

Motorcycle crash takes Corrales

LAS VEGAS — On the edge was the only way former world champion boxer Diego "Chico" Corrales wanted to live, and he did so until the end of his life. Friends and family say they were not surprised by the sudden death of the young boxer who passed away this week after a high-

speed motorcycle wreck. The accident occurred on the streets of Las Vegas where Corrales who is originally from Sacramento California called home. He had recently purchased a new motorcycle and was trying to pass a car at a high speed down a residential street. According to the police who

responded to the accident call, he rammed into the back of another stopped car and was thrown from the bike. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

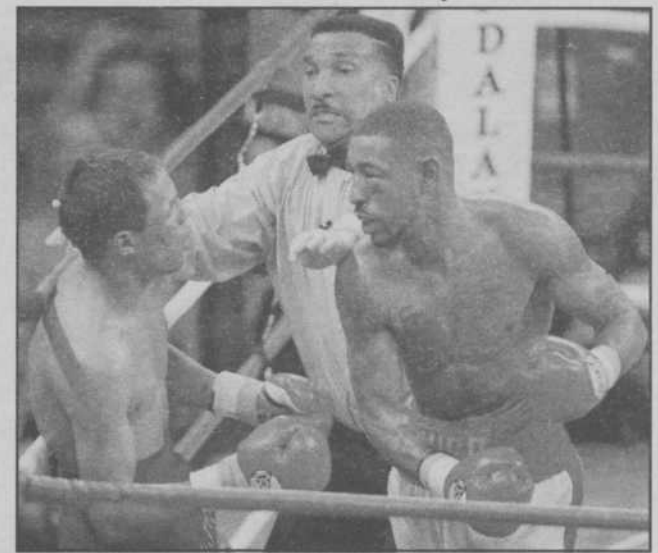
Although it did not appear that the 29 year old had been drinking or doing drugs, it will take a few weeks before a full toxicology is available.

Corrales' former trainer, Joe Goossen told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "I think anyone who knew him well knew he was a real thrill-seeker."

Corrales' career included 40 wins and only 5 losses. His first losing bout came at the hands of current welter-weight champion Floyd Mayweather in 2001.

"Diego was a class person," said Bob Arum, a top promoter who has worked with Oscar De La Hoya, and Evander Holyfield. "Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife, Michelle, and the rest of his family."

A memorial will be held on Tuesday to honor the fallen boxer.



Diego Corrales following his May 7 win over Jose Luis Castillo. The bout was regarded as one boxing's best ever.

Mayweather fists backed his mouth

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Floyd Mayweather Jr. didn't talk the talk. He yelled the ridiculous, screamed the absurd and promised the impossible. After three long months of boastful, profane putdowns of Oscar De La Hoya, Mayweather got the chance to let his fists do the talking Saturday night at the MGM Grand Arena.

For the most part, those fists had little to say. But, the brash three-time champion ducked and dodged his way to a split decision win over De La Hoya to claim the WBC Superwelterweight belt.

Mayweather entered the ring wearing trunks in the color of the flag of Mexico, and his corner crew wore tee-shirts that read, "Mayweather loves Mexico," virtually taunting the Mexican-American hero De La Hoya.

There was no knockdown in the fight, but De La Hoya landed the harder shots but few in the second half of the bout. Mayweather won votes from two judges (115-113 and 116-112), while the third judge scored the fight 115-113 for De La Hoya.

The pro-De La Hoya crowd at the MGM Grand Arena gave a loud endorsement to every punch (or near punch) landed by the six-time world champion, but Mayweather never wavered thanks to his superior defense.

Boxing

(Continued from Page 1) did not want official figures released.

The \$45 million would be the biggest purse paid to a fighter, higher than the \$35 million purses Tyson and Holyfield reportedly were paid for the infamous "Bite Fight."

Mayweather beat De La Hoya on a split decision Saturday night in an entertaining fight that drew a record live gate of \$19 million at the MGM Grand Garden arena. Mayweather won on two of the three ringside scorecards to win the WBC 154-pound title.

The fight will be replayed Saturday at 10 p.m. EDT.

Greenburg credited the success of the network's "24/7" reality show that ran in a coveted Sunday night slot behind the "Sopranos" and "Entourage" for three weeks leading up to the fight with helping sell both the public and the media on its worth.

Mayweather and his dysfunctional family, including his estranged father, Floyd Sr., and his trainer and uncle, Roger, became the stars of the show, allowing non-boxing fans a glimpse into the life of the fighter.

"The series was not only well received by the American public, who were suddenly attracted in a very human way to these two fight-

ers, but it allowed the media to cover the fight in more depth," Greenburg said. "They were able to dive deeper into the backgrounds of both fighters."

The reality show concept never had been done among top fighters in boxing, but a similar series on the Spike network was credited with making Ultimate Fighting Championship mixed-martial arts fighters popular.

Greenburg said the 2.15 million buys have to be multiplied because most people who bought the fight invited others over to watch. Multiplied by five fans or more a household, the fight likely was seen live by well over 10

million people, he said.

"I'm not going to say that boxing was thriving, but it was thriving on our network," Greenburg said. "I think we were losing the average sports fans, but this proves if you do the right names and the right matches you can win the average fan back."

The huge success and competitive nature of the fight also brings up the possibility of a rematch.

"You can't generate this kind of revenue and think the two fighters wouldn't want to do it again," Greenburg said. "I haven't heard from Oscar, so I don't know. You never know in boxing."

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