

2010 Junior Golden Gloves Nationals deemed great success at the CasaBlanca Event Center

The Junior Golden Gloves Nationals wrapped up a three-day run at the CasaBlanca Event Center Saturday, July 24 crowning champions in several categories for boxers ages 9-16.

Dubbed a huge success, the event drew almost 400 boxers from throughout the nation. With three rings sporting constant action from 6 p.m. each evening, the tournament signaled yet another knockout production thanks to the combined efforts of Black Gaming and a hearty group of souls from Barry's Boxing in Las Vegas along with the Nevada delegation of the Junior Golden Gloves Nationals.

"We could not find any hotel that wanted us in Las Vegas," said Dawn Barry Sanchez, the tournament director. "Either they were too expensive or in some cases, they simply didn't want kids in their hotels."

However, for the fourth year in a row, the staff of Black Gaming rolled out the red carpet 80 miles north of Las Vegas creating a win-win for all involved. In fact, plans are already underway to not only bring the Junior Golden Gloves Nationals back for many years to come but also add several other boxing events to the CasaBlanca Event Center in the future.

When all was said and done on the final night, it was not hard to find people willing to compliment the event and those who put it together.

John Hardin, who traveled from Duarte, Calif., to watch three days of non-stop action, raved about the Junior Golden Gloves Nationals. As the franchise owner of Golden Gloves competition in the state of California, he definitely liked what he saw in Mesquite.

"I think this has been fantastic," said Hardin, who travels from one end of California to the other working Golden Gloves events. "Dawn and Pat Barry have done an incredible job with this. The Golden Gloves is a wonderful thing and it's the future of America. The kids who compete in this are great people and many of them go on to become leaders in communities."

Richard Trindle, who worked as a referee and judge and traveled to the CasaBlanca Event Center from Mercer, Pa., said the event was presented very well.

"There is nothing harder than putting together a three-day tournament with three rings," said Trindle, who is the chair of the judicial committee of USA Boxing. "They did this with a minimal amount of errors and my hat is off to them. The crew of volunteers was incredible. When you add all of the necessary elements involved with something like this, it's an incredible effort."

Dawn Barry, the franchise holder for the Nevada-Washington-Oregon and Arizona Golden Gloves franchises along with serving as the founder of Barry's Boxing in Las Vegas, said she works at least a year in advance to get her volunteers.

"We could not accomplish this without the help and support of the CasaBlanca," Barry said. "You need a team and that team was the Golden Gloves franchise of Nevada along with the CasaBlanca."

The Junior Golden Gloves Nationals will return to the CasaBlanca Event Center through 2013 while the Senior Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions for boxers ages 17 and up for 2012.

The 2010 event had non-stop action with a schedule keeping everyone busy during the day long before the Event Center was opened for nightly action.

“This was more than just boxing,” said Sanchez, whose husband, Augie, was once one of the world’s top featherweight boxers before becoming a trainer. “We didn’t want the kids to get bored waiting for their boxing matches, so we kept them busy with activities the whole time they were here.”

Indeed, the youth boxers had busy schedules from the time they arrived until the final bell rang. Bowling, arcades, roller skating and the showing of the movie The Karate Kid – all free to those attending – kept competitors on their toes heading into each night of boxing events.

“I think this is fantastic,” said Black Gaming CEO Randy Black as he looked across the CasaBlanca Event Center. “We’ll take events like this any time. I would love to have the Golden Gloves here forever.”

Black, who undoubtedly has to be the most enthusiastic business owner in Mesquite, marveled at the fact that the city and Black Gaming hosts the Golden Gloves.

“I think it’s very special that Mesquite hosts the National Junior Golden Gloves,” Black added. “This event is strong enough to be in any city in the nation including New York, Chicago or Las Vegas—and it’s in Mesquite. The event filled the hotels here this year.”

Richard Steele, a noted boxing referee and promoter who has worked bouts all over the world, was another who praised the event.

“This is the grass roots of boxing,” said Steele, who now promotes boxing events in Texas. “All of the stars of professional boxing including Sugar Ray Robinson and Oscar de La Hoya have started in Golden Gloves.”

The key victories in the event included 16 year-old Deyon Christie of Las Vegas who won the heavyweight division and was also named outstanding boxer for his category; Marco Madelleno of Las Vegas in the 138 class; Brandun Lee of Yuba City, Calif., who took his third victory in the 11-12 80-pound class; and Pano Tiatia of St. George, Utah in the 13-14 154-pound class.

Tiatia also won the outstanding boxer for his category.

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

CAPTIONS (photos by Glen DePriest)

6 -- Black Gaming CEO Randy Black conducts a television interview with Alex Treid, a Helena, Mont., boxer who competed in the 9-10 55-pound division.

9 -- Las Vegas 16 year-old heavyweight Deyon Christie, left, pummels his opponent en route to a second round TKO in the finals of the heavyweight competition of the Golden Gloves Nationals competition Saturday at the CasaBlanca Event Center. Christie was also named the outstanding boxer of his division.

Rings -- The CasaBlanca Event Center buzzed with activity with three arenas being utilized for the Junior Golden Gloves Nationals July 22-24 in Mesquite.

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