

The New York Times

Sports Sunday

B O X I N G

De La Hoya Turning Lightweight After Victory

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Special to The New York Times

LAS VEGAS, Nev., May 28 — By adding more muscle and weight to his sculptured and firm 5-foot-11-inch frame, the World Boxing Organization junior lightweight champion Oscar De La Hoya predicts he will become "a more devastating fighter" by moving up to the lightweight division.

"If people think I'm great at 130 pounds, wait until they see me at 135 pounds, which is closer to my natural weight," he said.

De La Hoya recovered from a first-round knockdown to record a third-round technical knockout of Italy's Giorgio Campanella Friday night at the M-G-M Grand, remain undefeated and retain his title. He announced that it was his final fight at 130 pounds. He plans to move up to the

W.B.O. lightweight division and fight Jorge Paez in July.

De La Hoya says that when he is forced to reduce his weight to 130, he feels weak, listless and less confident. Fighting at 130, he said, is the reason he was knocked down by Campanella about 15 seconds into the main bout of Top Rank's promotion, "Rising Stars." It was the second time in three bouts that De La Hoya has been knocked down, and he maintained that it was because of his weight.

"When I get up to 135, I'll feel stronger, more powerful and much more confident," De La Hoya said.

Campanella, who was undefeated at 20-0 with 13 knockouts entering his first fight in the United States, came out in hard-charging fashion, landing a series of jabs and hooks. Then, surprisingly, Campanella dropped De La Hoya with a left hook to the chin.

De La Hoya took almost a minute to recover.

When De La Hoya returned to his corner, his trainer, Robert Alcazar, screamed at him, pleading with his fighter to stay away from Campanella's left hook and begin scoring from the outside with quick jabs and hard overhand rights.

That's exactly what De La Hoya did, and the strategy worked. De La Hoya, now 13-0 with 12 knockouts, floored Campanella twice in the second round.

De La Hoya's bout was the main event of the evening, which angered Roy Jones Jr., who defeated Thomas Tate with a second-round technical knockout to retain his International Boxing Federation middleweight championship. Jones, who earned \$750,000 to De La Hoya's \$500,000, was furious about his place on the card.