

## CONTROLLER

Business



Staff photo by Wayne Leidenfrost

Who said kickboxing is just for men? Michelle Arion of Spokane takes one on the chin from

Leah Goldstein during match at Queen's Park Arena last night.

# Will knockout blow be last for Walters?

By TERRY BELL  
Staff Reporter

The Queen's Park Arena crowd loved Dale Walters' knockout of Fiji's Nashad Ali last night.

But the 1,400 fans who saw it may want to keep the souvenir program. It may be the last fight in Walters' one-year-old pro boxing career.

"I can't really talk too much now because of the emotions I feel," said Walters after earning his first pro knockout when the referee stopped the featherweight bout at the end of the fifth of eight scheduled rounds.

"Right now I'm not too positive about being able to earn a living fighting," said Walters, who added that his bout on the undercard of the Willie de Wit card in Regina on May 2 is still a possibility.

Walters took the Nashad fight with local promoter Gerry Gionco and didn't realize his agent, Bruce Allen, was talking to the de Wit handlers.

"(Before last night) there was a possibility I'd fight in Regina but there was also a possibility this would be my last fight," said Walters, still by far the most popular fighter in the Vancouver area.

"I'm only 22 but I've been in this business 16 years. It's getting hard to go to the gym," added Walters, who has had just four paydays in the ring since turning pro a year ago.

In the ring, Walters pleased the crowd with a barrage of punches, especially when he started landing right hand uppercuts to the Fijian's chin in the third round.

Walters tagged Ali, 12-5, with 12 unanswered punches at the end of the third round. Ali went down but got up at the count of eight at the end of the round.

It was a combined kickbox-boxing show that again had promoters on the ropes financially, although Gionco says he'll stage a similar extravaganza on June 5.

Vancouver featherweight Tony Pep earned a unanimous decision over Lorenzo Garcia of Boise, Idaho. Leah Goldstein, the exciting

17-year-old kickboxer won a three-round decision over Spokane's Michelle Arion.

Canadian middleweight kickboxing champ Ernie Jaskson of Surrey decisioned Daryl Penn of Las Vegas and Victoria boxer Cliff Ballantine decisioned Abbotsford's Stephen Beal.

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