

## SPORTS

# Meacher Major's "last dance" in ring set for September 29

## Former regional champ to focus on mentoring

Meacher Major will be 37 this coming October 10. A little less than two weeks earlier, he is scheduled to make his last competitive appearance in a boxing ring.

The Bahamian super featherweight champion and former World Boxing Association Caribbean Federation lightweight king and Jamaican Martin Anderson are to be the main event opponents on a show at the C. I. Gibson Gymnasium in New Providence.

Major has had a high-quality career. His statistics are 23 wins, six defeats and one no-contest. Beyond that record however has been his outreach as a sports ambassador for The Bahamas. Major has established a strong connection to the boxing community in Buffalo, New York. As the Pan American Caribbean Boxing Organization (PACBO) Regional Director, he has made a significant contribution to young developing boxers in the Caribbean, in particular, his native country The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"This is it for me. I am satisfied with what I have done as a professional. I've always faced reality though. I am thankful that I was able to manage my career to reach this point with no problems health wise and with relationships that will enable me to carry on in the sport, with a greater focus to mentoring young boxers.

"I am looking forward to my

last fight. It's the "last dance" and I am excited. I am equally enthused about what is ahead. I am thankful to have been considered by the Pan American Caribbean Boxing Organization to have the capacity to help grow the organization by expanding its link to more Bahamians and

Grand Bahama Sports Promotion Association got with the Bahamas Boxing Commission and the Grand Bahama Port Authority to pull off a very successful dinner boxing and awards event.

"They honored four Bahamians who won Commonwealth titles. It was good to interact with Gomeo Brennan, Steve Larrimore, my old trainer Ray Minus Jr. and Jermain Mackey. I feel good about where boxing in The Bahamas is headed," said Major.

The September show's pro segment dubbed the "Meacher Major 'Pain': The Last Dance" will include a sub-feature match showcasing Rasheed Williams. The underneath program will be a PACBO presentation of amateur bouts.

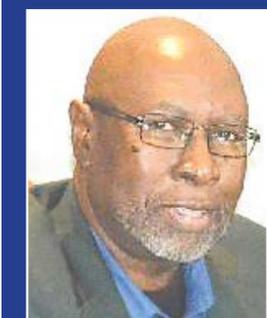
Both the Bahamas Boxing Commission and the Bahamas Boxing Federation have endorsed the event. The commission has sanctioned the professional bouts and the federation has given permission for the amateur bouts to be staged.

Next on the agenda for Major is an amateur show scheduled for Grand Bahama.

"Immediately after the September show we will begin planning to showcase the amateurs in Grand Bahama," informed Major.

Boxing does indeed seem to be on the rise!

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By Fred Sturupp

other youngsters from the wider Caribbean.

"It's exciting and I like what's ahead in the future. Boxing is really on the move in the country and leading the way is Grand Bahama. Tank Williams had an excellent show there several months ago and in July, the



MEACHER MAJOR

# Gym Rats even series with Pistons

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The YMCA Commercial League championship series is all tied up.

Last Friday the Fast Track Gym Rats were left with a bitter taste in their mouths after they dropped game one of their best of seven series against the Polymers Pistons.

This past Wednesday at the YMCA the Gym Rats played like a team incensed on rectifying last week's loss and in turn evened the series up, 1-1.

The Gym Rats defeated the Pistons by a final score of 80-69. The better team had two players score 20-plus points. Franklyn Petion erupted for 26 points in the win while Travis Wildgoose chipped in with 20 points of his own. Trevor Bain added 19 points in the winning effort.

The Pistons were led in the scoring column by Howard Burrows who registered a team-high 17 points. Leon Cooper provided 16 points and Katano Moss added 12 points in the losing effort.

Midway through the first quarter the Gym Rats had paced to an 8-4 lead over the Pistons.

A cold start for the Pistons was not what the doctor ordered as continuous missed opportunities opened the door for the Gym Rats to go on a 10-2 run and build an 18-6 lead with two minutes to spare in the opening stanza.

Petion became too hot to hold for the Pistons and that productive play was contagious for the

Gym Rats. They went on to end the first quarter with a 14-point, 26-12 lead.

The Pistons continued to struggle mightily on both ends of the ball. The Gym Rats kept pushing the pace and owned a 39-25 lead halfway through the second quarter.

The Pistons eventually garnered a little bit of momentum near the end of the second quarter but the Gym Rats went into halftime with a 48-33 lead.

The Pistons regrouped and got off to a more fluid start in the early portion of the third quarter. The Gym Rats kept their poise and were quick to halt the Pistons' efforts at every turn. With under three minutes to go in the quarter the Gym Rats' had moved to a 57-42 lead.

The Pistons hoped to mount a comeback in the fourth quarter down by 10, 59-49.

Determined, they got straight to work in the early portions of the fourth quarter. They eventually made it a nine-point game. With the Rats owning a 60-51 lead. A three-point basket by Dajhon Wildgoose pulled the Pistons within six, 60-54.

But the Gym Rats' fast break offense proved to be a backbreaker. The Gym Rats' lead eventually increased to a 10-point, 66-56 affair midway through the fourth.

All it took was ball movement and quality looks in the paint for the Gym Rats to put the final nail in the Pistons' coffin and leave the Y tied in the best of seven series.

The teams will take the court tonight for game three at the Y at 8:30 p.m.



GOING OFF— Franklyn Petion, erupted for 26 points to lead the Fast Track Gym Rats in their 80-69 game two win over the Polymers Pistons. The Gym Rats evened the YMCA's Commercial League Finals' best of seven series, 1-1 this past Wednesday night.

(PHOTOS: SHAYNE STUBBS)