

# Mosley-Vargas focused on rematch

By Huel Washington  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Amid Wimbledon's excitement and the Italian's joy over the World Cup win, "Sugar" Shane Mosley and "Ferocious" Fernando Vargas, have been waiting in the publicity wings to remind boxing fans that next weekend they will be out to prove who really won their last pugilistic meeting in February at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

The two California boxers — Mosley from Pomona and Vargas from Oxnard — keep the gloves off all week before lacing them again at the MGM Grand Arena Saturday in what could easily be Fight Town's match of the year, if they come anywhere near their first encounter that went almost ten rounds before referee Joe Cortez declared Mosley the winner at 1:22 of the round 10.

Vargas, who had wagered Mosley \$100,000 that he would knock him out, was furious over Cortez's action prompted by a swollen left eye that kept blocking Vargas' vision as the fight progressed.

A two-time world junior middleweight champion, Vargas was sure he was winning the fight and was ahead on one judge's card, 86-85, and said he could have still won with only one eye.

Mosley, ahead on two cards, 86-85, replied that the orbit which started to swell in the second round, was the major destination of his punches with over two rounds to go and knew a



## SPORTS PACE

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stoppage was near when Nevada Athletic Commission Executive Director Marc Ratner, Joe Cortez and Dr. Tony Alamo met at the conclusion of the ninth round.

Vargas said a butt caused the swollen eye, while Mosley said one of his 147 punches out of 498 thrown was the culprit that did the damage.

Mosley, who is back training with his father, Jack, had a pretty good idea about when the swelling began. Afterward, he said that during each round, his new partners in Golden Boy Boxing Promotions, Oscar De La Hoya and Bernard Hopkins, at ringside kept yelling, "The eye, the eye."

Although Vargas only threw 429 punches, he connected with 139 and 341 of them were power punches. He was trying to stop his opponent with big shots, connecting with only 25 jabs to Mosley's 195 jabs thrown.

Both fighters have already declared themselves the winner this week in talking to the media, and they have put up the \$100,000 that goes to the one who wins by knockout.

Mosley said, "There's no way Vargas can win this fight. He's taking this rematch because of the money he will get for fighting me the second time. He can't win."

Mosley said he has Vargas' strategy all figured out. He said since Vargas is actually the heavier of the two, although they will weigh in as junior middleweights (154 lbs), he will try to push his opponent around in the clinches.

He said Vargas tried to

bully him before but that didn't work — and he doesn't think that plan will work this time either. Mosley also said Vargas' punch is more of a push than an actual striking blow.

"He doesn't really hit hard, and I can take his punches pretty well," Mosley stated.

Vargas, born on December 7, 1977, enters the fray with a record of 26 wins, three defeats and 22 knockouts, while Mosley, born on September 7, 1971, has a professional record of 42-4-(35

KOs) and one no contest.

Each man had a stellar amateur career before turning professional, and they are both former members of the United States Olympic boxing team: Mosley in 1992 and Vargas in 1996. Mosley, who started boxing when he was eight years old, had over 250 bouts as an amateur and an Olympian.

Following their grand arrival at the MGM Grand Arena this week, an outstanding bout is anticipated.

But after the gloves are laced on, sometimes some

strange things occur.

In recent months, there have been some very strange occurrences in the squared circle; so, talk is cheap and no action sometimes even cheaper.

Will the rematch be a mismatch with Mosley having his way with pushing Vargas, or will the Oxnard wonder take back his \$100,000 he paid out last time?

Sports Pace doesn't have a winner in mind but predicts the fight will not go the full 12 rounds if it matches the original "Showdown."

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### MONEY MEN

Carmelo Anthony, left, of the Denver Nuggets and Cleveland Cavaliers LeBron James both signed multi-year, multimillion dollar contracts that will keep them with their NBA teams through at least the 2009-2010 season. Anthony and James led their squads to the playoffs this year. Anthony's \$80 million contract lasts four years; James' three-year deal is worth \$60 million.

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