

Western High junior Deyon Christie returns for Junior Golden Gloves July 22-24

At almost 16 years of age, Deyon Christie is considered a beast by prominent featherweight Augie Sanchez, who now watches the young man work out every day at the 4,000 square-foot Barry's Boxing Center in Las Vegas.

"He is a mixture between Riddick Bowe and Mike Tyson," says Sanchez, a 32 year-old native of Las Vegas who posted a 28-3 record with 25 knockouts in 1996-2001. "He's a very big guy and he's very powerful with both of his hands. He may be a young kid, but he hits like a grown man."

Christie will return to the site of his only loss July 22-24 when the Junior Golden Gloves Nationals are presented in the CasaBlanca Event Center in Mesquite. An estimated 400 will compete in the event.

"He has everything to prove in Mesquite," said Sanchez. "Everyone is gunning for him."

Christie, who will be a junior at Western High School in Las Vegas this fall, has already captured the Silver Gloves Nationals in Kansas City February; along with the Junior Olympic Nationals at Camp Lejeune Marine Corp Base in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

The fourth annual gathering at the CasaBlanca is considered a highly-competitive event.

"When people hear that you have won at the Golden Gloves, that draws respect," said Sanchez. "That alone carries a lot of weight."

Pat Barry, who along with his wife, Dawn, owns the gymnasium situated at 2664 S. Highland Dr., in Las Vegas, said Christie is a very mature young man.

"He doesn't get riled about things," said Barry, his coach and himself a former professional boxer with a career which spanned 1972-80. "He has a grown-up outlook. Some kids fear the competition ahead of them, but that's not the case with Deyon. He sees his future bouts as opportunity to showcase his skills. He has the potential with a physical make up like Sonny Liston and Mike Tyson and a personality in line with Floyd Patterson.

"He is in the gym at least four days a week. His parents Nonie and Deyon, Sr., are very supportive of his endeavors and make sure he's at the gym when he's supposed to be."

Christie, whose only hobby is the sport of boxing, is very serious about his boxing career, which started about four years ago. He will compete in Mesquite for the final time this year before advancing to the Senior Golden Gloves in 2011. The Senior Golden Gloves move to Mesquite in 2012.

Parnell Rochell, who is also one of Christie's coaches, says Christie has a promising future.

"He is a very smart kid, and he thinks," said Rochell, a 12-year resident of Las Vegas who moved from New York. "Deyon is very wise and he's also very focused. He sets his mind on something and completes what he sets out to do."

“This is just something that I have always wanted to do,” said the soft-spoken Christie, whose favorite boxer is Tyson, a former heavyweight champion of the world. “Some people have wanted me to play football, but I’d rather box.

“I’m going to stay in the sport of boxing as long as I can.”

With Mesquite serving as the site of his only loss (a decision to Joshua Temple), Christie is determined to leave the city unscathed and unbeaten in the heavyweight division. He will compete in two matches during the tournament.

“I’m going to try to focus on my scoring and throw more punches,” he said. “I’d like to get another knockout, but I’m not going to allow myself to get knocked out.”

Further information regarding the Golden Gloves can be found at www.juniorgoldengloves.com or by calling Dawn Barry at 702-368-2696.

CAPTION: Heavyweight Deyon Christie is observed by Pat Barry, left, and Augie Sanchez, right, at Barry’s Boxing Center in Las Vegas. Christie will return to the CasaBlanca Events Center for the Junior Golden Gloves Nationals July 22-24.

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