

Anani keeps her IBA belt impressively

By JAMES ARNOLD
Special to The Star

Stephanie Jaramillo smiled and jumped up at the end of her 10-round bout Friday night with Sumya Anani at Municipal Auditorium.

Jaramillo, a junior welterweight from Albuquerque, N.M., wasn't celebrating a win. She was just happy to make it through against Anani, who some boxing experts call the best female boxer in the world.

Anani held on to her women's International Boxing Association junior welterweight title with a unanimous decision over Jaramillo, pushing her record to 24-1-1.

Anani, a 32-year-old yoga instructor and massage therapist from Shawnee, was the aggressor throughout the bout, outscoring Jaramillo 100-88 on two cards and 99-89 on the third. Jaramillo spent much of the match just trying to avoid any hard shots and trying to catch Anani with strong counterattacks.

The tactic didn't work as Anani never tired and knocked Jaramillo down at the end of the ninth round. "My wind was good," Anani said. "I don't know what (Jaramillo) was thinking. You would have to ask her."

Anani bloodied Jaramillo's nose in the fourth round after a series of left crosses from Anani scored on Jaramillo's head. A plodding Jaramillo recovered but offered little offense the rest of the way.

In the 10th and final round, Anani smelled blood and went for her 11th career knockout, but Jaramillo countered with holds, for which she was docked a point. After the bell rung, Jaramillo and Anani each celebrated, with Anani's family joining her in throwing presents to the crowd.

It was Anani's second fight in a year and a half and the first one in her hometown in more than five years. She has challenged each of the top five fighters in the world, even offering to fight on their home turf, but none has accepted.

Jaramillo, a top-10 fighter, was available only after her fight in Trinidad was canceled.

In other bouts:

- In the night's main event, Rob Calloway of St. Joseph's knocked out Jeff Pegues of Akron, Ohio, in the second round and improved to 48-5-1.
- Angelo Torres of Lakewood, Wash., scored a split decision over Alvin Brown of Kansas City and won the World Boxing Federation featherweight title.
- Aaron Drake of Kansas City scored a technical knockout over Rashaun Bland of Cincinnati in the first round.
- Junior welterweight Travis Hartman of Osborn, Mo., took a TKO over Aaron Boldridge of Atchison, Kan., in the second round.
- Sharon Gaines of Kansas City took a unanimous decision over Camille Casson of Covington, Ky.
- Christian Nava of Kansas City took a unanimous decision over Shannon Freeman of Jefferson City.