

NABF CHAMP SANTANA, WORLD-RANKED PEDROZA TOP BOXING SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 12

North American Boxing Federation welterweight champion Luis Santana and undefeated and world-ranked junior welterweight slugger Engels Pedroza highlight the regularly scheduled "Boxing at the Boat" professional card the night of Saturday, March 12, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino, Country Club and Bowling Center.

This month, for the first time in more than one year, the card will be held on a Saturday night. As usual, the card, promoted by the Showboat and assembled by matchmaker Mel Greb, starts at 7:30 p.m. Doors to the Showboat Sports Pavilion open at 6:30 p.m.

Santana faces one of his toughest tests against unbeaten "Destroyer" Royan Hammond in the 10-round junior middleweight main event.

Pedroza, ranked No. 10 by the World Boxing Association, meets Tyrone Cotton in the eight-round semi-main event.

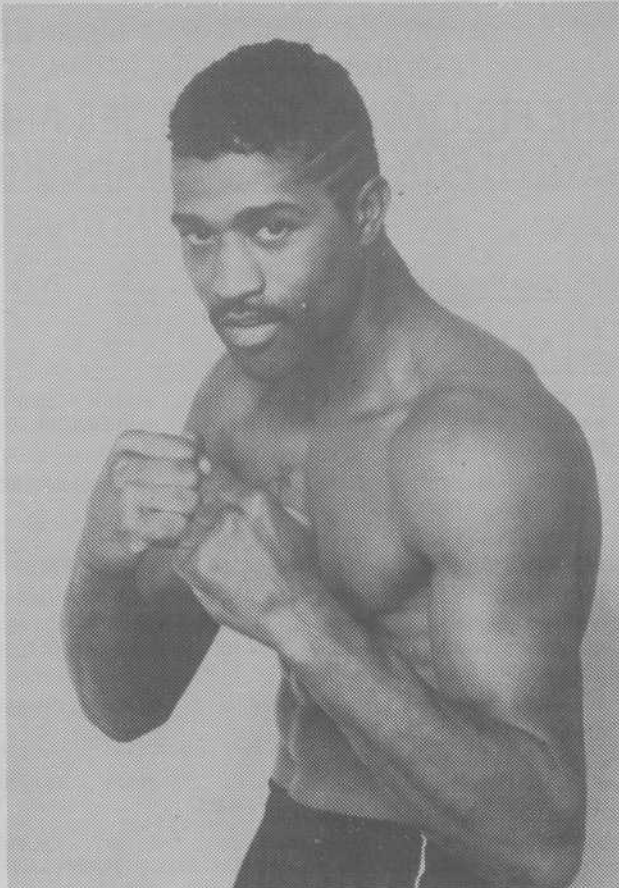
Also in action will be five Las Vegas: undefeated lightweight Tarpel Talhan against Lamart Baker in a six-round fight; unbeaten light heavyweight Terje Sveen against former amateur standout Michael Beasley, who's making his pro debut in a four-round bout; and middleweight John Turnstall against Francisco Diaz of Los Angeles in another four-rounder.

Tickets, priced at \$12 for general admission and \$20 for ringside reserved, are on sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at the Showboat Sports Pavilion Ticket Office. Tickets, of course, will be on sale up to and throughout the card Saturday, March 12.

Santana, from Hawthorne, Calif., has a record of 32-7-1 with 27 knockouts and is coming off two most convincing knockout wins. On Feb. 12 at the Showboat he halted Rod Starks in the second round and the fight before that, on Jan. 8, he captured the NABF 147-pound championship by stopping Shawn O'Sullivan, a medalist at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and current protege of Sugar Ray Leonard, in the 11th.

But he'll have trouble with the upset-minded Hammond. Hammond, a brick layer from Oakland, Calif., has a reach and height advantage plus a fine left. He also has a record of 15-0 with seven knockouts.

Hammond, a sparring partner for current WBA junior middleweight champion Mike



Hammond

McCallum and former world welterweight champ Lloyd Honeyghan, also has scored two straight knockouts, halting Charles Allen in the seventh round on Jan. 23 and Tyrone Jones in the first on Nov. 20. Both bouts were in Pleasanton, Calif.

The 21-year-old Pedroza,

originally from Venezuela but now living in Long Beach, Calif., has a record of 15-0 with 15 knockouts and is one of the most highly regarded prospects in the world. He has unusual height and reach for a 140-pounder as well as exceptional speed and devastating power with both hands.



STILL TAKING THE LEAD - The president of The Seven-Up Company, James Harford (left), is shown presenting a contribution to Wilma Rudolph (right) for her Foundation which motivates physical, moral and mental development of youth who have athletic aspiration. Ms. Rudolph was also one of the featured principals in Seven-Up's "Black Leaders and Legends" Poster. Dean Mitchell (center) of Kansas City, MO, was the young artist commissioned by Seven-Up to create this poster which is being distributed by the Seven-Up Company during Black History Month.



Santana

His most recent outing was on Nov. 25 when he stopped Mario Rodriguez in the second round. Cotton, from Dallas, lists a record of 8-2.

Talhan, with a record of 10-0, has won three fights at the Showboat, the most recent on Feb. 12 when he

halted Jerald McNeal in the fourth round. Baker last fought at the Showboat in October 1985, when he beat Takahi Okubo.

Sveen, originally from

Sweden, has a record of 3-0 and has won twice at the Showboat, the most recent on Feb. 12 when he beat Adrian Riggs.

Beasley is a four-time Nevada and two-time regional USA-Amateur Boxing Federation champion and three-time regional Golden Gloves champ.

Turnstall has a record of 0-1 while Diaz lists a mark of 2-4-2 with two straight wins.

PUBLISHERS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Left to right: Art Townsend, Obrie Smith.

The West Coast Black Publishers Association presented their annual Black History Month Luncheon at the Boys Club in San Bernadino, California. Art Townsend, president of the San Bernadino Precinct Reporter Newspaper and also President of the Publishers Association, served as Master of Ceremonies. John W. Mack, president of the Los Angeles Urban League and Maxine Waters, California Assemblywoman were the principal speakers. One of the highlights of the luncheon was the presentation of the plaque by Art Townsend to Obrie Smith, Director of Corporate Communications of the Miller Brewing Company. It stated, "Thank you for your generous contribution of time and service to the West Coast Black Publishers Association." West Coast Publishers attending the luncheon were: Dr. Carlton Goodlett, Su Reporter, San Francisco, Ca.; Joseph L. Coley, Bakersfield News Observer, Bakersfield, Ca.; Cloves Campbell, Sr., Arizona Informant, Phoenix, Az.; Bernie Foster, The Skanner, Portland, Or.; John Warren, San Diego Voice and View Point, San Diego, Ca.; and John Holoman, Herald Dispatch, Los Angeles, Ca.

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