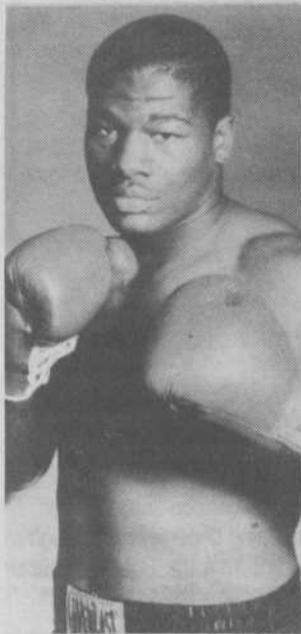


LAS VEGAS

Sentinel Voice Sports

DOUBLEHEADER AT MIRAGE FEATURES HEAVYWEIGHT ELIMINATION BOUT



RIDDICK BOWE

Undeclared heavyweight sensation Riddick Bowe, and Pernel "Sweetpea" Whitaker, whom many boxing experts call pound-for-pound the best fighter in the world, headline co-main

events at the Mirage on Saturday, July 18. Bowe will battle the WBA's No.1 heavyweight, Pierre Coetzer, in a 12-round elimination bout while Whitaker takes on IBF Junior Welterweight Champion Rafael Pineda in a 12-round title fight.

The winner of the Bowe-Coetzer matchup is next in line for a shot at Evander Holyfield's heavyweight title. The Brooklyn-born Bowe (30-0, 26 KO's) is ranked in the top three by all sanctioning bodies (#2 WBA, #3 WBC, #3 IBF). Coetzer (39-2, 27 KO'S), a native son of South Africa, in addition to his top ranking by the WBA is ranked second by the IBF.

There have been no shortcuts, no easy roads to success for Riddick Bowe. He has learned about life, in and out of the boxing ring, the hard way.

With 26 knockouts in his professional career, the 6'5" heavyweight from Brooklyn is

regarded as the most promising young talent in his division. Once satisfied to let his enormous talent and skill take him through the ranks, Bowe has learned the discipline and dedication that he believes will propel him to the world heavyweight championship in a possible fall showdown with Holyfield.

While training and working to become the heavyweight champion of the world, Bowe has a keen interest in having a positive impact on today's youth. He hopes to use his increasing visibility as a model for the many divergent groups in the inner-city who are at odds.

"My interest and message is simple," says Bowe. "Let's make our city as comfortable to live in as possible. The first step is for all Black, White, Hispanic and Asian people to treat each other with respect and kindness. Let's make a brighter future for all our

city kids."

Coetzer has not had an easy road to the top of the heavyweight rankings. In fact, the World Boxing Council (WBC) refuses to recognize the South African fighters because of that country's system of apartheid. That soon may change however since the South African government is taking steps to dismantle the system that Coetzer's manager/trainer, Alan Toweel, calls "dead."

By defeating Bowe, Coetzer will set himself for the opportunity that has eluded him for years - a shot at the world title. "I'm very confident about the fight with Bowe," explained Coetzer. "I have the credentials to beat him. He's a good fighter, a strong fighter, but I know there are things I can do to beat him."

Coetzer was the South African heavyweight champion from 1984 to 1990. He relinquished his title when he could no longer

find competitive matches.

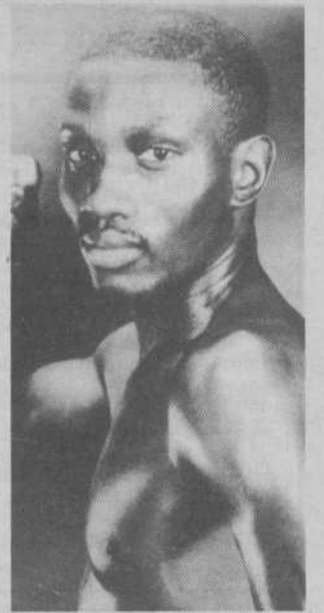
Whitaker (29-1), 14 KO's, from Norfolk, Virginia, made his junior welterweight debut in January with an impressive 10-round whitewash of veteran Harold Brazier. Whitaker was the undisputed lightweight champion but moved up in weight this year in search of stronger competition. Pineda (28-1), 26 KO's, from Barranquilla, Colombia, captured the IBF crown with a devastating eighth-round knockout over three-time world champion Roger Mayweather.

Named "Fighter of the Year" for 1989 by the Boxing Writers Association of America, as well as Ring Magazine, Whitaker, the "Lightweight of the '90's," got the decade off to a roaring start by becoming boxing's first undisputed lightweight champion since Roberto Duran accomplished the feat in 1978.

On August 11, 1990, Whitaker collected his third lightweight title with a spectacular first round KO of WBA Champion Juan Nazario in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. That particular victory put to rest any criticism of his punching power. The southpaw from Norfolk, VA, laid his claim to the mythical title of "Best Pound for Pound Fighter in the World" with his stunning first round destruction of Nazario.

Since the Nazario knockout, Whitaker has defended his unified crown three times. In February, 1991, Detroit's Anthony Jones received the usual Whitaker "paint job" in a near shutout. Whitaker returned to his hometown in July, 1991, to face undefeated Poli Diaz. By round five Whitaker gained control of the fight and coasted on the scorecards. On October 5, Whitaker defeated former featherweight champion Jorge Paez easily on points.

As much a showman as he is a superb athlete, Pernel Whitaker's playful ring antics are legend. In one bout he jumped in



PERNELL WHITAKER

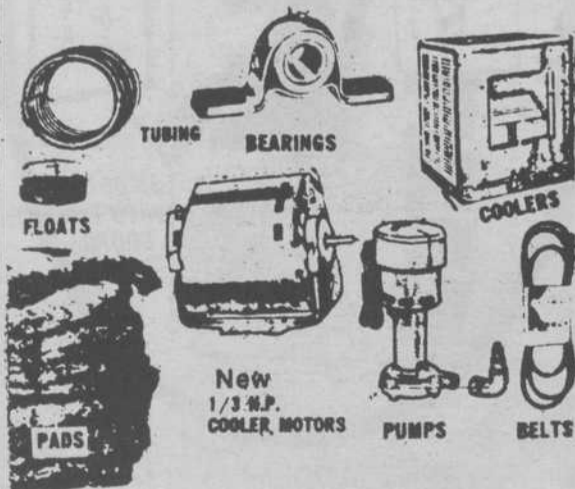
the air, spun completely around and hit Alfredo Layne squarely on the chin. In another, he pulled Roger Mayweather's trunks down around his knees en route to winning the NABF lightweight title. Most of all, Whitaker likes to "disappear," a patented move of his (with tribute to Willie Pep) in which he slips a punch, dips down, steps around and somehow ends up tapping his opponent on the back.

Colombian powerhouse Pineda is one of boxing's fastest rising stars. On Dec. 7, 1991 in a stunning eighth-round knockout of the #2 rated contender Roger Mayweather, Pineda put up the "no vacancy" sign when he filled the vacant IBF World Junior Welterweight Champion position.

Pineda turned pro April 30, 1986 with a fifth-round knockout of Jose Cassiani. Taking the lightweight division by storm, he won his first 20 bouts. Rafael's first 12 opponents were either knocked out or TKO'd.

This spectacular double-header is being promoted by Main Events/Monitor Productions in Association with the Mirage. The bouts will be televised by HBO. Tickets are priced at \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$200.

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