

SPORTS BOARD

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OCTOBER 9, 1986



Cooper Defends Title Against Chavis Friday

World-ranked Bert Cooper of Philadelphia defends his North America Boxing Federation cruiserweight championship against Spencer Chavis of Detroit in the 12-round main event on the monthly ESPN card Friday, Oct 10, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino, Country Club and Bowling Center.

Cooper, from the stable run by former world heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, has a record of 12-1 with nine knockouts and is making his second defense of the NABF 195-pound crown he won in June when he beat Olympic gold medalist Henry Tillman.

Chavis, from the Kronk stable that includes World Boxing Council super welterweight champion Thomas Hearns and International Boxing Federation lightweight champ Jimmy Paul, has a record of 18-1 with 10 knockouts.

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 Friday at the Showboat Sports Pavilion Ticket Office.

Also on the card promoted by Bob Arum's Top Rank, Inc., in association with the Showboat, will be a 10-round junior middleweight bout featuring Lupe Aquino against Nathan Dryer. Four other bouts, one including Las Vegas bantamweight Joey Roach, are on the card assembled by matchmaker Mel Greb.

The 20-year-old Cooper, ranked No. 5 by both the WBC and the IBF, resembles Frazier in style. He's stocky at 5-foot-11-inches and is the aggressor, always coming forward, always unleashing barrages of punches.

Chavis, four inches taller than Cooper at 6-foot-3-inches, is coming off two impressive knockout wins.

Las Vegas Boxing Official Goes to South Africa... Curtis' trip stirs protests

By Royce Feour
Review-Journal

The president of the World Boxing Council, Nevada Athletic Commissioner Duane Ford and Las Vegas referee Richard Steele have strongly objected to Las Vegas boxing official Joey Curtis accepting an assignment to work a fight in South Africa last week.

Curtis, normally a referee, served as a judge for the World Boxing Association

junior lightweight championship fight between then champion Alfredo Payne, of Panama, and Brian Mitchell, of South Africa, in Sun City, Bophutswana, last week.

Jose Sulaiman, president of the WBC, sent a telegram to the Nevada commission expressing the WBC's protest to Curtis going to South Africa to work the fight.

"Joe Curtis has violated

the most sensitive area of the constitution of the WBC since 1975 which opposes any relation with the racial discrimination for its threat as one of the most disgusting acts of human behavior. Contrary to Mr. Curtis, we send our congratulations to Richard Steele for his rejection of such insulting assignment."

Steele said he turned down the same assignment Curtis later accepted.

"I would not accept the assignment. I could not accept the assignment," Steele said.

"My reasons were Congress and everyone else here in the U.S. I'm an American and I'm not going to go against my country (policies)," Steele said.

"Mainly because I'm black, too. I understand. I would feel awfully bad going to a place knowing how they feel about blacks, but



knowing I'm a top official and they allow me to come. No way I could work in that country whatsoever," Steele added.

Curtis defended his trip to South Africa, asking, "Where does it say in the WBC rules that Joey can't go to South Africa? What does apartheid have to do with me

"My attitude is I go wherever they tell me to go. What did it hurt anything as far as black-white?" Curtis said.



Review-Journal
MAN IN MIDDLE--Referee Joey Curtis has become the center of criticism regarding his trip to South Africa last week to judge a World Boxing Association championship fight. World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman sent a telegram of protest.

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