

Sportstoday

Psycho won't bow to Sultan

Delic ready to add a world crown to his collection at historic fight at Suntec City

WBF WELTERWEIGHT TITLE
Eddie "Psycho" Delic v Dondon Sultan

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HE WAS given only three weeks to prepare for the biggest fight of his life.

But Eddie "Psycho" Delic vowed he would be ready.

And with four days to go before he gets into the ring, the 30-year-old Australian champion claims he is in tip-top shape to rumble with Dondon Sultan of the Philippines.

The two boxers will face off for the World Boxing Foundation (WBF) welterweight title at Suntec City on Saturday night, as Singapore gets set to host a world title fight for the first time since 1989, when Indonesia's world flyweight champion Ely Pical successfully defended his crown against American Mike Phelps at the National Stadium.

Delic, who was asked to replace countryman Solomon Egberime on Nov 2 after the latter suffered a freak injury, is relishing the



EDDIE "PSYCHO" DELIC

Fight record: 11 wins (2 KO's), 6 losses, 2 draws
Nationality: Australian
Hometown: Melbourne, Australia
Age: 30
Weight: 67kg
Height: 1.77m
Reach: 168cm

DON ONG

challenge, which will be held at Hall 601 of the Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

"It is a great honour to be called up by the WBF, to be chosen as a contender for a world title," he said yesterday.

"I've had a five-day notice to contest a fight before and although preparations may not be ideal, that doesn't bother me too much. My school teacher used to call me 'psycho' because I was always a little mad.

"I still am! One thing's for sure, I'm not here in Singapore to lose."

Delic, who arrived in Singapore yesterday morning, has never gone toe-to-toe against Sultan, but he was at ringside when the 28-year-old Filipino knocked out Egberime in the ninth round at the Royal Pines Resort in Queensland in 2004.

He knows what kind of fighter he will be up against on Saturday.

"I know I'm the underdog," Delic admitted, having lost to Egberime on points after 12 rounds in Melbourne in 2002.

"Everybody talks about Sultan beating

the big boys. Sultan is a good hard hitter but I'm prepared for that. As I always say, everyone's got two arms and two legs, they all bleed blood like me.

"I stand a chance.

"I know I lost to Egberime but if Sultan thinks he's going to have it easy just because he beat Egberime, I can assure him he has another thing coming."

Delic's fight record currently stands at 11 wins (2 KO's), six losses and two draws.

He admits he is not a "knockout artist", but warned: "I'm prepared to fight a thousand rounds to beat Sultan.

"More often than not, it just happens that my fights have gone the distance.

"I don't actually want to fight 12 rounds with Sultan. There's a good chance for a KO but I won't think too much about that. I just want to win and open doors for the future."

Both fighters will receive appearance fees for the fight and the winner will get a chance to contest for title fights in bigger confederations.

Against pre-fight favourite Sultan (13

wins, 2 draws, 7 losses), Delic is unlikely to have it easy.

But the former kickboxer has a habit of collecting titles. He was the 1996 Australian and 1997 South Pacific kickboxing champion, before switching to boxing in 2001.

Five years on, he is Australia's top welterweight, winning the title on points over Paul Tapley last month in Brisbane.

Delic is happy he's become a boxer.

"No disrespect to kickboxing but boxing is more of a global sport," he said.

"I find boxing a lot more skilful and more of an art form. And really, an Australian kickboxing title is not quite the same as being a world boxing champion."

Ringside seats are priced at \$128 while the rest are \$78, \$48 and \$28. Fans can purchase tickets at all Sistic counters or at www.sistic.com.sg

TOMORROW

Dondon Sultan talks about his chances against the "Psycho" from Down Under

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Christopher's magical mark

CHRISTOPHER Hwang (picture), 14, bowled his first perfect game yesterday at the ongoing 37th AIA Singapore National Bowling Championships held at the Superbowl Safra Mount Faber.

Christopher became the fourth Singapore Sports School student to chalked up a perfect game after Mark Wong, then 12, started the ball rolling in January 2004.

Last year, Mark did it again at the national C Division championships, while Colin Wee and Jazreel Tan, 14 and 15 respectively, pulled off the same feat at the national age-group championships.

Sports School coach Mike Lam feels Christopher's latest feat could lift the youngster's game to the next level. "The boy has got talent. He showed it when he won the



Penang Open under-16 title at just 13 last year," said Lam. "He is playful but passionate about bowling."

"But when you talk about his mental strength, there are times when he crumbles. Now that he's got a perfect game, it will surely boost his confidence."

Christopher is currently in ninth place in the Secondary Schools event after chalking 891 pinfalls from four games.

He admitted to nerves, when he closed in on the magical mark.

"I've never done it even in training and I was nervous," he said. "I tried my best not to think about it and bowled as usual.

"I was still shivering after everything had ended," he admitted. "For now, I just want to keep my tempo going and try to get to the Masters finals." — CUBBY LEONG