

LAS VEGAS SENTINEL

Watch Us Grow

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSE RACING

December 8, 1988



## Rancho Rams Receive Proclamation

The championship Rancho High School football team was slated to receive a special proclamation at the December 7 meeting of the North Las Vegas City Council.

"We're proud of these fine athletes," said Mayor James Seastrand, "and we want the coaches and players of the Rancho High team to know how much we appreciate all the long hours of practice and dedication it takes to win the state championship."

The Rancho High School Rams won the State Class AAA Championship on November 19 at Nevada-Reno's Mackay Stadium, wresting the title away from three-year defending champions, Wooster High School, by a score of 25-13.

## WORLD-RANKED JOHNSON AND RELEFORD CLASH IN MAIN SATURDAY, DEC. 10, AT SHOWBOAT

Two world-ranked junior welterweight contenders—Mike Johnson of Ann Arbor, Mich., rated No. 4 by the World Boxing Association, and Vincent Releford of Fort Worth, Texas, ranked No. 9 by the WBA—collide in the 10-round main event on the monthly, nationally televised "Boxing at the Boat" card Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Showboat Hotel, Casino, Country Club and Bowling Center.

This is the first time in more than one year that two world-rated fighters will clash in a main event on the regularly scheduled "Boxing at the Boat" cards.

Johnson, a 22-year-old college student, has a record of 17-1-2 with 11 knockouts while the 25-year-old Releford has a mark of 14-2-1 with eight knockouts.

The card, which also includes four other bouts, two featuring undefeated Las Vegas, bantamweight Akeem Anifowoshe and lightweight David Cox, starts at 7 p.m. Doors to the Showboat Sports Pavilion open at 6.

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.

Johnson, a brawler, is coming off a win over Robert Guy, a stablemate of Releford's, on Oct. 8 at the Showboat.

However, Johnson is better known for and gained his world ranking from a ninth-round knockout of previously undefeated slugger Engles Pedroza on June

17 at the Showboat.

Johnson, whose lone loss came in 1986, also has two other knockout wins this year, both in Detroit, over Donald Payne in the first round on May 28 and over Billy Parks in the eighth on April 18.

Releford is from the Dave Gorman stable that has produced three world champions: current World Boxing Council super welterweight and former world welterweight Donald Curry, former WBA junior welterweight Gene Hatcher and former WBA bantamweight Steve Cruz.

Releford scored an impressive win on Jan. 19 in Fort Worth over contender Ronnie Shields, who twice has gone the distance in bouts for the

## Black Cowboy Places in 1988 Coors World Finals Rodeo

EL PASO, Texas — Gary Richards, a black bull rider from Sulphur Springs, Texas, placed 1st in the 2nd go-round with a score of 81 points while competing in the 1988 Coors World Finals Rodeo in El Paso, Texas, November 5-12. Richard's ride of 81 points was the highest score of the competition.

Shane Thurston of Farmington, New Mexico won the bull riding competition for the second year in a row. More than 700 contestants from the United States, Canada and Australia competed for more than \$250,000 in cash awards and prizes.

Richards' event, bull riding, is the most popular and dangerous in rodeo. To compete, a bull rider uses a flat-plaited rope with a handhold on top and a bell on the bottom, one glove and a pair of spurs. Disqualification comes when a cowboy touches the animal with the free hand or gets bucked off before the eight-second timer sounds.

With a 100-point maximum (half for the cowboy, half for the bull), a 70-point score is considered good. The cowboy is judged on control, style and spurring. The bull is judged on its power, kicking and twisting ability, and whether it changes direction.

The other two preliminary

at the Showboat.

Cox has a record of 3-0 and also is coming off a win at the Showboat, over Harold Miller on Nov. 19.

Anifowoshe will fight in an eight-round bout and Cox in a four-rounder against opponents to be determined by matchmaker Mel Greb.

The other two preliminary

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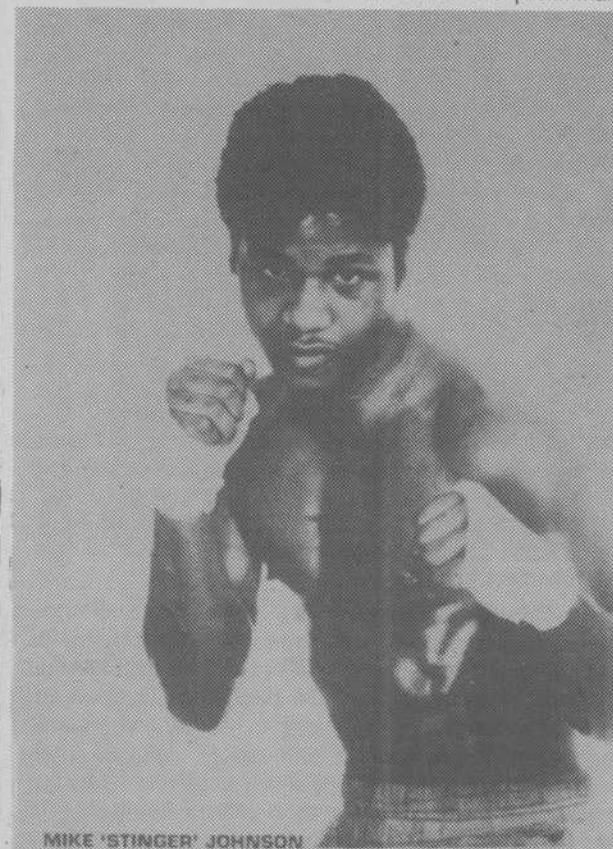
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Lunch - \$2.95

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MIKE 'STINGER' JOHNSON

WBC super lightweight championship.

Releford's first loss was to former International Boxing Federation junior welterweight champion James "Buddy" McGirt.

The 20-year-old Anifowoshe has a record of 11-0 with seven knockouts and is coming off a four-round knockout of Carlos Castro on Sept. 10

bouts feature undefeated junior middleweight Tony Robinson of Detroit, with a record of 4-0 and two knockouts, in a six-round right plus middleweight Harry Truman of Wichita, Kan., in a four-rounder. Opponents also will be determined.

The card will be nationally televised lived by the FNN/SCORE cable network.

## NORRIS VS. LITTLE AT CAESARS DEC. 9

San Diego super welterweight Terry Norris returns to Caesar's Palace, this time to take on rugged Steve Little of Reading, PA for the vacant North American Boxing Federation (NABF) 154-pound championship here at Caesars Palace on Friday, Dec. 9.

The six-bout fight card will also include Argentine super bantamweight Pedro Decima, 19-2, 14 KOs. Decima will take on former world champion Julian Solis, 38-8-1, 20 KOs, of Puerto Rico in a companion 10-round bout.

Norris, 18-2, 11 KOs, is rated No. 6 in the world by the International Boxing Federation (IFB) and is the younger brother of world-rated heavyweight contender Orlin Norris. The brothers grew up in Lubbock, Texas and moved to San Diego where they turned professional with manager Joe Sayatovich and his First Fighter Squadron, a stable of prize fighters who train in Capo, Calif.