

VIDEO: SHOBX PRESS CONFERENCE: VILLA VS COLLADO

RUBEN VILLA VS. ALEXEI COLLADO OFFICIAL WEIGHTS, QUOTES AND PHOTOS FOR SHOBX: THE NEW GENERATION TOMORROW LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

SHREVEPORT, LA. – January 30, 2020 – Undefeated featherweight prospect Ruben Villa and hard-hitting K0 artist Alexei Collado (pictured above) both made weight a day before their ShoBox: The New Generation main event on Friday, January 31 live on SHOWTIME (10 p.m. ET/PT) from George's Pond at Hirsch Coliseum in Shreveport, La.

The former two-time Junior Olympic National Champion Villa (17-0, 5 KOs) of Salinas, Calif., will make his fourth ShoBox: The New Generation appearance in just over a year as he faces Cuba's Collado (25-2, 22 KOs) in a 10-round 126-pound bout. Undefeated Ukrainian and 2012 Olympic Bronze medalist Taras Shelestyuk (17-0, 10 KOs) meets Argentina's Luis Alberto Veron (18-1-2, 9 KOs) in a 10-round welterweight matchup in the co-featured bout. In the telecast opener, ShoBox veteran Zhora Hamazaryan (9-1-1, 6 KOs) from Armenia has moved over to the

“A” side and will face new opponent Uganda’s Sulaiman Segawa (12-2, 3 KOs) who replaces Jerry Perez, who fell out of the fight earlier in the week because of the flu. The lightweight bout is scheduled for eight rounds.

The event is promoted by Banner Promotions, Thompson Boxing and Bishop Promotions LLC. Tickets can be purchased at www.Bishoppromotions.com and prices are \$20-\$100.

Hall of Famer Barry Tompkins will call the action from ringside with fellow Hall of Famer Steve Farhood and former world champion Raul Marquez serving as expert analysts. The executive producer is Gordon Hall with Richard Gaughan producing and Rick Phillips directing.

FINAL WEIGHTS, REFEREES AND JUDGES

Featherweight 10-Round Bout

Ruben Villa – 125 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Alexei Collado – 125 lbs.

Referee: Mark Nelson (Minnesota); Judges: Keith Thibadeaux (Houma, La.), Pat Dayton (Monroe, La.), Micky Lofton (Monroe, La.)

Welterweight 10-Round Bout

Taras Shelestyuk – 146 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Luis Alberto Veron – 146 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Referee: Keith Hughes (Mississippi); Judges: Keith Thibadeaux (Houma, La.), Pat Dayton (Monroe, La.), Todd Singletary (Baton Rouge, La.)

Lightweight 8-Round Bout

Zhora Hamazaryan – 136 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.*

Sulaiman Segawa – 135 lbs.

*Initially missed weight, but was allowed to re-weigh and after one hour made weight.

Referee: Mark Nelson (Minnesota); Judges: Keith Thibadeaux (Houma, La.), Pat Dayton (Monroe, La.), Todd Singletary (Baton Rouge, La.)

FINAL QUOTES:

RUBEN VILLA:

"I said in the past it will be one year till I fight for a world title and I think that's still true.

"I'm ready and can't wait to display my talents. I'm on ShoBox again and a main event. I want to look good and get the win, so it's No. 2 on my list to get the stoppage. Getting the win is most important.

"I know there are some boxing fans who appreciate what I do. As far as me being concerned about what others think of me, I don't care. We work on footwork every day, religiously. Every day for 45 minutes. That's our priority.

"I'm not running away from anyone in there. I'm progressing and still an exciting fighter.

"I know I look relaxed out here, but I'm locked in. Once I finish all of my interviews I'm back and locked in. The fun starts now because I get to eat."

ALEXEI COLLADO:

"The last time I fought on ShoBox I was undefeated and weight was an issue because I'm not a 135-pound fighter.

"I know how Villa fights: Box, box, box. I have to be smart and we have our game plan. No one has been able to figure him out yet, but we will see. He's in for a test, and I have the experience.

"The hunger is still there and I have to do this for my family. Because they have supported me and are behind me.

"I come from the Cuban school of boxing which is hit and don't get hit. I want the knockout. We're on T.V. so we need to be impressive."

TARAS SHELESTYUK:

"I fought on ShoBox in the past but I think I'm more experienced now and had never fought 10 rounds before that. I think I'm mentally stronger.

"I've lived in Los Angeles since 2013 when I turned pro. I know I've been inactive but it won't affect me. I'm 34-years-old and now I'm looking for the next big fight, the Keith Thurmans or the Kell Brooks. I want to be back in the mix at 147 pounds so it's of course important that I look good and I'm looking forward to showing that Friday night.

"I've had a long layoff, 22 months. But I've always been training. It's a variety of reasons I was out of the ring. Sometimes the opponent just falls out.

"I'm so excited to be back on ShoBox. Most of the great champions have fought on ShoBox. I have had a goal since a very young age to be the world champion. I feel my body has served me well over the years.

"Bobby Benton will be in my corner, as well as my brother Bogdan Shelestyuk."

LUIS ALBERTO VERON:

"I fought just 12 days ago in Argentina so I'm definitely ready for this battle.

"I know I have to correct some mistakes I've made in the ring recently, and we went right back to the gym and did that.

"In my mind I'm always thinking about winning and I'm always looking for the victory.

"This is my debut in the United States and I've fought 20 times in my native Argentina and one time in England. It's exciting being here, and I'm ready to put on a show. Don't miss it. It's going to be fun giving him his first defeat.

"I have more confidence now that I see him face-to-face and he's not even as big as I thought or as big as me.

"I know I have to make a statement on Friday night. This is a big step-up fight for me and so important for my career."

ZHORA HAMAZARYAN:

"I did recently receive my degree in physical education back in Armenia. Boxing is my life right now, but it's good to have something to fall back on.

"I have a new trainer now Edmund Tarverdyan and my training camp was the best one ever. He was the Armenian National coach and worked as the former trainer to Vic Darchinyan and Rhonda Rousey. It's been three months now and things are going great.

"I'm living full-time in Armenia but have applied for my Green Card. ShoBox fans know me from the (Thomas) Mattice fights. Not many agreed with the decision when I lost to him, but I'm just looking to move forward and just looking ahead.

"My opponent is a strong fighter and a southpaw. I've fought lots of them so I'll be ready.

"I'm so excited to be back on ShoBox. It's a dream come true. I've been watching fights on T.V. since I was a kid."

SULAIMAN SEGAWA:

"I just got called on Monday for this fight, but it's great and I'm ready.

"My style is unique and I have a ton of weapons. I've fought stronger competition than he has and I know this is a fight I can win.

"I haven't watched my opponent's past fights but my trainer and my team has. They say he reminds them of my last few opponents and comes forward.

"I've fought on short notice before so it's nothing new. I'm 100 percent ready, and not just physically, but mentally. And sometimes that's even more important.

"I moved from Uganda to Maryland two years ago and I've come to realize that boxing in the U.S. is war. You are under a lot of pressure to win here. They hit to kill. You have to be ready for everything."

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About ShoBox: The New Generation

Since its inception in July 2001, the critically acclaimed SHOWTIME boxing series, ShoBox: The New Generation has featured young talent matched tough. The ShoBox philosophy is to televise exciting, crowd-pleasing and competitive matches while providing a proving ground for willing prospects determined to fight for a world title. Some of the growing list of the 81 fighters who have appeared on ShoBox and advanced to garner world titles includes: Errol Spence Jr., Andre Ward, Deontay Wilder, Erislandy Lara, Shawn Porter, Gary Russell Jr., Lamont Peterson, Guillermo Rigondeaux, Nonito Donaire, Devon Alexander, Carl Froch, Robert Guerrero, Timothy Bradley, Jessie Vargas, Juan Manuel Lopez, Chad Dawson, Paulie Malignaggi, Ricky Hatton, Kelly Pavlik, Paul Williams and more.

World-Ranked Featherweight Contender Headlines against Alexei Collado on January 31st on ShoBox: The New Generation and Live on SHOWTIME® (10 PM ET/PT)

Philadelphia / Orange, Ca. – January 28, 2020 – Undefeated featherweight and world-ranked Ruben Villa (17-0, 5 KOs) is winding down his training for his 10-round showdown with Cuban knockout artist Alexei Collado (26-2, 23 KOs), this Friday night at the Hirsch Memorial Coliseum in Shreveport, Louisiana. The bout will headline a three-fight telecast on ShoBox: The New Generation and live on SHOWTIME (10 PM ET/PT). Villa has been working hard just outside of his native Salinas, California.

“Training camp has been good. I have been training in Prunedale which is a little bit outside of Salinas, but its close enough, so in a way I am home, but I am not at home.”

In Collado, he is facing a tough veteran, who has an impressive knockout ratio.

“Collado is a real strong aggressive guy. He is a veteran. I have to be cautious because of his power and play it very smart on our end.”

With a winning performance on January 31st, Villa can see himself in the middle of the featherweight title chase as he looks to improve on his number-five ranking by the WBO.

“I feel like I’ve proven myself with the last couple of

fight. I feel like I belong in the top-five if not higher. I feel that a win will set me up for bigger and better things. " Villa has been more than grateful to accelerate from prospect to contender on the series that has showcased more than 75 world champions.

"Another main event on ShoBox. I am excited to showcase my talents in Louisiana again. It's motivation to prove myself to people that I should be the main event."

"I am usually just real focused. I know the featherweight division is stacked, but I am really just focused on what is in front of me and focused for the fight. After we are finished on January 31st, my team and I can figure out what is next; however, I feel that I am close to competing for a world title."

Villa is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing.

Undefeated Ukrainian and 2012 Olympic Bronze medalist Taras Shelestyuk (17-0, 10 KOs) meets Argentina's Luis Alberto Veron (18-1-2, 9 KOs) in a 10-round welterweight matchup in the co-featured bout. The televised opener features an eight-round lightweight bout pitting ShoBox veteran Zhora Hamazaryan (9-1-1, 6 KOs) of Armenia against Sulaiman Segawa (13-2, 4 KOs) of Uganda.

The event is promoted by Banner Promotions, Thompson Boxing and Bishop Promotions LLC. Tickets can be purchased at www.Bishoppromotions.com and prices are \$20-\$100.

TOP PROSPECT RUBEN VILLA TO FACE CUBAN KO ARTIST ALEXEI COLLADO ON SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 LIVE ON SHOWTIME® FROM SHREVEPORT, LA.

NEW YORK – January 10, 2020 – Undefeated featherweight prospect Ruben Villa will make his fourth ShoBox: The New Generation appearance in just over a year as the former two-time Junior Olympic National Champion takes on hard-hitting Alexei Collado in a 10-round main event of a three-fight telecast on Friday, January 31 live on SHOWTIME (10 p.m. ET/PT) from Hirsch Memorial Coliseum in Shreveport, La.

Undefeated Ukrainian and 2012 Olympic Bronze medalist Taras Shelestyuk (17-0, 10 KOs) meets Mexico's Alejandro Davila (19-1-2, 7 KOs) in a 10-round welterweight matchup in the co-featured bout. The televised opener features an eight-round lightweight bout pitting Southern California native Jerry Pérez (12-0, 9 KOs) against ShoBox veteran Zhora Hamazaryan (9-1-1, 6 KOs) from Armenia.

The event is promoted by Banner Promotions, Thompson Boxing and Bishop Promotions LLC. Tickets can be purchased at www.Bishoppromotions.com and prices are \$20-\$100.

"On January 31 we have three prospects at different points in their careers with Ruben Villa developing into a must-see prospect with high expectations," said Gordon Hall, Executive Producer of ShoBox: The New Generation. "Taras Shelestuyk is still undefeated and working on rebuilding a once-promising career in a must-win fight and Jerry Pérez is young and

relatively unknown, but in a big step-up fight looking to be noticed. Each of these three are in meaningful fights that should be action-packed.”

The 22-year-old Salinas, Calif., native Villa (17-0, 5 KOs) was also the 2014 and 2016 National Golden Gloves Champion and is currently ranked No. 5 at 126 pounds by the WBO and No. 13 by the WBC. Villa was a 2016 U.S. Olympic Team alternate, and had an impressive amateur record of 166-17 with wins against Devin Haney, Shakur Stevenson, and Gary Antonio Russell.

The southpaw Villa has looked impressive in each of his three previous ShoBox appearances, including his debut last January when he outclassed then-unbeaten Ruben Cervera. In May, Villa stepped up to 10-round status for the first time and won a unanimous decision against Luis Alberto Lopez and in September, Villa scored a second-round knockdown against Enrique Vivas en route to a comfortable shutout unanimous decision.

“I know my opponent has a good record at 26-2 and he has heavy hands, but he is wild,” Villa said. “I feel that I am close to a title eliminator, but the middle or at the very latest at the end of 2020. ShoBox has helped me with my recognition and showcasing my talent. I am just thankful to be headlining once again on ShoBox. I know I’m close to making that next step up to contender so I have to look impressive on January 31.”

In Collado (26-2, 23 KOs), Villa will face a tough, 31-year-old Cuban currently living and training in Miami. Collado is on a seven-bout winning streak with six KOs and was active in 2019 winning four times, including his last victory via first-round KO against Facundo Eduardo Ased four days before Christmas. Collado won the 2006 Junior World Title in the flyweight division.

“I participated on a ShoBox event in the past and I couldn’t close the show,” said Collado, who made his ShoBox debut in

April of 2014 in a 10-round lightweight unanimous decision loss to Rod Salka. "This time the story will be different and I am more than ready for Ruben Villa. Ruben is a young talented boxer but he will not be able to do with me what he was able to do to other guys. I'm far more experienced, much stronger and way smarter than all the guys put together that he has faced so far. This is an opportunity that I will not take for granted, Villa better be ready to get shocked."

Management issues have kept the 34-year-old Shelestyuk mostly inactive and he has fought just once in two and a half years. Currently living and training in Southern California, Shelestyuk has trained with Freddie Roach and his stable of fighters at the famed Wild Card Gym in Hollywood. Shelestyuk's last fight came in March, a unanimous decision against Martin Angel Martinez in Southern California. His best win came in 2015 on ShoBox over once-beaten Aslanbek Kozaev.

"Training camp is going great and a lot of the hard work is already done, but we have three more weeks to rock it and finish strong," said Shelestyuk, who has previously fought twice on ShoBox, recording unanimous decisions in November of 2015 and 2016. "We always have a great atmosphere with the team during the training camp. It's exciting to be back on SHOWTIME. The fans like my style and I'm ready to give them a show. My opponent is tough and a big guy, He has more fights than me in the professional ring, and it will be clash of different styles."

Davila has campaigned almost exclusively in Mexico since turning professional in 2014. He was undefeated over his first 20 bouts, including two draws, before suffering his first loss in his last fight in November against once-beaten Mikael Zewski in Canada. Davila notched his last victory via unanimous decision over Luciano Chaparro Araujo in July in Mexico.

"I know Taras has a tremendous amateur and professional career

but I also got what it takes to beat anybody at this level," Davila said. "I am coming to win this fight and hand Taras his first defeat. I will do my best to win this fight."

The 26-year-old Pérez had 45 amateur fights with some international experience and currently trains with four-division world champion Leo Santa Cruz, whom he met through a family friend in 2016. Perez made his pro debut on the Santa Cruz-Carl Frampton undercard at MGM Grand in Las Vegas as Perez recorded a knockout against Javier Cepeda in January 2017. In his young career, Perez has also fought at Staples Center in Los Angeles on the Mikey Garcia-Robert Easter undercard scoring a second-round KO against Aaron Jamel Hollis. Perez started boxing at age 9 learning his craft at the High Desert Boxing Club in Victorville, Calif., in San Bernardino County.

"We have been knocking on doors for a while and finally that door has opened up to us," Perez said. "It's now time to show I belong in the ring with a guy like Zhora whom I respect but have the certainty I can beat. I'm coming to make a statement in my TV debut and show that I'm a force at lightweight."

The 23-year-old Hamazaryan resides in Los Angeles and has fought on ShoBox twice, both memorable and exciting bouts against lightweight prospect Thomas Mattice. Hamazaryan lost the first matchup by split decision in July of 2018 after out-landing and out-powering Mattice in a fight many observers thought Hamazaryan clearly won. Hamazaryan earned a draw against Mattice in an immediate rematch two months later.

"I have had a tremendous camp and am excited to get back on ShoBox," Hamazaryan said. "I feel I am still undefeated and the fans now know what I bring and that is a fighter who fights hard for the whole fight. I do not know much about my opponent except his record. I just fight my fight and I will bring home the victory."

Barry Tompkins will call the action from ringside with boxing historian Steve Farhood and former world champion Raul Marquez serving as expert analysts. The executive producer is Gordon Hall with Richard Gaughan producing and Rick Phillips directing.

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Edner Cherry Tops Lydell Rhodes with Unanimous Decision in Main Event of Premier Boxing Champions TOE-TO-TOE TUESDAYS on FS1 & BOXEO DE CAMPEONES on FOX Deportes from Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.

BETHLEHEM, PA. (June 29, 2016) – Former title challenger Edner Cherry (35-7-2, 19 KOs) defeated contender Lydell Rhodes (23-2-1, 11 KOs) by unanimous decision (98-92, 97-93 X 2) in a 10-round super featherweight main event of Premier Boxing Champions TOE-TO-TOE TUESDAYS on FS1 and BOXEO DE CAMPEONES from Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.

Cherry, of Wauchula, Fla. who trains out of St. Pete Boxing Club with welterweight champion Keith Thurman, got off to an early lead in the second round, landing a left that stumbled Rhodes briefly.

A former football standout and wrestler in high school, who has competed in both boxing and mixed martial arts professionally, Oklahoma City's Rhodes made the fight physical and ugly early.

Rhodes said, "He held and a lot which made it tough to get in a rhythm."

"He was slick," answered Cherry. "So I held because I didn't want him to get in those quick shots."

A sloppy round five saw both fighters slip to the canvas, but neither was ruled a knockdown. What became a wrestling match continued rounds six through 10, with clinching and grappling throughout.

Moments before the final bell, Cherry stunned Rhodes, cementing what would become his unanimous victory.

Cherry said, "I thought it was a great fight. I was in a tough fight tonight and I am glad to come out with the victory."

A discontented Rhodes expressed, "It was a heck of a fight. I wanted to back him up in the later rounds but he was strong. It was an ugly fight, but I believe I won. I don't agree with the decision. Nothing more, nothing less."

Cherry concluded, "Training and sparring with Keith (Thurman) was great. He's so strong and it helped me in this fight. We were both training for big fights at the same time and it helped me increase my strength and pick up this win tonight, without a doubt."

Televised coverage kicked off with unbeaten Omar "Super 0" Douglas (17-0, 12 KOs) stopping Cuban Alexei "The Hurricane" Collado (19-2, 17 KOs) in the seventh round of their scheduled 10-round super featherweight bout.

A fast-rising star out of Wilmington, Delaware, Douglas jumped out to an early lead, controlling the action in the first frame. Douglas continued moving Collado around the ring in round two, forcing a frustrated Collado to clinch, which resulted in both fighters awkwardly stumbling to the canvas.

The Miami native Collado came out aggressive in rounds three and four, outworking Douglas and winning him the pair of rounds on all three judges' scorecards.

However, Douglas settled in throughout rounds five and six. His jabs to the body proving an effective deterrent to Collado's aggression and furious pace he displayed in the earlier rounds.

The end came in the seventh round as Douglas landed a left hook to Collado's head that stumbled Collado, forcing him to take a knee and never get back up.

"I noticed that he has his head in the middle and that is unusual for a tall guy," said Douglas. "So I was focusing on the right hand up the middle. I was able to finish him with a hard right, left, right combination."

Collado acknowledged, "He hit me with a good left hook and that broke my nose. I feel it was a close fight though, and I was in the fight up until he got me, but he is a good fighter."

Douglas agreed with Collado's assessment of the competition adding, "It was a tough fight, but I had a great camp and that showed tonight. I think I need one or two more of these kinds of fights and I will be ready for a title shot."

The second televised bout showcased unbeaten prospect Antonio Russell (7-0, 5 KOs) securing a unanimous decision (60-54, 59-55 X 2) victory over Jamaica's Rudolph Hedge (10-4-3, 4 KOs) in a six-round super bantamweight showdown.

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Video: Alexei Collado talks about his fight with Omar Douglas

Video: Omar Douglas talks about his bout with Alexei Collado

Exciting Contenders Edner Cherry & Lydell Rhodes Meet in Main Event of Premier Boxing Champions T0E-T0-T0E

TUESDAYS on FS1 & BOXEO DE CAMPEONES on FOX Deportes Tuesday, June 28 From Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.

BETHLEHEM, PA. (June 7, 2016) – Former title challenger Edner Cherry (34-7-2, 19 KOs) and quick-fisted contender Lydell Rhodes (23-1-1, 11 KOs) will compete in the 10-round lightweight main event of Premier Boxing Champions TOE-TO-TOE TUESDAYS on FS1 and BOXEO DE CAMPEONES on Tuesday, June 28 from Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.

Televised coverage begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and features unbeaten featherweight

Omar “Super O” Douglas (16-0, 11 KOs) battling hard-hitting Cuban Alexei “The Hurricane” Collado (19-1, 17 KOs) in a 10-round bout.

“I know Rhodes is a good fighter and I am preparing for a tough fight,” said Cherry. “I am still pushing towards a world title. I learned that when you fight for a title, you have to knock out the champ. I’m not giving up. I’m still here and think this will be a great fight. This is what boxing needs, two great fighters going at it.”

“I have been waiting for a fight like this for a long time,” said Rhodes. “Cherry is a warrior who has never been stopped. I will be the first person to stop him. I have to go out and dominate against a guy who has fought many world champions. I believe if I do that, it will push me towards a world title shot.”

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by King’s

Promotions, are priced at \$108, \$83 and \$58, not including applicable service charges and taxes and are on sale now. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com. To charge by phone call Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000.

"This is a terrific show headlined by a great crossroads fight between Edner Cherry and Lydell Rhodes," said Marshall Kauffman of King's Promotions. "Cherry is looking for another title shot and with a win Rhodes will get right in the mix. This should be an outstanding night of fights in Bethlehem and on FS1 and FOX Deportes."

Cherry, of Wauchula, Fla., is a former world title challenger who is 10-1 since 2009. His only blemishes since 2007 are losses to Timothy Bradley and Paulie Malignaggi at 140-pounds and his title challenge last October against Jose Pedraza in which he dropped a split decision. Cherry, who was born in the Bahamas, owns victories over Vicente Escobedo, Monte Meza Clay and Wes Ferguson and will look to take down a contender on his way to another title shot.

A multi-sport athlete who has competed in both boxing and mixed martial arts professionally, Oklahoma City's Rhodes looks to rebound on June 28 from his first blemish at the hands of unbeaten Sergey Lipinets. The 28-year-old recorded four victories in 2014 including triumphs over Miguel Angel Huerta and John Nater before fighting to a draw in 2015 with Jared Robinson in addition to the fight with Lipinets.

An undefeated fighter out of Wilmington, Delaware, Douglas impressed in the TOE-TO-TOE TUESDAYS main event in December 2015 when he defeated contender Frank De Alba in a step up fight. The 24-year-old had already beaten Daniel Attah in 2015 and previously took down veterans Anthony Napunyi, Jean Javier Sotelo and Osnel Charles and he will again fight strong competition as he seeks a world title shot in the near future.

Fighting out of Miami but originally from Cuba, Collado turned

pro in 2008 and was victorious in his first 18 pro bouts before a decision loss in 2014. The 28-year-old owns victories over veterans Edgar Riovalle, Franklin Varela and Jose Saez and most recently stopped Gyci Lorenzo in February.

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