

CasaBlanca lands Junior and Senior Golden Gloves events

Mesquite scored a huge win recently when it was announced that the city had landed the Golden Gloves Junior Nationals for three years and the Golden Gloves Senior National Championship for a single year.

The Junior Nationals will kick off the final event of a four-year stand July 22-24 in the Event Center of the CasaBlanca Resort and Casino in a blockbuster event which will attract about 400 competitors ages 8-16. The Junior Nationals will return to the city through 2013.

The Senior Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions has also been inked for April 28-May 5 of 2012. With ten weight classes, the event will draw about 300 boxers ages 17 and up.

A group of Southern Nevadans journeyed to Little Rock, Ark., where meetings were held earlier this month. Also attempting to land the prestigious events were representatives from Lafayette, La., and Cincinnati, Ohio.

Representing Mesquite in the bidding were Dawn Barry, a Golden Gloves franchise holder from Las Vegas; Dawn Sanchez, the executive director for Barry's Boxing in Las Vegas; Barry's husband, Pat, a long-time boxing coach; along with Black Gaming General Sales Manager Michelle Yegge Evans, who combined to convince 30 delegates to bring the events to Mesquite.

"We had a very good pitch and a lot of support from the CasaBlanca Hotel," said Dawn Barry, who has been involved in the fight game in Las Vegas for 35 years. "The CasaBlanca gave us various incentives and also worked closely with us throughout the process."

"In addition, Black Gaming President Randy Black himself wrote a personal letter to each delegate encouraging them to vote for Mesquite."

Dawn Barry added that this year's Junior Golden Gloves will attract competitors from Florida, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, California and Utah, to name a few of the states.

"This is a good piece of business for Mesquite," said Julian Dugas, the director of sports marketing for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority who also made the trip to Little Rock. "The Juniors will draw a little over 1,000 people for each night and the Seniors will draw a little over 3,000 in April of 2012 for six to eight nights."

Dugas said Mesquite won out because of Southern Nevada's diverse product including hotel rooms, bowling, golf, spas and the proximity to Las Vegas along with the canyons that are a short drive away.

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

CAPTION: Golden Gloves boxing competition returns to the CasaBlanca Event Center July 22-24. It was also announced recently that the event will continue at the CasaBlanca through 2013.

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