

World Boxing Hall of Fame Inductions on Saturday

Roberto "Hands of Stone" Duran leads a new group of fighters into the World Boxing Hall of Fame on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the LAX Marriott Hotel.

The Panamanian great is considered by many boxing experts to be the greatest lightweight in the history of boxing, though he continued to win world titles in heavier weight divisions in his career.

Who can forget his blistering battles with Esteban DeJesus? Or his trilogy with Sugar Ray Leonard that included becoming the first to hang a loss on the great American boxer. Or did anyone forget about his surprising victory over the massive Iran "The Blade" Barkley that included an 11th round knockdown?

Duran (103-16, 70 KOs), who was trained by legendary trainer Ray Arcel (who trained another all-time great lightweight Benny Leonard), could punch, box or outsmart the best of the best. His pro career began at 17 and ended in 2001 when he was badly injured in a car crash. He was 50 years old when he lost by decision to Hector Camacho for his final bout.

Duran will be on hand to receive the award. Rumor has it the president of Panama is arriving to share the moment.

Other inductees include: Matthew Saad Muhammad (39-16-3, 29 KOs), the fierce light heavyweight who made his division one of the most recognizable during his fighting career. He was a highlight film for fight fans with his numerous comeback wins against the likes of Yaqui Lopez, Marvin Johnson, John Conteh and others. From 1977 to 1981 no other fighter was more exciting to watch than Muhammad.

Eddie Perkins (75-20-2, 22 KOs), the slick fighting junior welterweight, fought and beat some of the best of his era but never fought for the world title. Some of those he beat were Adolph Pruitt, Mando Muniz and Clyde Grady.

Julian Jackson (55-6, 49 KOs) of the Virgin Islands personified the middleweight division with his pure knockout power. From 1987 to 1994 Jackson was at the forefront of the middleweight division fighting for world titles. Power was his game and his kamikaze style won him many fans the world over.

For tickets or more information call (951) 239-3541.

Espino in Burbank on Thursday Oct. 12

Miguel Espino returns to his Southern California roots to meet Rigoberto Plascencia at the

Boxing Chatter

Written by David A. Avila

Wednesday, 11 October 2006 19:00

Hilton Convention Center in Burbank. Fresh from season one of the Contender, Espino faces a rugged Plascencia in this middleweight contest. It's going to be a concussive match and it's not for the faint of heart.

Also scheduled to fight will be little Heather Donoho against Michelle Herron in a junior bantamweight bout.

The fight card is sponsored by Cota Boxing Promotions. For tickets and more information call (818) 274-7129.

Contender Tourney

Peter Manfredo Jr. will put a hold on his possible meeting with Roy Jones Jr. while he meets fellow Providence Italian-American Joey Spina in a battle for Rhode Island on Saturday Oct. 14. Spina was last seen knocking out former Contender Jesse Brinkley with a body punch in the 12th round. Now Manfredo is giving Spina his wish for a fight. It should be a great matchup.

"First I'm taking care of Joey (Spina) then I'll think about Roy Jones Jr.," said Manfredo, whose last bout was a blowout victory over Scot Pemberton earlier in the year. "It's going to be a tough fight."

The fight will be shown on ESPN.

Sycuan Ringside Promotions wins another title

Celestino Caballero, a tall hard-hitting junior featherweight from Panama, gave Sycuan Ringside another world champion when he knocked out Thailand's Somsak Sithchatchawal in the third round in Thailand for the WBA title. It was a year ago that he upset WBO titleholder Daniel Ponce De Leon by a unanimous decision in Hollywood. Though De Leon did not have the title then, it made Caballero a feared fighter in the 122-pound division. I guess the Thais felt they could get a decision over the southpaw, but he took care of that with a coup of his own.

Sycuan Ringside Promotions now has two of the most exciting in the 122-pound division in Celestino and Israel Vazquez," said Glenn Quiroga, president of Sycuan Ringside Promotions, who are co-promoters with Seminoles Warrior Boxing for Caballero.

Super middleweight tournament

France's Jean Paul Mendy won a unanimous 10-round decision victory over Henry Buchanan of Maryland this past Friday. He'll meet Ohio's Anthony Hanshaw who knocked out LaFarrell Bunting of Las Vegas in the third round of a scheduled 10-round fight in Santa Ynez. Both bouts were televised by Showtime. On January 5, both undefeated fighters Mendy and Hanshaw will meet in the finals. The tournament is sponsored by Gary Shaw Productions and Showtime.

IBF welterweight title match switches sites

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The scheduled world championship for the IBF title between Riverside's Mark Suarez and New Jersey's Kermit Cintron has been moved from Detroit, Michigan to West Palm Beach, Florida. But the fight will remain on the same date Oct. 28, 2006.

Suarez did not have to move his training camp in Florida where he is preparing with John David Jackson who formerly trained Sugar Shane Mosley and also trained Bernard Hopkins for his rout over Antonio Tarver.

Cintron is trained by Emanuel Steward and is currently in Detroit.