

Taylor-Hopkins rematch delayed

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Any rematch between new undisputed middleweight champion Jermain Taylor and Bernard Hopkins will have to wait until at least December. Taylor's promoter, Lou DiBella, said the deep cut Taylor sustained from a head-butt in the fifth round of Saturday's bout will prevent him from any contact drills for 45 days. Also, Hopkins' attorney appealed the split decision to the Nevada Athletic Commission on Wednesday. The five commissioners will review the appeal, although commission director Marc Ratner said, "Historically, in any sport, judgment calls are just that."

One judge scored the fight 116-112 Hopkins, while the other two scored 115-113 for Taylor.

By contract, Hopkins has the right to force a rematch, but this time, Taylor has the four belts and the fight will be promoted equally by DiBella Entertainment Inc. and Hopkins' Golden Boy

Promotions Inc.

"We are in charge now; we are the sheriff, and there will be no October fight," DiBella said during a conference call Wednesday. "Jermain has been suspended 45 days because of the cut that went down to his scalp, and that means no contact. The earliest we can do it is December."

Richard Schaefer, chief executive officer of Golden Boy, said he hasn't had a chance to discuss the development with Hopkins yet.

"October 1 is the date HBO is holding for Bernard Hopkins, and since Jermain Taylor can't fight till December because of his injury, we will have to discuss this with Mr. Hopkins," Schaefer told The Associated Press.

It was initially believed that Taylor sustained a concussion from the blow, which drew blood just above his hairline for the final seven rounds of the 12-round fight. But DiBella said Wednesday that a Little Rock doctor checked Taylor and doubts the fighter sustained a full

concussion.

The site of any rematch is up in the air.

In addition to a repeat performance in Las Vegas, DiBella said possibilities included: New York's Madison Square Garden; a casino arena in Biloxi, Miss.; or the FedEx Forum in Memphis, Tenn.

When confronted with the possibility that Hopkins could choose not to fight a rematch, Taylor said: "To tell you the truth, I haven't even thought about that. I pray to God he wants a rematch. I'll be much more relaxed."

If Hopkins declines a rematch, Taylor would seek "the biggest fight possible, maybe Howard Eastman, Felix Sturm and further down the road, Winky Wright," DiBella said.

Taylor was defensive about whether he truly deserved Saturday's decision, but he and DiBella emphasized that he won despite a substandard performance.

Fight

(Continued from Page 1)

"Bernard came on strong in the final rounds, but I energized myself in the last round, and I think I won it," Taylor said after the fight. "I got the energy from somewhere," he added.

"I started to pick it up after the fifth round," Hopkins said. "In round seven or eight he was out on his feet. I realized that he was open for a right hand early in the fight. So I waited until I was able to take advantage of that opening."

According to the Compubox statistics, the dethroned champion Hopkins landed 56 punches to Taylor's 23 over the last four rounds.

Overall, Hopkins landed 96 punches to Taylor's 86 (27 percent to 19 percent) and 78 power punches to Taylor's 50. Hopkins landed 36 percent power punches to Taylor's 26 including the right hands that he bounced off the new champion's head often in the last four rounds.

Taylor said he was not hurt by Hopkins at any time but he appeared to be during the last stanzas. Taylor said after each round he lost to Hopkins, he became more apprehensive about the outcome.

"He waited and he waited then he came on strong," Taylor said. "I wasted a lot of energy unnecessarily," he said. "I won't do that in the rematch. I learned quite a bit in this fight and I will be able to use it in the rematch. He wasn't a hard puncher. He was an accurate puncher."

Hopkins, whose record now goes to 46-3-1 (32 knock-outs), said he is not only going to win the rematch, he will knock Taylor out.

He will be 41 on January 15, 2006, and he wants to include the rematch with Taylor in the final two fights that will conclude his outstanding Hall of Fame career. Hopkins had promised his late mother that he would not fight after reaching 40-years-old.

He wears a picture of her around his neck when he is not in the ring, and he intends to keep his promise as close as possible.

The next time he and Taylor meet, Hopkins said he will start to do his damage earlier in the match. Both fighters have predicted victories, so their fans can look forward to another outstanding fight later in the year.

"Philadelphia was in the house," Hopkins said. So were about 4,000 Arkansans rooting for their first world champion in boxing, Jermain Taylor, the new undisputed middleweight champion.

Sports Pace

(Continued from Page 16)

have any idea about what it takes to be a boxer. The fighters have a lot of heart and aren't about to cheat the customers if they can help it.

In football, basketball, and baseball, the managers send in the substitutes when the team gets ahead and the game is about to end. In some games, the fans actually cheer when the subs take the field or the floor.

If the scores aren't posted after each round, perhaps they can be given half way through the fight and the fighters can make some adjustments if they are behind.

Some amateur bouts post the scores, and each judge has to push a button to acknowledge a legitimate punch. The amateurs aren't crying about the change.

There are some who think a change will never come to the scoring, but who knows. Bernard Hopkins almost refused to fight a few years ago when he found out referee

Joe Cortez had been assigned the bout. He threatened to go back to Philadelphia. The situation was taken care of and he fought.

Before the rematch, Hopkins implied that Duane Ford, the judge who gave the 12th round to Taylor, might not be welcome to judge the fight in October.

The system still needs some changes, just like football and basketball that are getting more officials for each game.

Notable changes in boxing have ranged from regulations regarding the wrapping the hands, the length of trunks, inspectors in corners, the sizes of gloves, name or advertisements on trunks, and even tattoos on the boxers' bodies, and the boxers' shoes.

There are camera operators in corners and a separate camera on the ring post in a neutral corner. What's next? Scores posted for all to see.

Place your bets.

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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BID NO. 001-06

PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION OF CLUB RIDER NEWSLETTER

This Invitation for Bids (IFB) is being issued to award an annual requirements contract for the printing and distribution of the monthly newsletter, "Club Rider" for the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC).

Invitation for Bid (IFB) No. 001-06 will be available beginning July 26, 2005 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Regional Transportation Commission's Administrative Building second floor reception desk. Requests for IFB packages may be submitted via facsimile at (702) 676-1588 via e-mail at www.colemand@rtcnsnv.com, and should be directed to the attention of Debra Coleman, Purchasing Analyst.

Bids must be received on or before, August 26, 2005. Bids must be time stamped no later than 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST), on the due date. Bids time stamped at 3:01 p.m. or after on the due date will be returned unopened. A public opening will be held at 3:05, immediately following the bid closing. Bids must be sent to: Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Attention: Debra Coleman, C.P.M., Purchasing Analyst, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89106.

The successful bidder shall cooperate with the RTC in meeting its commitments and objectives with regard to ensuring non-discrimination in the award and administration of U.S. DOT assisted contracts and shall use its best efforts to ensure that barriers to participation of DBEs do not exist.

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Salary: Civ Engr \$68,633-\$85,791 yr, DOQ; Civ Engr, PE \$72,062 - \$90,078 yr, DOQ; Asst Civ Eng \$59,284 yr, DOQ, + xlnt bnfts pkg. Filing deadline Open until Filled.

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• HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST (RECRUITMENT & CLASSIFICATION)

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• DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN

Assist in dvlpmnt, implementation, & maint of records retention coding, receipt, acceptance, scan, image qual chk, storage disposition & archival of very high vol of records. Other critical duties incl performing database retrievals & conducting database & procedure training. Req's grad HS or GED equiv; & 3 yrs increasingly resp admin exp involving dvlpmnt & maint of detailed & complex records & documents, of which 1 yr involved exp indexing & maintaining filing structures for documents, records & agreements; or equiv combo T&E. Must have records mgmt background to incl knlg of records retention & disposition scheduling, database record indexing, digital scanning, & digital storage & retrieval.

Salary: \$20.65 hr, + xlnt bnfts pks. Filing Deadline: 8am Wed 7/27/05.

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Faxes and resumes will not be accepted in lieu of the required application package.

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