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NORRIS AND WILLIAMS TO MEET FOR REMATCH IN "CRUISER, THUNDER & LIGHTNING" AT MIRAGE

Sentinel-Voice

In what ended up as a controversial win, back on March 4, WBA cruiserweight champion Orlin Norris (40-3, 22 KO's) narrowly retained his title with a 12-round split decision over "King" Arthur Williams (21-2-1, 16 KO's). Many believe that Williams won the fight, which was Norris' first defense of the title. An infuriated Williams will get another shot at Norris this Saturday when the two clash in the main bout of "Cruiser, Thunder & Lightning."

Norris established himself in the heavyweight division after turning professional in 1986. It took only 15 fights (14 wins) to capture the North American Federation heavyweight title in 1987 when he won a 12-round decision over Larry Alexander. Including wins over heavyweight contenders Greg Page and Renaldo Snipes, Norris held the title for more than two years. In 1990, Norris evolved as a highly-ranked heavyweight and was in line for a title shot against then-champion Mike Tyson. His chance to get on top of the sport was stymied when Bert Cooper knocked him out in the eighth round, losing his NABF belt as well as a title shot.

Norris eventually regained his NABF title, winning seven straight bouts, the last one being a first-round knockout over Lionel Washington. That reign ended up being short-lived, as one month later he lost the belt to Tony Tucker.

After the Tucker fight, Norris trimmed down to meet cruiserweight requirements and eventually defeated Jesse Shalby by technical win to capture the vacant NABF cruiserweight title. Norris has won nine consecutive bouts since then, including a 1993 whipping of Marcelo Figueroa for the WBA's version of the crown. Now he is hoping that he'll escape the rematch of the clash many think he's already lost, just three months ago.

Williams is now determined to take the title without having to go to the judges scorecards avenging one of only two losses in his professional career. His ability to overpower his opponents from the opening bell has been evident, as Williams has had seven victories come by way of first-round knockout.

Besides his first meeting with Norris, Williams' toughest challenge probably came when he faced Sim Warrior last July, here in Las Vegas. Apparently, Wil-



ORLIN NORRIS-San Diego, CA — The World Boxing Association cruiserweight champion with a record of 40-2 and knockouts, who'll defend his title against Arthur Williams of Las Vegas in a 12-round bout. Saturday July 2, at the Mirage.



ARTHUR WILLIAMS-Las Vegas, NV — The No. 1 challenger with a record of 21-2-1 and 16 knockouts, who'll challenge champion Orlin Norris for the World Boxing Association cruiserweight title in a 12-round bout Saturday July 2, at the Mirage.

liams had been experiencing personal problems and charged his poor preparation was the reason he experienced his first professional defeat - a third round KO to Warrior.

This Saturday will prove whether Williams is King when it comes to rematches; "King" Arthur devoured Warrior two

months after their first meeting - a second round TKO.

Also on the card, WBA junior featherweight champion Wilfredo Vasquez (39-6-3, 31 KO's) puts his belt on the line, for the seventh time since winning it in 1992, against the undefeated WBA number one contender Jae-Won Choi (18-0, 8 KO's).

Saturday will be Choi's first ring appearance in North America.

In addition, there will be four heavyweight attractions, including #2 WBC contender Tony Tucker (50-2, 40 KO's) and #4 WBA contender Donovan "Razor" Ruddock (28-4-1, 20 KO's). Tucker will meet Cecil Coffee (28-5-2, 25 KO's) while Ruddock

will square off against Olian Alexander (24-4, 18 KO's).

The IBF and WBA's #3 contender Bruce Seldon (29-3, 25 KO's) will take on Tui Toia (12-4, 9 KO's) and undefeated #5 WBA contender Francois Botha (30-0, 17 KO's) will put his unbeaten mark on the line against Phil Scott (13-3, 9 KO's).

Clark County School Board Reinstates Middle Level Basketball for Fall

Sentinel-Voice

This past Tuesday evening, Clark County school trustees decided to reinstate boys and girls basketball at the middle level, beginning this Fall. Close to \$141,000 will be spent on bringing back an after-school program that has been absent for more than a decade. In 1982, school administrators decided to abort the programs to cut costs, an action which eliminated a full school-year of sports.

At the March 22, 1994 board meeting, the board agreed to begin planning activities related to the reinstatement of one or more sports in the middle level

schools. This past Tuesday evening, it was recommended that one team of boys, made up of 6th, 7th and 8th graders, and one team of girls, made up of 6th, 7th and 8th graders at an approximate cost of \$92,180, and coaches salaries of \$48,620 begin in the 94-95 school year.

"Our school board and superintendent have demonstrated their commitment to the education and complete development of our students by taking this action," Director of Public Information Ray Willis said. "The reinstatement of middle school basketball for 6th, 7th and 8th

grade students will motivate many young people to want to stay in school."


Members of the committee that recommended the reinstatement of basketball at the middle level, outlined a number of positive aspects related to the implementation, including: the opportunity for a large number of students to be involved with an after-school activity; As well as the students, it'll increase staff involvement in after-school programs: While increasing the facility use at the middle schools, support groups can be formed; Guidelines will provide students with an eligibility goal and gov-


ern behavior and self-discipline; With an increased interest from parents and more cooperation, improved attendance and academic achievement may be a result.


"This action will promote school spirit, student involvement, and in general make our middle schools a better environment for learning," added Willis.


According to Dick Paulin, Director of Activities and Athletics, Board member Jose Solorio made a motion to solicit public funds in a 30-day period. What ever wasn't received from the public sector, the CCSD will make up the difference.


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