

## BOXING

# Nave stuns Haugen for WBF crown

By Jay Heater  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

SAN RAFAEL — Six rounds into the fringe World Boxing Federation welterweight championship fight Friday at the Marin Veterans Memorial Auditorium, it seemed as if fight officials would have to begin testing fans for their blood types.

San Rafael's Paul Nave, an overwhelming underdog against former three-time world champ Greg Haugen, seemed in need of a transfusion of both blood and boxing skills.

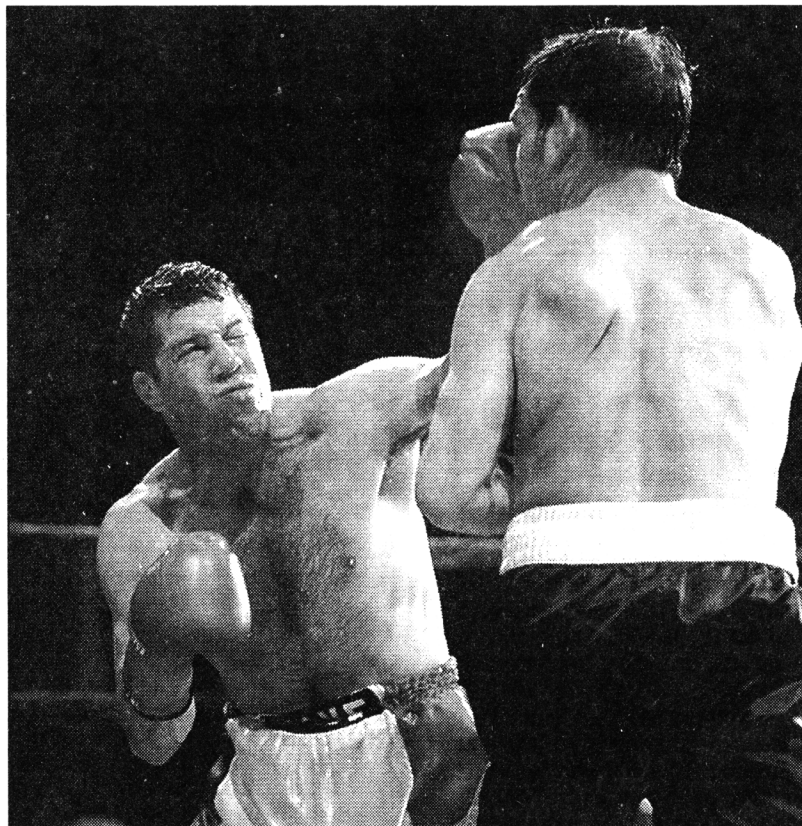
Despite a nasty cut over his right eye that blood poured out of during the entire fight, Nave dominated the final six rounds of the 12-round bout. He pulled a major upset with a unanimous victory over Haugen, the former two-time IBF lightweight champ and WBO junior welterweight titlist.

Judges Joan Ortega (117-110), Dave Nelson (117-110) and Mike Tate (118-109) scored the bout for Nave, who increased his record to 16-5-2.

"They don't know what heart is," Nave yelled as he left the arena, the title belt around his waist. "I just beat a three-time world champ who talked enough trash to fill a garbage can. Nobody thought I could win this fight."

Haugen, 37, wasn't talking any trash after the fight. He said he hurt his right shoulder on the first hard straight right he threw in the first round, a punch that floored Nave for the only knockdown of the bout.

"I'm done," said Haugen, who is 37-8-2. "I think I tore something or dislocated my shoulder. He kept



MARK DUFRENE/TIMES

**PAUL NAVE** of San Rafael lands a left during his unanimous decision over three-time world champion Greg Haugen.

fighting and pressuring me and he kept coming. I thought I needed to knock him out because I knew I wasn't going to get any favors here."

Despite his shoulder injury, it looked as if Haugen were just a punch or two from stopping Nave, who also is 37. However, Haugen didn't throw a right hand after the third round.

Going into the fifth round, Haugen stood in the center of the ring, mugging for the ESPN2 cameras and screaming for Nave to come out. Nave, who said the cut was caused by a head butt in the fourth round, already was a bloody mess. By the sixth, Haugen was covered with Nave's blood. It was in his hair, all down his back, all over his trunks. It seemed that the ringside doctor

would have to stop the bout.

"It was a terrible, bad cut," said Sonny Marson, Nave's cutman. "If it wasn't a title bout, they might have stopped it. I kept trying to put pressure on it in the corner, but Paul kept jerking around and wouldn't let me."

But as more blood poured from the cut, Nave became more aggressive. "I thought I had more time to warm up, but they rushed me into the ring so I was cold in that first round," Nave said. "After I suffered the cut, I couldn't see out of my eye. But I dug down and went to the trenches, and midway through the fight I could feel that I was taking control."

In the main undercard event, Sacramento's Tony Lopez, a three-time former world champion, hammered out a unanimous decision over Fresno's Augustin Caballero in an eight-round junior middleweight bout.

It took a series of fouls to bring out the "Tiger" in Lopez (47-5-1), who dominated the fight and scored knockdowns in the first and fourth rounds. Lopez, 35, also was awarded penalty points in the second and fourth rounds.

Referee Dave Nelson warned Caballero (15-17-1) after the fourth round that any more low blows would be met with a disqualification. Caballero continued to land low.

It probably was best that Nelson allowed the bout to continue. The full house of about 2,400 fans seemed to enjoy watching Lopez chase Caballero around the ring, lunging at him with looping right hands.