

CONCORD Transcript

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2007

Concord boxers clean up

■ Barajas, 13, wins a girls title while Thomas, 16, and Lawson, 14, claim boys crowns at the Desert Showdown in Coachella

STAFF REPORTS

One championship belt just wasn't enough for Concord youth boxer Christal Barajas.

Barajas, 13, won the 101-pound girls championship July 11-14 at the Desert Showdown in Coachella — the second-largest amateur tournament in the country — then moved up to the 106-pound class and won that title, too.

It was the highlight of a successful tournament for the Concord Community Youth Center team, which is led by longtime boxing coach Gary Sullenger.

Daniel Thomas, 16, of Bethel Island, added the 145-pound title to an already stellar resume that includes two Junior Olympic titles and a Golden Gloves award.

Also at the Desert Spring Showdown, 14-year-old Charles Lawson of Walnut Creek won the 101-pound belt and 14-year-old David Borjon of Pittsburg won two out of three bouts at 119.

The following week, the CYC team sent five boxers to the Annual Right of Passage Tournament in Yerington, Nev., and came home with five more titles. The star of the tournament was accomplished 17-year-old Eric Altamirano from Concord.

Altamirano, who has three Golden Gloves, three Junior Olympic titles, a U.S. regional title and a bronze medal at the 2005 Junior Olympic nationals to his credit, won the 125-pound title and won the Best Boxer Award for the tournament.

Eric Montano, a 16-year-old from Concord, won the 132-pound championship, while Thomas, Lawson and 15-year-old Gonzalo Riquelme, of Fairfield, each won titles in their respective classes.