

BOB FOSTER



Retired light heavyweight boxing champ of the world in 1974, who may just 'unretire' this year at the bright old age of 36 to again prove he's one of the ring's biggest draws . . .

Began his boxing career in Silver and Golden Gloves competition here at the old Albuquerque Boys Club while attending Albuquerque High under the watchful eye of former Duke City fighter Joe Louis Murphy . . . Joined the Air Force in 1955 and rapidly established a name for himself by grabbing 102 amateur wins . . . Later won the Pan American light heavyweight title and copped the Britannia Shield in London . . .

Turning pro after discharge from service, Foster quickly made up for lost time by whipping light heavies he faced but was always bypassed when talk of title bout came up against the likes of Jose Torres, Dick Tiger, Harold Johnson and Willie Pastrano . . . Retired in '65 after loss to heavyweight Zora Folley, came back a year later. Later agreed to 'give' Tiger \$100,000 for a title shot . . .

Soundly whipped Tiger in 1968 and was never beaten in defending his crown 14 times . . . Notched 42 knockouts in his career of 51 wins, 6 losses and 1 draw . . . All six defeats came at the hands of heavyweights as he gave up 30-40 pounds to the likes of Folley, Muhammad Ali ("no one hit me as hard as Foster"), Joe Frazier, Doug Jones and Ernie Terrell . . . Went out of his class when the light heavy well went dry, but those fights with the heavies helped put him in \$1 million strata — unheard of for light heavyweight champion . . . Earned \$500,000 in 1972 alone . . .

Just returned from Australia where he was ref of Frazier-Ellis bout . . . Detective for Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department . . . Calls Albuquerque "my kind of folks" . . .