

Visitors Flock To Mesquite For Junior Golden Gloves

"This is a great place to come to for a tournament," said Levon Davis from Washington, D.C. "The people who live here have been so nice to all the boxers. I love it here."

Davis went on to say his opinion was shared by the majority of the boxers and their teams.

Hundreds of people filed into the CasaBlanca event center July 22-24 for the opening of the Junior Golden Gloves Nationals, described as world class amateur boxing at its best.

Boxers of all sizes proudly wore their colorful boxing attire as they readied themselves for their turn in the ring.

"This is major economic benefit for Mesquite and we worked very hard to bring this event here," said Michelle Evans, General Sales Manager for Black Gaming. "I went to Little Rock, AR with a group representing Black Gaming, the Las Vegas Golden Gloves and the LVCVA to tell them what Mesquite has to offer. We gave them our best sales pitch on Mesquite. We beat out the other cities and we are very pleased to be able to showcase this event at the CasaBlanca." [[AD-3-Right]]

Senior Golden Gloves will also be held at the CasaBlanca in August, 2012.

"It took a lot of hard work and effort to bring such a major event to Mesquite and it is all due to Michelle Evans and the group that went to Little Rock," said Randy Black, owner of the CasaBlanca. "No bigger city, not Las Vegas, not Cincinnati, not Lafayette, won. It was Mesquite. I am very proud of them and happy for Mesquite, plus all the hotels are full," he added cheerfully.

The boxing events were expected to be a huge success, bringing as many as 1,000 fans each night for the juniors and as many as 3,000 fans each night for the senior events.

Boxing brings in millions of dollars for Las Vegas every year.

Former National Golden Gloves Champions include famous names like Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson and Oscar DeLaHoya among many others.

More than 300 boxers, ages nine to 16, registered for the bouts which were held over the three days in three rings set up in the event center.

Each fighter would go three rounds of one minute each, trying to land as many blows to his opponent as possible.

Fighters were classed by weight and age.

Championship belts were awarded to the winners in each weight division and each weight class.

Awards were also given for the Coach of the Year and Outstanding Official of the Year.

T.J. Hartmeyer, a Police Athletic League trainer from Ohio, was named Coach of the Year, and Minnesotan Tim Cheatham was awarded Golden Gloves Official of the Year.

"It's not about winning," said Randy Lopez, manager of La Familia Boxing Center in Longmont, CO. "It's about discipline, confidence and psychology. Fifty percent of being a good boxer is preparing yourself mentally to be a success."

Lopez had driven his only fighter, Hilario Ramirez-Medina, to Mesquite from Colorado to get one last shot at the junior title.

He will be qualified for Senior Golden Gloves next year due to his age.

"Last year I broke my hand during a fight and I had to drop out but this year I am ready," said Ramirez-Medina.

As the fights began on Thursday evening, boxers greeted each other graciously and with respect as one champion to another in a show of good sportsmanship, and then got down to business.

Unlike the Clint Eastwood movie "Million Dollar Baby" featuring a female boxer, there were no girls in this tournament.

By the Saturday evening finals, the event center was filled with spectators cheering on their champions.

The theme of Junior Golden Gloves could be seen all around the event center, defining it as a bona fide sport, not just violent confrontations.

It included participation of several Police Athletic League teams from Oregon, Arizona and Nevada, sponsorship by the Fraternal Order of Police, and signs like that of Barry's Boxing Center that said "We teach the science, not the violence."

The boxing began in earnest Saturday night as the finalists were anxious for their turn in the ring.

Prominent local Las Vegas boxer Deyon Christie of Barry's Boxing Center was composed as his bout

approached.

Asked what his strategy would be for the bout he said, "I am going to knock the other guy out and try not to let him knock me out."

His strategy worked like a charm as he won his bout in the second round when his opponent from California, Rafael Gonzalez, couldn't go on.

"We brought seven boxers from Las Vegas," said Dawn Sanchez of Barry's. "They are all ready and should do very well in the tournament."

After their bouts, winners were seen proudly wearing their wide championship belts all around the event center.

According to Evans and Black, this event was a huge success and the Senior Golden Gloves will certainly fill up the CasaBlanca event center again.

Winners for the 2010 Junior Golden Gloves Nationals were:

Age group 9-10

Elmer Monarrez (CO)

Tyler Morales (WA)

Jojiit Butay Fillon (NV)

Danny Vella (NV)

Brendan Griffin (AZ)

Callan Mabe (ID)

Mark Lujan (CA)

Jordan Murphy (FL)

Zachary Bram (FL)

Robert Montano (UT)

Age group 11-12

Daniel Diaz (NV)

Nikita Ababiy (NY)

Rosario Real (AZ)

Michael Chaise Nelson (OH)

Esequiel Tellez (AZ)

Jody Gautier (LA)

Christian Torres (CO)

Ivan Vergara (CA)

Alfredo Escarcega (AZ)

Jose Barrera (AZ)

Marcus Rodriguez (CO)

Fernando Venegas (CA)

Brandum Lee (CA)

Keoni Adric (HI)

Isaac Wencis (AZ)

Francisco C. de Vaca (AZ)

Xavier Martinez (CA)

Age group 13-14

Edward Caballes (AZ)

Pablo Ramirez (TX)

Omar Trinidad (CA)

Cory Connor (NV)

Harvey Collazo (CA)

Gonzalo Rodriguez (TX)

Efrain Lopez (CA)

Kenneth Davis (NV)

Lamont Roach (MD)

Raymond Muratalla (CA)

Rahim Gonzales (CA)

Omero Gallegos (ID)
Abraham Lopez (CA)
Miguel Alcantara (CA)
Gilbert Vasquez (TX)
Ropati Pano Tiatia (UT)
Malik Broussard (LA)
Kevin Salgado (IL)
Matthew Guerrero (CA)
Marco Magdelano (NV)
Luis Moreno (AZ)

Age group 15-16

Gabriel Muratalla (CA)
Quantavious Green (LA)
Leonardo Chavez (CA)
Gabriel Ayala (TX)
Dante Stone (AZ)
Jesus Luna (CA)
Shawn Simpson (IL)
Yoban Nava (CA)
Alderico Luccioni (PA)
Anthony Sims, Jr (MI)
Deyon Christie (NV)
Joet Gonzalez (CA)
Joel Montoya (MS)
Juan Saucedo (OK)
Jose Rocha (WA)