

# De La Hoya, Trinidad nearing title match

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Sept. 18 fight between unbeaten welterweight champions Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad might happen after all.

Rival promoters Bob Arum and Don King exchanged new proposals for the 147-pound showdown, and Arum was encouraged enough to move back a deadline for Trinidad to sign for the bout.

"It appears to me that we're getting close," Arum said. "It's not there yet, but it is moving sufficiently that we may get an agreement."

Arum had given Trinidad, who is promoted by King, until last Wednesday to accept a \$10 million offer for the fight. But, after getting a counteroffer from King for \$11 million, Arum extended the deadline.

Arum said he was sending King a new offer which makes some concessions on the points King raised in his counteroffer.

"Basically, the only issue is money," Arum said. "We've made a compromise. Hopefully it will get done."

King spokesman Greg Fritz said the promoter wants a deal.

"He has said all along he wants the fight to be made for Sept. 18," Fritz said.

De La Hoya would make from \$12 million to \$15 million for the fight, which would be televised on pay-per-view. He suggested last week that Trinidad didn't really want to fight him and was using the money dispute to get out of the bout.

"It is too much money for him, but we're giving it to him," De La Hoya said. "If I were Trinidad I would sign that contract because he's never going to get another offer like this."

Trinidad's father, Felix Trinidad Sr., said Tuesday in Puerto Rico that his son would not fight for less than \$12 million.

Trinidad said of the original \$10 million offer, King would pocket \$2 million.

"They want an excuse to not have to fight and so they are trying to make me the guilty party," the father said.

Talks over the fight have overshadowed title defenses by both fighters.

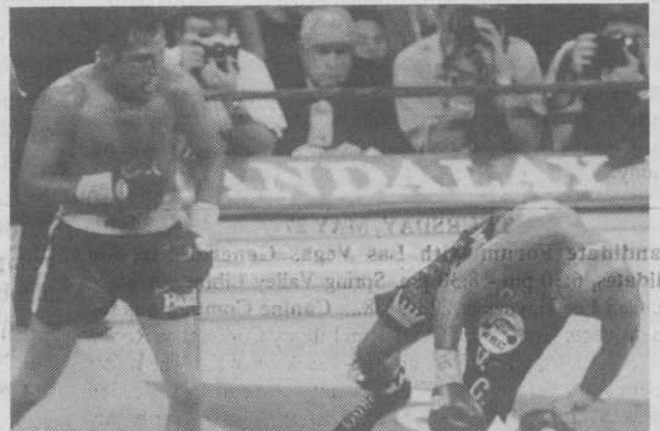
On Saturday night Trinidad fights this week, defending his IBF 147-pound title against Hugo Pineda.

Both fighters are big punchers in their prime and both are looking to move up to 154 pounds, making the Sept. 18 date perhaps the last time they could meet at the

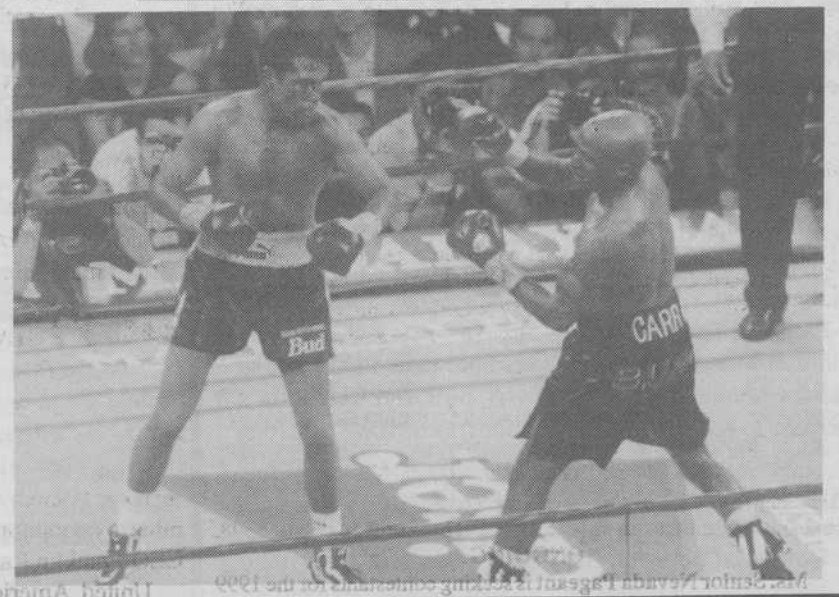


## KNOCK OBA

WBC Welterweight champ Oscar De La Hoya gets a victory ride on the shoulders of a trainer after an 11th round technical knock out of Obe Carr on Saturday at the Mandalay Bay. (bottom) De La Hoya peppers Carr with punches to set him up for the knockout.



Photos courtesy of Jonathan Olsen of Front Row Photos



welterweight limit.

Trinidad is 34-0 with 29 knockouts while De La Hoya is 30-0 with 24 knockouts.

## Peace

(Continued from Page 15) August, while Kabila has military support from Chad, Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia.

According to Kabila, a team of Libyan and Eritrean observers was expected within the next two weeks to see where the Ugandan troops were stationed.

Rebel leaders, however, have expressed skepticism about the Libyan-brokered proposals, saying no agreement was possible without their participation.

After eight months of fighting, Congo's rebels have swept through the eastern half of the country and now control a third of the country.

They accuse Kabila of mismanagement, corruption and warmongering.

Cease-fire talks sponsored by Zambian President Frederick Chiluba collapsed in Lusaka last week when the rebels walked out, saying the government was not talking seriously.

The rebels said they will attend talks in Rome on April 30 sponsored by the lay

Roman Catholic Sant'Egidio Community to discuss the future of Congo.

But rebel leaders said they

would attend only if both sides of the conflict are represented and if Kabila releases political prisoners.

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