacar said he spends little time in Yugoslavia because of his boxing career, except for occasional visits to see his parents.

## A Sketch of Mike Tyson

Seldom has a fighter burst upon the boxing scene in the manner of Mike Tyson. But he has, and the reason why is simple. Not only is he young and amazingly strong, plus he's undefeated and doing it all in the most prestigious and demanding division in the sport--the heavyweight ranks.

The 20-year-old from New York, currently living in Catskill, N.Y., has the tools to go all the way, and that's exactly what he wants--and soon. His goal is to become the youngest heavyweight world champion ever and he has a good chance to better the record held by Floyd Patterson, who won the title at age 21, just five weeks short of his 22nd birthday.

Ironically, both Patterson and Tyson were trained by the late Cus D'Amato. He shaped the powerful but raw Tyson and helped make him the devastating and most feared puncher in the sport today. Despite being a pro less than two years, Tyson's body attack already is legendary. And he has the

number to prove it.

He has a record of 26-0 with 24 knockouts, and 15 bouts have ended in the first round. At 5-11 3/4 and with a 71 inch reach, Tyson may not be the largest heavyweight of all time, but his 220 pounds are solid muscle. That translates into superb slugging ability.

Marvis Frazier, son of another former world heavyweight champion, Joe Frazier, discovered that on July 26 of this year, when he was knocked out in just 30 seconds of the first round. So did Jose Ribalta, Tyson's most recent victim. The 6-6 Cuban showed amazing determination and courage plus a tough chin, getting floored three times before the one-sided bout (Tyson won 24 of the 27 rounds which were scored) on Aug. 17 was stopp

The only persons to get the distance with Tyson were fighters who have fought for the world championship, James "Quick" Tillis, or were world ranked, Mitch Green.

Out of the ring Tyson is soft-spoken and enjoys raising pigeons.

## Frontier 500 Racing Fans Urged to be Safe by BLM

The 5th annual Frontier 500 Off-Road Vehicle race is scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m., Saturday morning, September 6, 1986. The entire race will be held south of Las Vegas and will be a 118 mile loop beginning and ending at the Start/Finish at Sloan, Nevada. The course follows previous buggy courses, sand washes, and powerline roads. It will begin through the small community of Sloan, and

proceed along the outskirts of Good springs and Sandy Valley. The BLM in cooperation with the High Desert Racing Association (HDRA) and the Frontier Hotel and Casino, has met with other governmental agencies and various interested publics to ensure that impacts the environment from the race are mitigated while stipulations provide for public safety and enjoyment.

HDRA race officials, Metro Search and Rescue Posse and BLM law enforcement rangers will be patrolling the restricted areas.

## Lizzie R. Hatcher, Esq.

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