

Metro/Sports

Rumble at the Rose Garden

Jorge Luis Gonzalez vs Jameel McCline
John John Molina vs Manuel Garnica
Margaret McGregor

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

November 14 will be anything but a garden party, when professional boxing makes its debut at Portland's Rose Garden Arena. Four top contenders will collide in two big bouts. Heavyweight wrecking machines Jorge Luis Gonzalez and Jameel McCline will go to toe in the Main Event while two-time world champion John John Molina takes on Mexican champion Manuel Garnica in a 10-round lightweight slugfest. As a special attraction, Margaret McGregor, the first woman to ever fight a man in a state-sanctioned bout, will risk her undefeated record in a six-round junior lightweight women's bout. The seven-bout card will be televised live nationally on Fox Sports Net (7 to 9 p.m. EST). Gonzalez, 29-5 (27 KOs), originally from Havana, Cuba, now residing in Las Vegas, began his professional career by winning his first 23 bouts, 22 of them by knockout, setting up a grudge rematch with Riddick Bowe for Bowe's world title in 1995. In the world amateur championships, Gonzalez had defeated Bowe and WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis on successive nights to win that competition. Bowe stopped Gonzalez in six hard-fought rounds to retain the title and drop Gonzalez from the ranks of the undefeated Now rededicated, and in the best shape of his career, Gonzalez returns fresh from four big consecutive knockout victories over highly-touted contenders.

McCline, 20-2-1 (14 KOs), from Port Jefferson, NY, riding a three-year, 18-bout winning streak. He stopped Jim Haynes via a third-round knockout in his last fight, September 14.

Molina, 48-6 (32 KOs), from Fajardo, Puerto Rico, is a three-time world junior lightweight champion. He captured the WBO title winning a 12-round decision over Juan LaPorte in 1989. He relinquished that title to challenge Tony Lopez for the IBF title later that year, dethroning the champion by a 10-round TKO. After a successful title defense, he lost the title in close decision in the 1990 rematch with Lopez. Two years later, Molina regained the IBF title by stopping Jackie Gunguluzza in the fourth round in 1992 and held the title for two years and six successful defenses before moving up to challenge Oscar De La Hoya for Oscar's WBO lightweight title. Though Oscar was victorious, winning a close decision, it was considered his toughest title defense until his recent fight with Felix Trinidad.

Molina has fought for world title two more times during the past 16 months, losing to Shane Mosley in 1998 and Roberto Garcia last January in another close decision. Molina captured the WBC Continental Americas lightweight title last March, stopping Ruben Nevarez in seven rounds. His other 1999 victories include a decision win over James Crayton in July and a first-round KO over Javier Carmona last month.

Garnica, 19-3 (11 KOs), from Guadalajara, Mexico, is a two-time Mexican State lightweight champion. He enters this fight fresh from one of the year's biggest upsets, defeating former world champion Gabriel Ruelas last month in his U.S. debut.

Jefferson sputters early .. but closes hard for PIL championship



Jefferson 14, Benson 7. The Democrats managed to survive (6) lost fumbles, and the driving rain to defeat the Techmen 14-7. Lee, who came off a knee injury that cost him 2 games, engineered 2 second half touch downs to stage the win. Jefferson's star running back, Palmer Butler, had his share of set-backs, but in the end showed why he is considered one of the top running backs in the state.

Woods adds Vardon trophy to player of year honors

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiger Woods claimed yet another honor on the U.S. PGA Tour on Monday when he was named the winner of the Vardon Trophy for best scoring average, the PGA of America announced.

Woods, who capped a sensational season by winning the World Championship tournament at Valderrama on Sunday, won the trophy and registered the lowest adjusted average since the award format was changed in 1988.

"Tiger is playing like the angels do," Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal said after Woods' Sunday playoff victory in Spain over local favourite Miguel Angel Jimenez.

The 23-year-old American, who had earlier wrapped up the PGA Player of

the Year award, completed 75 rounds with an adjusted scoring average of 68.43. David Duval was runner-up with a 69.17 average in 74 rounds. The previous best adjusted scoring mark of 68.81 was set by Greg Norman in 1994.

In 1988, the criteria was altered to award the trophy to the Tour professional with the lowest adjusted average, computed from the average

score of the field at each event. Woods' latest victory gave him record U.S. Tour winnings of more than \$6.5 million — nearly \$3 million more than runner-up Duval. Woods became the first player since Ben Hogan in 1953 to win four consecutive starts. It was his eighth triumph in 11 tournaments and his ninth of the year worldwide.



Trail Blazers look to continue fast start vs. Jazz



the Associated Press

The Portland Trail Blazers look to continue their dominance of the Western Conference when they face the Utah Jazz in a rematch of last season's conference semifinals at the Delta Center Tuesday night. All four of Portland's wins this season, including its 97-82 victory over the Lakers on Saturday, have been against Western Conference foes. Portland, which is off to its first 4-0 start since opening the 1992-93 with eight consecutive victories, has rallied around the all-around

play of forward Scottie Pippen. Portland's defense, which is third in the NBA, allowing just 87.2 ppg, has been led by Pippen, a seven-time All-Defensive First Team member. The 11-year veteran leads the team with six steals and is second with four blocks and 5.8 rebounds per game. "I'm feeling very good health-wise and my defense is getting my offensive game going," Pippen said. "I've been trying to only take good looks and not force anything." While the Trail Blazers have had an easy time against teams in their conference, the Jazz will try to improve

its record against Western Conference powerhouses. Utah is 1-2 against the Lakers, Rockets and SuperSonics this season, its lone victory coming against Houston. Scott Padgett, the second of Utah's two first-round draft picks, made his first NBA start in place of a healthy but ineffective Adam Keefe in the team's 94-79 win over the Clippers on Monday. Keefe sat the entire game, while Padgett scored six points in 18 minutes in his debut. Portland defeated the Jazz in six games in last season's Western Conference semifinals.

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