

Local boxing's banner month under way

Golden Gloves tournament continues through March 26

by Terron Hampton | Staff Writer

While this time of year is known as March Madness in basketball circles, the local amateur boxing community has what you might call Boxing Madness — otherwise known as the Washington Area Golden Gloves Championships.

Washington Area Golden Gloves President Bobby Magruder is as excited as ever about this year's tournament.

"We had an exceptionally large turnout [of boxers]," Magruder said. "Boxing is back on the mend in the Washington area. I think we have about five guys that have a shot at the 2012 USA Olympic Boxing Team."

Magruder said about 200 boxers from Maryland and the District are participating in this year's tournament, which began Feb. 21 and continues through March 26.

The event includes matches at Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing in Palmer Park each of the next three Saturdays starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$45 and are available at the door. Tickets for children under 12 are \$5.

The top two fighters in each of the open-class weight divisions will advance to the regional championships at 8 p.m. April 16 at the Waldorf Jaycees. Tickets for the regional championships range from \$25 to \$35 and can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 301-843-6165.

Regional champions advance to the Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions, May 2-9 in Little Rock, Ark.

Magruder said he's encouraged that the area's junior boxing scene is growing. He said he has seen an increase in younger competitors as many local gyms have worked to increase the popularity of the sport among youth athletes.