

# It'll be over in five

Confident Sultan sends Delic a warning, as he eyes big money in Vegas

**WBF WELTERWEIGHT TITLE**  
Eddie "Psycho" Delic v Dondon Sultan

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SOME want to dance like a butterfly. Dondon Sultan simply goes out to sting like a bee.

The Philippines boxer is confident five rounds is all he'll need to take out Australia's Eddie "Psycho" Delic, when the pair tangle for the World Boxing Foundation (WBF) world welterweight title at Hall 601 of Suntec Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre on Saturday.

Sultan's confidence is not without reason. Out of his 13 career victories, seven have been by knockout (KO). Three of those bouts lasted less than five rounds.

The 28-year-old Pan Asian Boxing Association (PABA) welterweight titleholder said: "I can knock Eddie out. I have confidence in my strength and I think five rounds will be all that it will take.

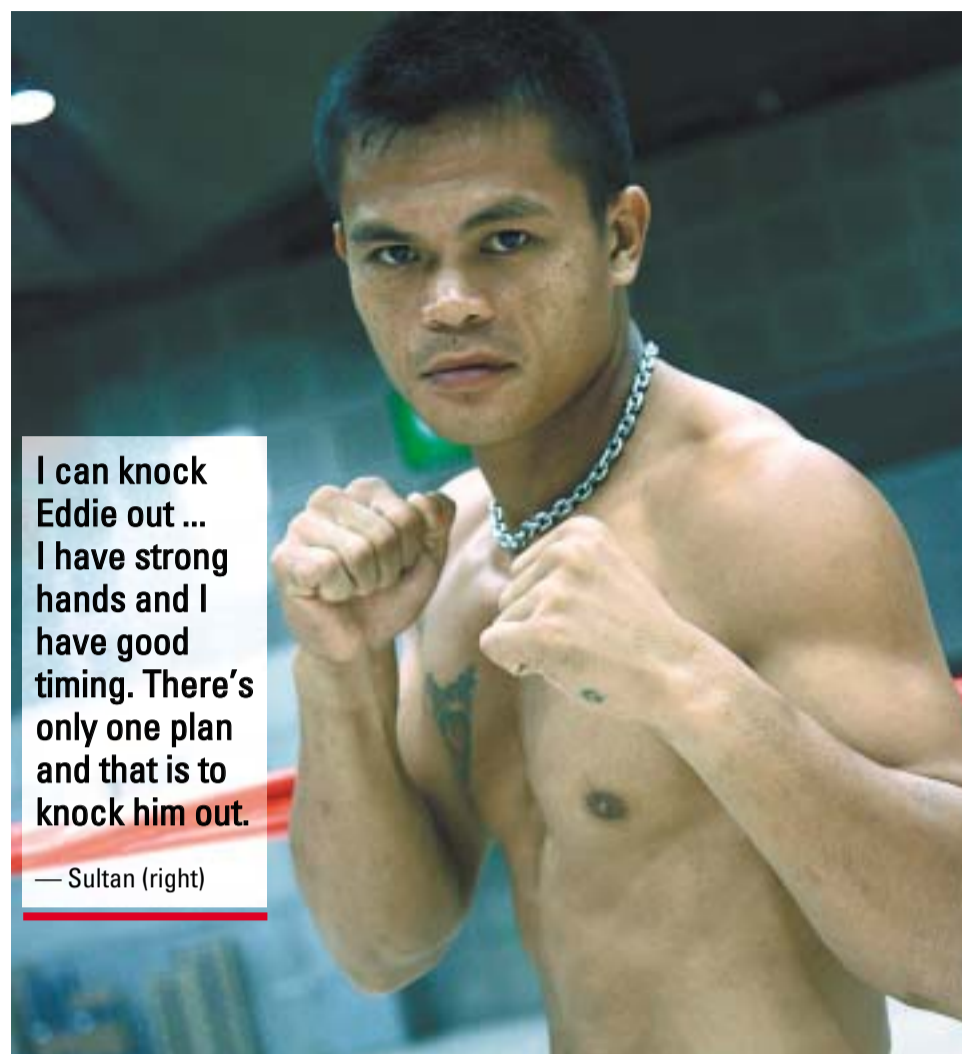
"I have strong hands and I have good timing. There's only one plan and that is to knock him out.

"I have a chance to win. I must fight better than him and I'm definitely stronger, that's all I know."

Sultan knows little of his opponent, but that's just his style. He is only interested in what he needs to do in the ring.

"I don't need to know anything about Eddie. Once I get into the ring, I will know his moves," Sultan added.

"I have never been KO'd before and I've



**I can knock Eddie out ... I have strong hands and I have good timing. There's only one plan and that is to knock him out.**

— Sultan (right)

never got a cut in my career. I'm very careful when I get into the ring.

"I know how to get out of danger."

Trained by Edmund Villamor for the last three years, the financial reward that comes from winning big title fights is the only reason Sultan is boxing professionally.

He has won more than a million pesos (\$31,000) over the last six years and Sultan said: "I need the money and boxing is good money. It's a dangerous sport and I know people who have died in the ring. But, I'm not scared to die.

"I didn't do well in school. I went straight into boxing when I was 12 and have been fighting professionally for the last six years.

"It's a way of providing money for my two children. My wife worries for me and she knows it's dangerous.

"But I know how to take care of myself during a fight."

In 2000, just two years after he turned professional, Sultan defeated Cesar Dasillo to claim the Philippines welterweight title.

He added the Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation welterweight titles to his

growing resume last year with a technical knockout against Kazuhiko Hidaka, before clinching the PABA title in Russia with a stunning first-round knockout of local favourite Anton Solopov.

Now, he's eyeing a fight in Las Vegas.

"There's no doubt this is the biggest fight of my life.

"My manager Sammy Gelloani told me this WBF title is important because if I win, he'll be able to organise fights for me in Las Vegas.

"That will open many doors for me. The money is different and I'm going all out to make sure I win on Saturday."

*Ringside seats are almost sold out. Remaining tickets priced at \$78, \$48 and \$28 still available at all Sistic counters or at [www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg). Ten per cent discount for bulk orders still apply.*

## TOMORROW: THE UNDERCARD

Singapore boxers Mohd Nor Rizan and David Alexis tell TODAY why they are so desperate to win

## No passengers in India's contingent

**NEW DELHI** — India's sports ministry has drastically slashed their Asian Games contingent, leaving out no-hopers at the continent's showpiece event, it was reported yesterday.

The ministry pruned the squad to 387 from the original 589 proposed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), removing football, basketball, handball, sepak takraw, triathlon, bowling, rugby sevens and fencing teams.

The government, who foot the bill for the entire contingent, also scratched several names from other squads like badminton, boxing and wrestling.

Only five of the 10 boxers were cleared while six of the seven Greco-Roman wrestlers were dropped for the Dec 1-15 Games in the Qatari capital of Doha.

The sports ministry declined to give reasons for the cutback, but the *Times of India* said the move was made to avoid embarrassment to the country.



**HOPING:** Kalmadi said the list was made with the future in mind.

"It seems the cash-strapped ministry has decided to stop sending 'also-rans' and 'passengers' to big events," the newspaper said. "It will not only help them save money but also help them save the blushes, because all the squads scratched were not seen as medal prospects."

Teams not cleared by the sports ministry can still make the trip to Doha at their own expense, but IOA chief Suresh Kalmadi said he was hopeful the government would reconsider their decision.

"It's a big squad, we agree, but we have to look at the future," said Kalmadi. "This was perhaps the best way to let our athletes have some good preparation since we are going to stage the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

"Sports like rugby sevens will be played at the Commonwealth Games and the Asian Games would give players the necessary international exposure."

At the last Asian Games in Busan in 2002, India won 11 gold, 12 silver and 13 bronze medals, finishing eighth in the overall tally. — AFP



PHOTO COURTESY OF SINGAPORE DISABILITY SPORTS COUNCIL

**BON VOYAGE:** Singapore's athletes are aiming to improve their Fespics medal haul in KL.

## Off to KL, with Beijing 2008 in mind

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IT MAY be two years away, but for the 39 Singapore athletes who will be in Kuala Lumpur for the 9th Far East South Pacific Games for the Disabled (Fespics Games), the Paralympic Games in Beijing 2008 is very much on their minds already.

The 2006 Fespics Games are seen as key preparation for the

athletes ahead of the Beijing Paralympics in 2008, where Singapore is targeting its first medal.

Yesterday morning at the National Stadium the Team Singapore contingent — from track and field, swimming, sailing, boccia, lawn bowls and bowling — were given a rousing send-off by guest-of-honour and president of the National Council of Social Service Kwek Siew Jin.

Kwek challenged the ath-

letes to better Singapore's haul of three gold, two silver and four bronze medals in the 2002 Fespics Games.

The Singapore Disability Sports Council expect medals in all six sports, with track and field, and swimming coming up big.

There are high hopes in the pool for 200m breaststroke world record-holder Theresa Goh, who is coached by Olympian Ang Peng Siong.