

Hilton returns to boxing via 'Tuesday' promotion

Special to Sentinel-Voice
Sterling Promotions, in conjunction with the Las Vegas Hilton presents "Tuesday Night Boxing."

The return of boxing to the Las Vegas Hilton debuts Tuesday, July 8, with the first bout taking place at 6:30 p.m. The inaugural card puts one-time world champion Kevin Kelly, 59-8-2 against Jaime Palma, 13-11-1, out of Alexandria, Va.

Also on the card, will be Lynel Smith of Las Vegas,

who is making his pro debut in the super welterweight division. Smith, fighting out Las Vegas, is the son of Lonnie Smith who was a former WBC Super Lightweight champion.

"Boxing has been part of the history of the Las Vegas Hilton," said Ken Ciancimino, executive vice president.

"We're delighted to be bringing it back and making it part of the mix of entertainment and special events

here."

This will be the first boxing card in over six years at the Las Vegas Hilton.

"I'm excited and thrill to be a partner in seeing boxing returned to the Las Vegas Hilton, which has been home to some of the most historical boxing matches in history," said Sterling McPherson of Sterling Promotions, Inc.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Former WBC super lightweight champion Lonnie Smith, center, will be guiding his son, Lynel Smith, left, in his super welterweight debut boxing match on Tuesday. Kevin Kelly, right, will be the main event with the return of boxing to the Las Vegas Hilton.

Poker

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George Clooney and Brad Pitt.

"It's just great to see everybody," Cheadle said as the event began. "Don't expect to win, because it's mine."

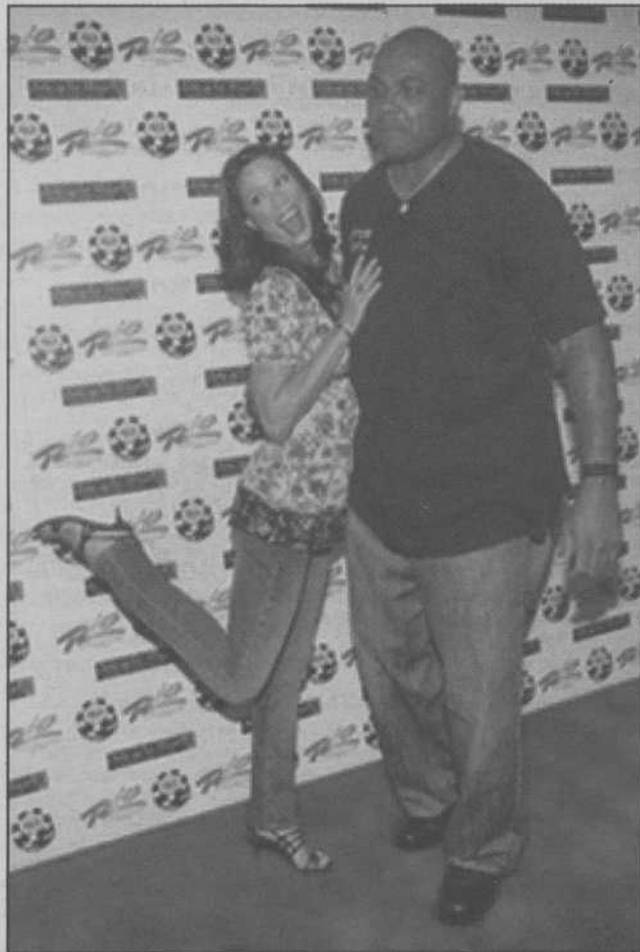
Cheadle was eliminated by Alice in Chains guitarist Jerry Cantrell when his pair of jacks couldn't top Cantrell's queens.

Players in the poker tournament paid \$5,000 to enter, and were asked to donate at least half their winnings evenly to the two charities. Nevada law prohibits poker tournaments from designating a certain amount of prize money for charity so players signed voluntary contracts at the tables, pledging at least half their winnings.

"Charity doesn't have to be boring, it doesn't have to be a burden," Duke said. "We want people to have a really good time."

As play began, the prize pool totaled \$418,000. Last year the event raised more than \$500,000 for the charities and finished with the top two players pooling their \$350,000 in winnings and donating it to the cause.

Alexander won the first hand at his table with Damon, eight-time World Series of Poker gold bracelet winner Erik Seidel and others when he raised before the flop and everyone else folded. "All the tournaments I've ever won have been for charity," Alexander said. "When there's no actual money for me, I'm very good."



Shannon Elizabeth, left, and Charles Barkley arrive at the "Ante Up For Africa" charity poker tournament during the World Series of Poker at the Rio All Suites Hotel and Casino.

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