

Juan Diaz pulls fast one and signs with Don King

Lightweight champion **Juan Diaz**'s manager, **Willie Savannah**, recently announced that the "Baby Bull" was leaving Main Events to accept a promotional deal with Golden Boy Promotions "before pulling the ultimate switcheroo by signing with Professor Longhair, **Don King**

The 23-year-old Diaz (30-0, 15 KOs) and Savannah were at Gallagher's Steak House in New York this afternoon where King announced that his newest acquisition will defend his title against TBA on Nov. 4 in Phoenix on the undercard of **Liakhovich/Briggs**.

"We've got a one-bout contract right now and we're going to finish the rest of it later this week," Savannah told **Dan Rafael** at ESPN.com. "We haven't got down to signing the actual promotional deal yet. We'll get it done later this week, unless something pops up out of the ordinary or a snake [sic] pops out of the closet."

DK promised Diaz a half-mil-plus signing bonus and minimum purses of \$400,000 for each of the fights on their deal, whereas Golden Boy agreed to only a \$200,000 signing bonus with purse minimums in the \$300,000 range.

"This was strictly about the financial reward. My first choice for Juan was to go to Golden Boy," said Savannah, "but boxing is a short-lived thing. You get in that ring and you don't know what will happen. I wanted to get as much money up front for Juan as I possibly could."

"You've got to do the best deal for the fighter. We wanted to be with Golden Boy, but the offer King made was so much better financially. I told **Richard Schaefer** that I had a better offer from King and I apologized to him. I agonized and I agonized, and what Richard said was, 'I can't believe you would do me like that.' I told him what King offered and I haven't heard from Richard."

"In boxing you can't trust anyone," a disappointed but growing wiser by the minute Schaefer said. "I haven't really heard anything from Willie. I did leave a message for Willie and he has not called me back. I hope he will call me back and give me at least that courtesy. I just spoke to Oscar and I told him what was going on, and his reaction was, 'I feel really bad for Juan Diaz.'"

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