

local sports beyond the lines

# StreetZebra

Westside/South Bay

**FREE**

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**XTRA**  
SPORTS  
1150 AM



# SHE'S THE ONE

*why SoCal's  
Lindsay Davenport  
is everything right  
with women's tennis*  
plus! inside the acura classic

FOOTBALL 2K: SZ's MILLENNIUM PIGSKIN PREVIEW / FANTASY DRAFT PRIMER •  
HOWDOWN BREAKDOWN - DOUBLE D VS. TIGER • ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE ROCK •  
THREE BOXERS AND A NAKED LADY • DFL WAR DEBUTS • RIDE FM, COMBOY •  
HEAL A HANGOVER • ODOM, CELESTANI, & GEORGE • QUICK PINT WITH DAVE MIRRA •  
THE NIGHT AL & GEORGIA STOLE CHRISTMAS • ANALYZING THE LA SPORTSPERAN •  
NOMING THE BEST SPORTSBAR IN LA • Dawg Bites with Newy Scruggs •

**inthering**

by m.i. burwell

## left coast boxing

three pretty boys and a naked lady

For what it is worth, the sport of boxing is showing a glimmer of better things to come. First, I consider the FBI raid and investigation of Don King's offices a positive step. Perhaps somewhere in the new millennium there will actually be a single governing body over the sport. But don't hold your breath...the Don is a slippery fellow. Secondly, so far this year at least the top fighters are actually fighting each other.

Bring on September 18th, where we have possibly the biggest and most anticipated showdown so far: Oscar De La Hoya versus Felix "Tito" Trinidad. At 35-0 with 30 KOs, the IBF welterweight champion, if you don't know, is no joke. Trinidad is as close to being a perfect fighter as there is. He's got power, quickness, defense, killer instinct, and he's crafty. With his size he matches up well with Oscar and should give him fits, especially if we don't see a better mentally and physically tuned De La Hoya than we've seen recently. Even last minute heroics and favorable judges may not be enough here.

The two welterweights square off at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas. As a 140 favorite, Oscar has been billing the fight as "The Fight of the Century," making his recent nine city promotional tour of the fight a farewell of sorts. You see the Golden Boy has plans...big plans.

First, he announces he will take it upon himself to save the sport of boxing in the wake of the Holyfield/Lewis catastrophe (pretty ballsy after getting such a friendly decision over Quartey). Then he will move up to conquer the junior middleweight division (165 limit), prematurely announcing that if Trinidad wants a rematch it will have to be at the heavier weight.

Slow down, sport; first you better worry about September and keeping your dome attached to your neck. Then pick a trainer and a boxing style, and stick with it for a change. You're right, you do come off as schizophrenic from fight to fight, I don't know whom to expect when you enter the ring: a slugger, a boxer, a brawler, or a dancer? Generally, this is not a good thing. If you manage to win in September, tighten your belt, because look out: he's back! Ike Quartey is also planning to step up to junior middleweight, not to mention current residents David Reid, Bernard Hopkins, and a host of other hungry middleweights salivating over you like, well Oscar...like a wiener. Now you have young "Feroocious" Fernando Vargas going around town claiming you as his son...

### Fernando Vargas and De La Hoya Relatives?

At 16-0, all wins by knockout, Olympic gold medalist, Fernando Vargas is yet another fighter calling out

The Golden Boy. But he is apparently not polite enough for Oscar, who feels the powerful Vargas from the mean streets of Oxnard has been disrespectful and "too negative" (is there any other way to punk a desired opponent?). Long time enemies from some silly Big Bear Spar, Vargas will have to put Oscar on the back burner for now.

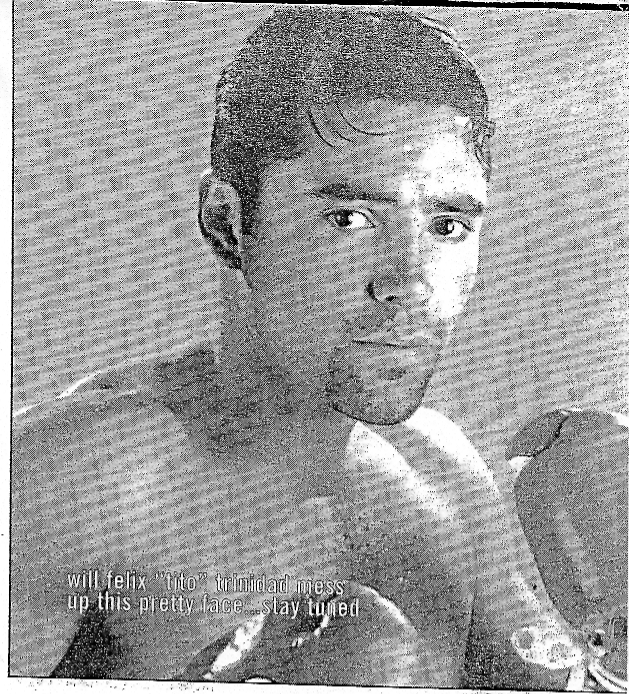
Fortunately for Vargas he's off to a blazing start with a 17-0 record, all wins by knockout. While it's true he has built his young record on mostly lesser opponents, he nevertheless demolishes them emphatically. Still, with quality wins over Raul Marquez, Yory Boy Campos and Jesse James Leija, Vargas' future appears bright, making sitcom appearances and recently signing a promotional deal with Miller Lite.

### This Sugar is Still Sweet

Recently named by Boxing Writers Association of America the "Fighter of the Year," IBF Lightweight champ "Sugar" Shane Mosely from Pomona has got to be one of the few reasons to hang in there and remain a boxing fan. At 30-0, 28 by knockout, with five title defenses, the young Mosely is inevitably compared to the other legendary Sugars. While it may be premature to liken his developing career to such stars, his boxing style is remarkably similar to the great Sugar Ray Robinson. Similar to Robinson, Mosely is not only a devastatingly powerful puncher but also a beautiful fighter to watch, as he methodically breaks down his opponents with a diverse arsenal of fast combinations, body shots, and quick jabs. Also similar in fashion to Sugar Ray Leonard and Robinson is this kid's personality, smarts, good looks and infectious smile. A broadcasting gig will soon be calling. My choice for best pound for pound boxer fighting today.

### Mia St. John is Caught With Her Trunks Down

Semi-sexy Mia St. John has been getting big-time press being marketed as a La Femme Golden Boy. The raven-haired beauty appeared in a recent issue of Playboy for a hot boxing themed layout. Problem is she's just not that great of a fighter. Sorry. I mean she could probably kick your sister or your girlfriend's ass, but she simply is not in the class of such local terrors



will felix "tito" trinidad mess up this pretty face...stay tuned

as Lucia Rijker or Fredia Gibbs. Never will be. Quite frankly, Playboy, lately you've been sleeping. First you want to undress heavyweight Monica "The Big Lewinsky," and now this? Aren't there a few pro beach volleyball players you can call? Hey, I know, you got Anna Kournikova's number?

### White Men Named Durham Can't Box After Drinking Whiskey From A Tin Cup

Ron Shelton, director of sports themed films *White Men Can't Jump*, *Bull Durham*, *The Great White Hope*, and *Tin Cup* recently brought some of his production staff to a boxing show at the Great Western Forum. Shelton's new project is a boxing film starring Antonio Banderas and Woody Harrelson titled *Play It To The Bone*. Mmmn.

### Forum Boxing Goes The Distance

Forum Boxing, Inc. at the Great Western Forum and the Anaheim Pond is still hanging around with their monthly Monday night boxing cards. With the Lakers and Kings off to the new downtown Staples Center, FBI is one of the very few remaining tenants over at Prairie & Manchester. Still, they persevere...for now.

When not worrying for the rug to be pulled from beneath them, FBI has been endlessly pursuing the long overdue fight between their top boxer, NABO featherweight champion, Juan Manuel Marquez and WBO champion Prince Naseem Hamed. Marquez has been the WBO's mandatory challenger to the Prince since 1997!

Meanwhile, their other young fighter, Ed "The Hammer" Mahone (20-0, 20 KO's, NABO heavyweight champ and currently #6 WBO), looks to expedite his joining the party of up and coming heavyweights by signing with veteran management company Mouthpiece Productions, who has guided the careers of Oba Carr, Kelvin Kelly, and Shane Mosely.