

# SPORTS

## Oregon Trail Promotions to Bring Pro Boxing Back to Oregon

9-15-99 (Portland-AP) — Oregon Trail Promotions, a new company, is helping to bring professional boxing back to Oregon after a nearly ten-year absence.

James Cassidy, director of the Oregon Boxing and Wrestling Commission, has praised the company.

Cassidy, himself a 67-year-old former lightweight, has opened the door for live boxing events to resume in Oregon.

He credits Oregon Trail with bringing boxing back to smaller cities like Salem and Lincoln City.

The company has also scheduled fights this fall at the Seven Feathers and Chinook Winds casinos.

Oregon Trail Promotions' co-founders, Nanci James and Helen Cotton, have bigger plans for the future.

After the September event in Salem, they have scheduled a November 14th event at Portland's Rose Garden featuring the Cuban heavyweight Jorge Luis Gonzalez.

Later in the year, Oregon Trail hopes to land a fight involving Michael Nunn, a leading light-heavyweight contender.

James, whose background is in sports marketing, not boxing, said the company has tried to make a name for itself by developing the local fight scene, something that has been fading for years. "The glitter and the fun is exciting, but we're really here to help our local fighters," she said. "And we're here to help our hometown."



It's Back...Boxing in Oregon.

Members of Oregon Trail Promotions Ltd. Prepare to make boxing a "reality" and a serious source of entertainment for the Boxing fans in the State of Oregon. L to R Bob Olesen, Match Maker, Helen Cotton; VP, Nanci James; VP of Marketing, Thad Spencer; VP

## Former USC Tailback to Make Boxing Debut

By Landon Hall

PORTLAND, Ore. Former Southern California running back Todd Spencer will make his professional boxing debut at the age of 36, fighting as a heavyweight later this month.

Spencer, whose father Thad was a top heavyweight contender in the 1960's, will be on the undercard of an eight-bout event held Sept. 25 at the National Guard armory in Salem. Todd Spencer will fight Greg Dials of Tacoma in a scheduled four-round match. Spencer won his only amateur fight.

Spencer played for the Trojans in the early 1980's, and was a teammate of Marcus Allen's when Allen won the Heisman Trophy in 1981. Spencer was USC's leading rusher the

next season, gaining 596 yards.

He got into boxing two years ago while living in Berkeley, California, something his father adamantly opposed.

"I told him he was crazy," Thad Spencer said. "But he wanted to do it. Then I saw him get into the ring, and I knew he could do it. He's got the heart."

Thad Spencer, 56, has been working closely with Oregon Trail Promotions, a new company that has brought professional boxing back to Oregon after a nearly 10-year absence.

"It's going to take a while," said James Cassidy, who became the new director of the Oregon Boxing and Wrestling Commission on May 1 after Bruce Anderson resigned abruptly.

## An Island Rocks as a Champion Comes Home

By CHRIS HAWLEY  
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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (Sept. 20) — They chanted his name while salsa songs written in his honor blared from giant speakers. Revelers jammed highways, hoping to get a glimpse of him.

Felix Trinidad, a conquering hero come home, was back in Puerto Rico on Monday, welcomed by thousands amid a frenzy of adulation and national pride.

At an airport news conference, Trinidad joked about his victory over Oscar De La Hoya on Saturday night in Las Vegas.

"He had a different style of boxing," Trinidad said. "He ran a lot." Trinidad's plane landed in San Juan amid roars of "Tito! Tito!" Fans waved the U.S. territory's lone star flag and placards declaring "Gallito castao!" — Spanish for "Top-class fighting cock!"

Gov. Pedro Rossello, who praised Trinidad for "glorifying the name of Puerto Rico," was among the dignitaries on hand.

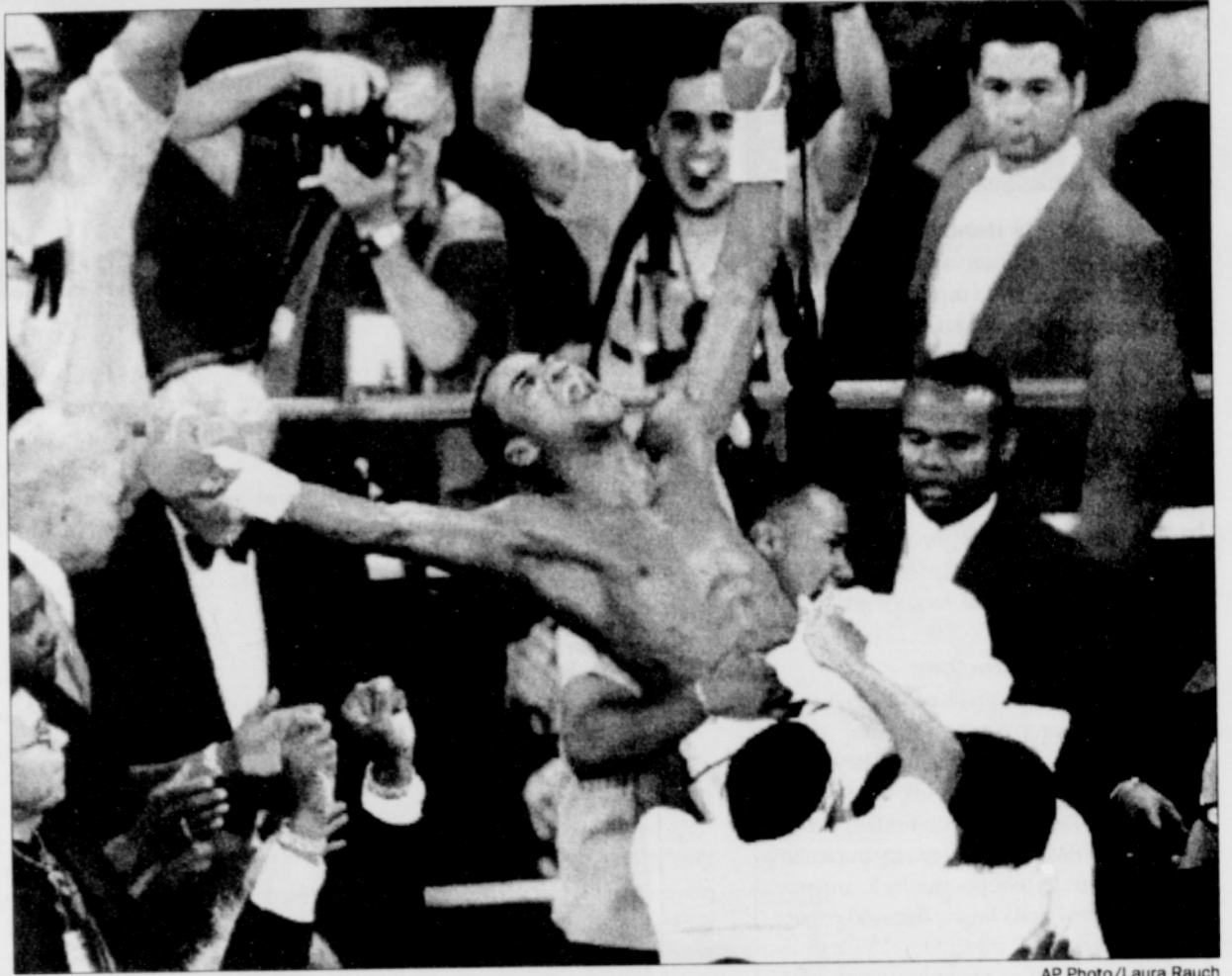
"I promised you this victory and I did it," Trinidad said. "This triumph is for all of Puerto Rico. There is no doubt now that the best boxers are in Puerto Rico — pound for pound they have the most heart. I feel super content."

Police tried to close one lane to make way for a victory cavalcade, but delirious motorists ignored the officers and zipped by. Others abandoned their cars in an airport logjam and walked the last mile.

"Tito No. 1," was the message scrawled in lipstick across the bare midriffs of a group of teen-age girls.

This had been the most anticipated welterweight bout in years, pitting two unbeaten 26-year-olds known for knockout power — De La Hoya with his left hand, Trinidad with his right.

De La Hoya, the "golden boy" from California, seemed assured victory after connecting with his jab



Felix Trinidad, of Puerto Rico, is held up by his corner in celebration after defeating Oscar De La Hoya, of East Los Angeles, by way of decision after 12 rounds, to win the WBC/IBF Welterweight Championship at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas Saturday, Sept. 18, 1999.

early on. But in the last few rounds, he turned complacent and Trinidad's tenacity paid off as he scored with his punishing right.

De La Hoya was befuddled by the majority decision. He was sure he had won. Trinidad dismissed such opinion.

"The person who deserved this win was Tito Trinidad and the judges agreed," he said.

Felix Trinidad Sr., the boxer's father, trainer and manager, said any rematch would have to be on his son's terms. The Puerto Ricans were unhappy Trinidad received only \$10.5 million. While that sum was many millions more than any previous payday for him, it was half of De

La Hoya's take.

The boxer's father suggested a rematch for Puerto Rico or New York, where there is a large Puerto Rican population. He would not say how much his son would demand.

"Tito has a huge value in boxing and that has no price," he said.

An alternative would be a fight with Jim Page, the WBC champion in his 147-pound category, or a move up to the 154-pound category.

Trinidad used the occasion to bring attention to Vieques, an outlying island that Puerto Ricans want the U.S. Navy to stop using as a live bombing range. The bombing was suspended after an April accident

killed a civilian Puerto Rican guard there. The U.S. Congress is to hold hearings on the issue this week.

"Peace for Vieques!" Trinidad declared. The night of the fight, he entered the ring in front of a map of the island demanding: "Navy get out of Vieques!"

The controversy, like Trinidad's victory, has brought a nationalistic outpouring on the island, where patriotic feelings are deep despite meager support for the independence movement. The 4 million islanders are U.S. citizens who serve in the military and receive federal funds though they do not pay federal taxes and cannot vote for president or the Congress.

## Dunleavy Says Blazers Even Better

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PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Less than a month before the NBA exhibition season gets under way, Mike Dunleavy says his Portland Trail Blazers will be even better than the team that made it to the Western Conference finals last year.

"They know there isn't a team in the league we can't beat. I don't expect us to be the favorites, and a lot of teams in the West got better," he said. "But I think we got better, too."

His enthusiasm is shared even by one of his less admiring players who had complained about not getting enough playing time.

Jermaine O'Neal is approaching his 21st birthday as Dunleavy approaches his third season with the Blazers, and O'Neal says they are ready to launch a new era, professionally and personally.

In addition to his four-year, \$24 million contract and three years of NBA experience, O'Neal says he is also on better terms with Dunleavy.

"I didn't have a personal relationship with Mike, now we are developing that," he said.

"We're trying to get to know each other a lot better. He's a great players' coach - he likes to joke with you and shoot around with you - but what was missing was that personal level, as far as getting to know the players."

Dunleavy says the new mix of players this year - including the addition of Steve Smith and Detlef Schrempf - will be good athletically and professionally.

Fifteen Portland players are under contract. Some returning play-

ers, including Kelvin Cato and Walt Williams, have reportedly been in trade talks. And several - Damon Stoudamire, Greg Anthony, Rasheed Wallace, Stacey Augmon, Smith, Schrempf and Cato - worked out a week or so ago in front of Dunleavy in Las Vegas at a minicamp for NBA players and prospects.

"I think we'll have good chemistry on this team," Dunleavy said as he and his staff prepare for the start of camp, Oct. 5 in Tualatin, and the 18-day, eight-game exhibition schedule that will begin Oct. 12 in Corvallis against Seattle.

O'Neal said he is looking forward to getting some regular play this season after bouncing back faster than expected from midsummer surgery to remove a bone spur from his left ankle.

The Blazers led almost all the way last season in winning their first Pacific Division title since 1992. But it was a lockout-shortened, 50-game season, an exhausting race that offered little time to rest or practice.

This season, the NBA will be back to its usual pace with each team playing 82 games in about six months.

But Dunleavy dismissed talk that the Blazers' success last season was because they had a deeper bench to play 50 games in 88 days, and if the season had been its normal length, conflicts over playing time would have torn the team apart.

"People can say what they want," Dunleavy said. "But I think we would have been just as good last season over 82 games. And I think our depth will pay off this season maybe more than it did last season."

## Trail Blazer Brian Grant Kicks Off Bone Marrow Drive

(Portland-AP) — Trail Blazer Brian Grant is leading a bone marrow donor campaign for a 16-year-old Portland boy suffering from leukemia.

Luther Ellett needs a bone marrow transplant before malignant cells have a chance to end a period of remission.

Ellett is black and about two-thirds of blacks awaiting a bone

marrow transplant never find an appropriate donor. The success rate for white Americans of Northern European ancestry is 50 percent to 60 percent.

Experts say that blacks and other minorities are sparsely represented on bone marrow donor registries. Another barrier is the extreme diversity of tissue types among people with African ancestry.

### Oregon Trail Promotions, Ltd. Professional Boxing at the Salem Fairgrounds

Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM • Doors Open at 6PM

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster Locations.  
Ringside \$35 • General Admission \$20.

For further information contact Oregon Trail Promotions 503-237-4322.

#### FIGHT CARD STANDS WITH:

##### Main Event

FIGHTING FOR THE CANADIAN AMERICAN MEXICAN JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT BELT  
Salem's Quandy "Candy" Robertson, 7-0 (six knock-outs)  
Vs. South Africa's Aubrey Sibanyoni, 11-1

##### Welter-weight:

Portland's Virgil Boheakamp, 3-1 (has a huge amateur background)  
Vs. Vancouver, Canada's Del Ritchie, 6-2

##### Middleweight Division:

Bremerton's Brock Stodden, 7-3  
Vs. Vancouver, BC's Rob Dellopena, 3-1

##### Middleweight Division: Rematch

Baker City's Scott Landson  
Vs. Portland's Dominic Revera

##### Heavy Weight Division:

FEATURING FORMER HEAVY WEIGHT THAD SPENCER'S SON MAKING HIS PRO DEBUT  
California's Todd Spencer  
Vs. Tacoma's Greg Dials

Card subject to change

#### NFL Scores

Seattle...14  
San Francisco...28  
Jacksonville...22  
Detroit...23  
Washington...50  
Pittsburgh...23  
San Diego...34  
Oakland...22  
Tampa Bay...19  
Miami...19  
New England...31  
Kansas City...26  
Tennessee...26  
Buffalo...17

Chicago...13  
New Orleans...21  
Carolina...20  
Green Bay...15  
N.Y. Giants...21  
Baltimore...20  
Cincinnati...7  
Minnesota...17  
Philadelphia...5  
Arizona...16  
Indianapolis...28  
Denver...10  
Cleveland...9  
N.Y. Jets...3

### Destiny's Shoes & Accessories

## Fall Fashion Show

October 9, 1999  
4PM - 7PM

Billy Webb's Elks Club  
6 N. Tillamook

Cost \$15<sup>00</sup>

Fashion Show

Gospel Show

Fine Food

Drawing

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

2942 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. 249-8830

Thanks! Charlotte Brandon