

PRO BOXING

Ramirez ready for professional boxing debut

By Julia M. Dendinger | News-Bulletin Assistant Editor Jun 18, 2016 0

BOSQUE FARMS — Another Bosque Farms native is following her dream of dominating in the boxing ring.

Katie Ramirez, 18, will make her professional boxing debut against Ayana Vasquez as part of the undercard of “Aztec Warfare” on Saturday, June 18, at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque. Doors open at 5 p.m. and first bell is at 7 p.m.

Billed as the “Battle of the Debuts,” this will be the pro debut as well for Vasquez, a Las Cruces native. Ramirez said boxing is just something she always wanted to do, even though her parents were less than enthusiastic. She started training at Rosales’ Karate and Kickboxing School in Los Lunas when she was 12.

“As an amateur, she’s earned five titles in the last six years, including the U.S. Sanctioned N.M. State Title at “Duke Out in Dulce 2” in 2015 in the 145-150 pound female division, the SWKA female super lightweight title in the Monsivaiz Boxing and Kickboxing Championships in Las Cruces, the Southwest Four Corners Kickboxing championship and the New Mexico Junior Olympics title in 2014.

As a female training in a dominantly-male sport, Ramirez said she was welcomed at Rosales’ school.

“No one gave me a hard time,” she said. “The exercise and training is intense for everyone.” She’s in the gym, sparring and working out six days a week for two hours. On her off day, Sunday, Ramirez runs. She’s been testing out kickboxing the last few months, but Ramirez said while she finds the sport interesting, she is concentrating on boxing. “The challenge is keeping up with training and maintaining weight,” she said. Ramirez fights between 130 and 145 pounds, and that can be a tough weight class to find fights in. “Not a lot of girls are in that weight category,” Ramirez said.

Her trainer, Anthony Rosales, agreed, but is hoping her professional debut will open up options ... saying he was skeptical about training women initially but a decade of producing winners has made him a fan. Rosales’ school produced 2004 International Female Boxers Association world Super Bantamweight title holder Jackie Chavez; Sonya Gurule, the 2004 New Mexico state kickboxing champion; as well as Brandi Montoya, the 2012 Women’s International Boxing Association Youth Super Flyweight title holder.

“These girls train hard — harder than some of the guys. They don’t just stand there. They work,” Rosales said. “Katie hits hard. Some of the guys she trains with have said she has hands of stone.”

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