

Nave's punches send Haugen to retirement

Marin fighter earns WBF world welterweight title

By Bruce Adams
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

SAN RAFAEL — Marin's Paul Nave is the new World Boxing Federation welterweight champion and Greg Haugen is going back home to get a job.

Nave won the 12-round bout by unanimous decision Friday night before a partisan crowd of more than 2,000 fans — most of them chanting "Paulie, Paulie" — at a sold-out Marin Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

Haugen, a three-time world champion and, like Nave, 37 years old, said after the fight that he was going to retire to Auburn, Wash.

"I'm not the fighter I once was," Haugen said. He goes out with a record of 37-8-2, with 20 knockouts, and leaves a distinguished career that included wins over Hector

Camacho, Vinny Pazienza, Jimmy Paul and Ray Mancini.

This is Nave's first world championship.

"I knew I could win," Nave said. "It's all in here," he added, tapping his taped hand on his chest.

The title caps a career that began with Golden Gloves competitions in Marin, was detoured by two failed marriages and a three-year term in San Quentin on drug charges, and has produced a fighter celebrated as much for his heart as for his skill.

"I come to fight," Nave said.

Nave came out tight in the first round and went to the mat on an awkward right hand from Haugen. The fall was as much slip as it was a knockdown. It was a turning point in the fight.

Haugen injured his right shoulder on the punch, which was a looping blow culminating with his arm hooked over Nave's back.

The arm was in a sling as he got out of the shower in his dressing room. He said he thought he had injured his rotator cuff.



Paul Nave's whistling left hook doubles up three-time ex-champion Greg Haugen at Marin Veterans Auditorium.

EXAMINER/KIM KOMENICH

Although the injury wasn't noticed during the fight, it was apparent that Haugen wasn't landing many potent punches.

He said after the fight he was essentially boxing with one hand.

"I couldn't lift it," he said, motioning to his now-immobile right arm. "I was only throwing it when I absolutely had to and I didn't have anything on it."

Haugen, saying Nave "fought a

tough fight, he kept coming, he kept coming" — was nonetheless displeased. "If I can't beat a guy like Paul, I don't deserve to be in

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Lady Vols dismiss Arkansas

By Chuck Schoffner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The formula that kept Tennessee unbeaten through 38 games has given the Lady Vols a chance to play in the one they had circled all along.

A big second-half run and smothering defense sent Tennessee past Southeastern Conference mate Arkansas, 86-58, Friday night and into the NCAA women's championship game.

After a scare in the regional finals, Tennessee returned to its trademark dominating style and

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Louisiana Tech overwhelms N.C. State to reach final [D-5]

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Nave's punches send Haugen home

there."

Nave said he didn't notice that Haugen was hurt.

"He kept hitting me," he said. "And I hurt my shoulder in training."

By the end of the fight both fighters were smeared with Nave's blood. He was bleeding heavily most of the fight from a cut over his left eye.

He said the cut was opened on a head-butt in the third round.

The three judges gave Haugen two rounds — including the first — with Nave taking 10 rounds.

Haugen said he was going to move back to Washington state with his family and find a job.

Nave, now 15-5-2 with eight KOs, said he'll keep training in Marin.

"I'd love to fight another world champion," he said.

Tony Lopez of Sacramento won the semi-main event, a junior middleweight eight-round bout, by unanimous decision over Augustine Caballero of Fresno.



EXAMINER/KIM KOMENICH

Newly crowned WBF welterweight king Paul Nave shows off his title belt.

Caballero, 15-7-1, with 10 KOs, only got the fight Thursday after Abaz Bey of Oakland was scratched from the card.

Lopez improved to 47-5-1 with 33 KOs.

In other fights, Sione Asipeli of Arizona (9-1-2, 5 KOs) won by

unanimous decision over James Lester Jr. of San Francisco (3-2-2, 2 KOs) in a six-round heavyweight bout; and Danny Austin of Santa Rosa (2-1) took a unanimous decision over Mike Indrieri of Napa (0-1) in a four-round junior welterweight match.