

KO Breast Cancer Fight for Life Boxing Gala

By Russ Hellstern

The first Inaugural Black Tie Boxing Gala to support Fighting Breast Cancer was held Friday, February 29, 2008 at the A La Carte Pavilion in Tampa Florida.

Ticket prices and tables went for Breast Cancer patients in the local Tampa Bay area. There was a silent auction, which also raised funds to assist Breast Cancer patients. Charity for Women sponsored the event that included a steak & lobster meal served to the attendees, who paid between \$1,500 and \$5,000 for their tables.

All of the proceeds from KO Breast Cancer "The Fight for Life" will be distributed through the Morton Plant Mease

Foundation. A portion will go to the CaPSS program which helps to empower women by teaching them the coping skills needed to face the trauma of cancer. The remainder of the funds will be used to provide mammogram vouchers and go to the Kelly Jo Dowd fund, which provide comfortable, plush bathrobes to women who are undergoing chemotherapy and also helps finance breast reconstruction for those who cannot afford it.

Bout 1

Adiwirky Lopez from West Tampa Boxing, a Gold Medalist at the Pan American Games, defeated Christina Swanson of South Florida Boxing after 4 rounds of action.



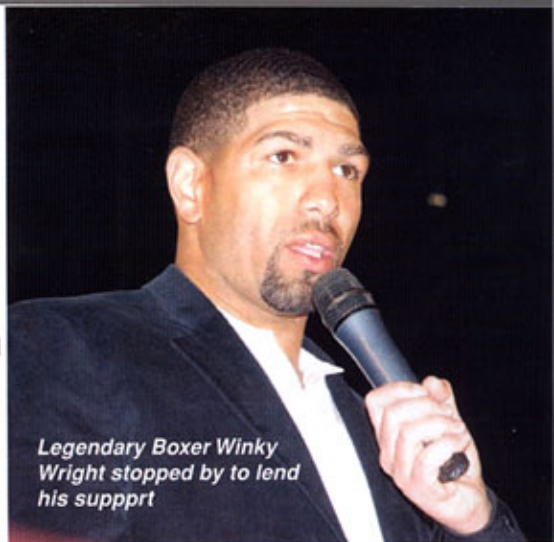
Bout 2

Rick Brown from West Tampa Boxing stopped his opponent, Stuart O'Shannon. After the second round, O'Shannon's corner retired their boxer following several blows to the nose from Brown.

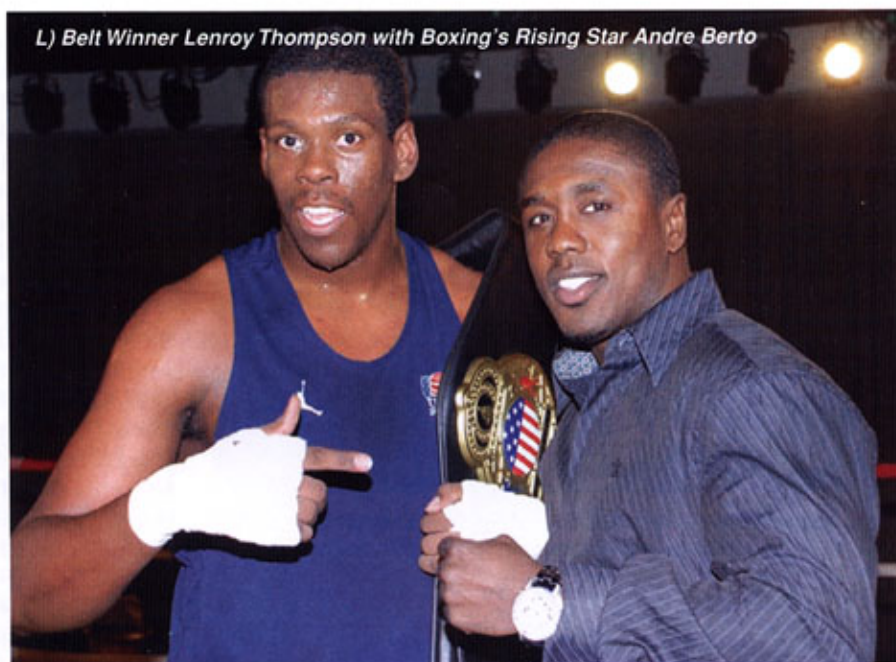
Bout 3

Patrick Newbill

from Largo stepped up the action when he defeated his opponent, James McBride, representing the Clearwater Police Department after three rounds of boxing in the Novice division. Neither of the two boxers had boxed before, and were exhausted after the bout ended.



Legendary Boxer Winky Wright stopped by to lend his support



L) Belt Winner Lenroy Thompson with Boxing's Rising Star Andre Berto

Bout 4

Tiffany Conell, representing Ali's Fitness in St Petersburg, defeated her opponent, Noemi Bosques, representing 4th Street Boxing Gym in St Petersburg. There was plenty of action in this bout as the two female boxers gave it their all for three full rounds. Bosques defeated Conell in a prior bout in January, and each female now has 1 win and 1 loss. Rubber match was being requested by the crowd!

Bout 5

Ivan Cortez, representing World Class Boxing in Ft Pierce, defeated Rob DiGiore, representing his alma mater University of Florida, in three rounds of boxing. Both boxers provided non-stop action for the crowd.

Bout 6

Todd Harlib, representing the Ohio State Buckeyes and Ft Myers PAL defeated Kevin Robey, representing World Class Boxing in Ft Pierce, after three rounds of boxing in the 178 pound Novice Weight Class.

Bout 7

The Main Event was a bout between USA Boxing's #3 Ranked Quantis Graves, Cut Off, LA and USA Boxing's #7 Ranked Lenroy Thompson, Port St Lucie, FL. After four rounds of boxing, the judges declared the winner, Thompson. Andre Berto presented the belt and posed for the camera for both of the boxers.

KO Breast Cancer Belts were awarded to all winners with a silver medal going to the defeated opponent.