## TITLE DEFENSE

**Sept 14 defense set for Ancajas in US**

Panabo City pride Jerwin Ancajas will be making his fifth defense of the International Boxing Federation super flyweight title against an adversary still to be determined on September 14 in the undercard of WBC light welterweight champion Jose Ramirez vs. Antonio Orozco at the Save Mart Arena in Fresno, California.

Ancajas, who has an impressive ring record of 30 wins, 1 loss and a draw with 20 KOs, grabbed the IBF world title after defeating Puerto Rican McJoe Arroyo by unanimous decision in September 2016. He defended it by 7th round stoppage of Mexican Jose Alfredo Rodriguez in Macao, then pummeled Japanese fighter Teiru Kinoshita with a 7th round TKO in Brisbane, Australia. He crushed Irishman Jamie Conlan in six rounds in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The Dabawenyo fighter nicknamed "Pretty Boy" stopped Mexican Israel Gonzalez in the 10th round in Corpus Christi, Texas. He then defended his IBF belt for a fifth time by overshadowing compatriot Jonas Sultan by unanimous decision last May 26 in Fresno, California televised over ESPN.

Ancajas, now an enlisted chief petty officer of the Philippine Navy Reserve Corps, has not faced deadlier opponents and did not participate in the two SuperFly events, which involved big name fighters in his division, one of the hottest weight class in the business. Boxing fans would want Jerwin to be tested against the likes of Roman "Chocolatito" Gonzalez, Srisaket Sor Rungvisai or Juan Francisco Estrada.

Since Top Rank started co-promoting Ancajas, he was pitted against foes which resulted in mismatches against Gonzalez and Conlan. He was not able to KO Sultan but clearly Ancajas was the superior fighter.

Ancajas received the coveted IBF Ring of Champion from IBF President Daryl J. Peoples last July 13 at Le Meridien Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"It is with a pleasure that the IBF hands you the Ring of Champion to you, Jerwin Ancajas, in recognition to your achievements and your dedication to the sport of boxing," said Peoples.

The names of pugilists mentioned as probable opponents include Alejandro Santiago of Mexico (16-2-4, 7 KOs) and Miguel Gonzalez of Chile (26-1, 8 KOs). Santiago, a 22-year-old fighter, scored a draw in his last bout with Jose Martinez on March 24.

Santiago fought unknown opponents as a professional. Gonzalez has engaged all bouts at home except for a match in the United Kingdom where he was outpointed clearly by Paul Butler.

“We are getting someone who is aggressive, someone who’s going to bring out the best in Jerwin,” said Sean Gibbons, Ancajas’ co-manager.

For Ancajas to be considered as the best in the 115 lb. weight class, Top Rank should match him with the other tough fighters in the division like WBC king Sor Rungvisai, Estrada, Gonzalez, WBA champion Khalid Yafai, and even WBO titlist Donnie Nietes.

If successful, only then we can truly say that Ancajas is a worthy successor of Manny Pacquiao.

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## Clarkson in Asiad line-up

Jordan Clarkson could suit up for Gilas in the Asian Games.

The six-foot-five NBA guard is listed in the 18-man pool the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) submitted for the August event in Jakarta.

Despite being a second-round pick by the Los Angeles Lakers, who acquired the said selection from the Washington Wizards right during the 2014 NBA Draft, Clarkson worked his way to become one of the top players in the then rebuilding squad.

Clarkson became part of the trade package that was sent to Cleveland for Isaiah Thomas, and Clarkson eventually made it to the NBA Finals last season despite struggling during his first playoff stint.

Should the SBP secure the clearance from the Cavaliers, Clarkson will become a vital figure in the Asian Games lineup that will be made up of the core of the PBA's Rain Or Shine squad.

Why the E-Painters?

The designation of the Elasto Painters' core as the nucleus of Gilas' Asian Games squad, according to Ginebra governor Alfrancis Chua, will be formalized in a meeting by the PBA board on Thursday.

Initially, the core of TNT was agreed upon by the PBA board and the SBP to be sent to the Indonesian capital for the Asiad, but with FIBA suspending four TNT players for 1-5 international games after their participation in the brawl against Australia during the FIBA World Cup Qualifiers on July 2, both parties decided to divert a bit, leading to the ROS core's selection.

However, Chua, who is the sports director of the San Miguel Corp., bared that the core of the San Miguel Beermen was initially being tapped as replacement for the TNT core but he declined.

"Medyo pagod na rin," Chua explained the begging off.

On how the board came up with the proposal to send the ROS core, Chua said, "Sabi ko, 'Kung sino na lang yung number one bago nung semis' (I told them, 'Just send whoever ends up at number one before the semis.')

The E-Painters, behind burly import Reggie Johnson and a breakout stint from Chris Tiu, finished on top of the team standings after the Commissioner's Cup eliminations at 9-2 and eventually made the semifinals only to succumb to the Barangay. (PNA)

# Cavs sign Love to 4 years

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP) -- Kevin Love signed his new contract and proudly put on a hard hat.

The Cleveland Cavaliers will rebuild around him.

The All-Star forward made a long-term commitment to the franchise on Tuesday by signing a four-year, $120 million extension with the Cavaliers, who believe Love can help them stay competitive following LeBron James' departure.

The 29-year-old Love, who was nearly traded twice by Cleveland, signed the extension in front of dozens of construction workers inside Quicken Loans Arena, the team's downtown home, which is undergoing a $140 million renovation not unlike the makeover taking place with the four-time defending Eastern Conference champions.

The symbolic moment wasn't lost on Love, who came to Cleveland four years ago to join James and Kyrie Irving and form the Cavs' ''Big 3.''

It's now his team.

Love will make $24.1 million next season before the extension begins, making his contract worth $145 million over five years. Love waived his option for 2019-20 and there are no other options or trade clauses within the new deal.

He will be paid $28.9 million in 2019-20, $31.3 million in 2020-21 and 2021-22, and $28.8 million in 2022-23.

The deal gives Love obvious financial security, and it locks up an elite player for the Cavaliers, who want to avoid stumbling the way they did when James left the first time in free agency in 2010.

As the NBA waited for James to make his move earlier this month, Love was with friends on Long Island when he got word that his teammate was bound for LA.

Love, who will turn 30 in September, just completed his fourth season with Cleveland, which was swept by Golden State in the Finals. And although James is elsewhere, Love believes that with him and young players like rookie guard Collin Sexton, forwards Cedi Osman and Larry Nance and others, Cleveland can remain more than competitive.

# Nowitzki signed for 21st season

DALLAS (AP) -- Dirk Nowitzki is officially signed for a record 21st season with the Dallas Mavericks.

The Mavericks announced Monday that they had re-signed the 13-time All-Star. That was their plan when they declined a team option on Nowitzki's contract at the start of free agency to create more room under the salary cap before signing DeAndre Jordan.

Nowitzki, a former NBA MVP who turned 40 last month, is set to become the first player in NBA history to play 21 consecutive seasons for the same franchise. The 7-foot German is one of six players overall, and the only international player, with more than 30,000 career points.

His $5 million contract is the same amount he would have been guaranteed for 2018-19 for the second season of a two-year deal signed last summer.