

GRADUATION DAY FOR ANTOINE DOUGLAS: UNBEATEN MIDDLEWEIGHT DROPS LES SHERRINGTON FIVE TIMES EN ROUTE TO FOURTH-ROUND TKO IN MAIN EVENT OF SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION QUADRUPLEHEADER

LAS VEGAS (Nov. 7, 2015) – It was cold outside, the temperature dipping into the low 50s, but the elements did not affect unbeaten Antoine “Action” Douglas, however, as the talented world-ranked middleweight turned up the heat and impressively knocked out Les Sherrington in the fourth round in the main event of a ShoBox: The New Generation quadrupleheader Friday live on SHOWTIME.

Douglas (19-0-1, 13 KOs), of Burke, Va., dropped Sherrington (35-8, 19 KOs), of Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia, five times before the one-sided fight for the WBO International 160-pound title was stopped at 1:02 of the fourth. The quick, hard-hitting Douglas dropped Sherrington one time in the first and second rounds, two times in the third and once in the fourth.

In the co-feature from the specially-constructed ring outside the Downtown Las Vegas Events Center (DLVEC) across from the D Las Vegas, Ukrainian southpaw Taras “Real Deal” Shelestyuk (13-0, 8 KOs), of Los Angeles, Calif., pitched a near-10-round shutout over Aslanbek Kozaev (26-2-1, 7 KOs), of Vladikavkaz, Russia, to capture the WBO-NABO Regional Welterweight title. A former amateur standout and 2012 Olympic Games Bronze

Medalist, Shelestyuk, won by the scores of 100-90 twice and 99-91.

In other results on a card promoted by GH3 Promotions and Banner Promotions, "Killa" Keenan Smith (9-0, 3 KOs), of Philadelphia, won a unanimous eight-round decision over Benjamin "Da Blaxican" Whitaker (10-2, 2 KOs), of San Antonio, Texas, in a competitive welterweight scrap and "Tsunami Sam" Teah (7-1, 2 KOs) of Philadelphia scored a unanimous decision over previously undefeated O'Shaquie "Ice Water" Foster (8-1, 5 KOs) of Orange, Texas, in a lightweight match. It was the 135th time a boxer suffered his first loss on ShoBox.

For Douglas, it was his fifth consecutive victory on ShoBox and likely may have earned him a spot on a future SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® card. The 10 fighters who've appeared five or more times on ShoBox have all gone on to challenge for a world title.

"Antoine Douglas is the perfect example of what we do in the ShoBox series. We build fighters. We develop them from prospect to contenders," said Gordon Hall, Executive Producer of ShoBox: The New Generation and Senior Vice President of Production, SHOWTIME Sports. "We've seen Antoine grow. He started as a promising prospect, and we matched him really tough and each and every time he stepped up to the task. Tonight, he graduated from ShoBox with a spectacular performance; there are no doubts he is now a contender."

"We got what Antoine Douglas needed: The type of utterly dominant performance that makes you want to see him against the best middleweights. Tonight was Antoine's graduation from ShoBox. Now he'll move up to bigger and better things," said ShoBox expert analyst Steve Farhood afterward:

Douglas went 10 rounds for the second time and upped his winning streak to five since boxing a draw in July 2014.

"They said this was my graduation day, time for a cap and

gown, so this was definitely a big win,” said Douglas, a top amateur who made it to the 2011 U.S. Olympic Trials and was the WBA’s ninth-ranked contender going in. “It was a great experience fighting on ShoBox and I appreciate everything they’ve done for me getting me ready to go to the next level. Now, it’s time for me to take the next step.

“I expected to win, probably by knockout, but I didn’t expect it to be this way. I expected Sherrington to be tougher, more prepared. I think my jab was the key. It set him up for all the big shots I landed with my right hand and left hook.

“I knew I’d be faster than him. I was very prepared. One good thing I’m happy about is how I kept my composure.”

Sherrington, who was fighting outside of Australia and making his U.S. and 2015 debuts, came in having won eight of his last nine fights, including his last pair. But the WBA’s No. 12 contender was no match for Douglas.

“Antoine Douglas is very good and he will go on to really big things in this sport,” Sherrington said.

“I’m not making excuses, but I was freezing and could never really warm up. And then he caught me cold. I came here to reach a lifelong dream of mine but it was not meant to be. I got welcomed into the big leagues in a big hurry and in the worst way. All credit goes to Douglas for that.”

Farhood was impressed with Shelestyuk, a former amateur standout. “[Taras] Shelestyuk looked like the most mature fighter on the card,” Farhood said. “He has a wonderful amateur pedigree, he was an Olympic Bronze Medalist. He fought a fighter that made him fight and throw a lot of punches – he averaged 85 punches a round. He dominated the fight from the first round on and he looked like the world-class fighter that he was developed to be.”

Shelestyuk utilized his 3½-inch height advantage to dominate

the game but outclassed Kozaev. "This was a good fight for me. I'm so happy. I won my first pro title, went 10 rounds for the first time and won all the rounds," Shelestyuk said.

"The guy was a super tough opponent. I thought I was going to knock him out in a few of the rounds but he took all my hard punches. He was a warrior and had a lot more experience than me."

Kozaev, making his first start in 18 months, started fast but got outhustled and outworked from the second round on. "He's a good fighter and I gave my best, but having not fought for such a long time was a big factor," he said.

Smith overcame a nasty cut over the left eye from an unintentional headbutt in the sixth but came back to score a knockdown in the seventh. He triumphed by the scores of 79-73 and 78-74 twice.

"Keenan Smith overcame a very bad cut to win this fight," Farhood said. "He scored a knockdown that was unexpected late in the fight. I thought that it was a very close fight, but Smith did enough in the early rounds to win. He's definitely a prospect that will get better."

Smith was fighting for the fourth time this year after a three-year hiatus. He was less than enthusiastic afterward. "This was a rough camp for me. My mother died. I dedicated this fight to her and really wanted to get the knockout," said Smith who wore all-pink trunks in her honor.

"I'm not all that happy because I felt I could have finished him even though my left shoulder was hurting and I was not 100 percent. I also couldn't see much at all out of my eye after the cut.

"But tonight, it was like a welterweight fighting a junior welterweight. I weighed in at 141 and he was at 147. But going eight rounds for the first time was definitely a good thing. I

just feel like I should have finished much stronger. The weather was not a problem.”

Whitaker had a three-fight winning streak end. “The scoring was way off. It was a much closer fight than that,” he said. “I don’t understand how he could get warned the whole fight for holding, but never get a point taken away. The knockdown wasn’t even a knockdown. It was more of a trip. The ref asked me if I could continue and I was like, ‘I wasn’t even hurt, not even wobbled a little bit.’

“I would love to fight him again.”

Teah won the opening bout of the telecast by the scores of 79-73 and 77-75 twice. “This was an upset,” Farhood said. “Teah beat a fighter who had been a tough amateur. The problem for O’Shaquie Foster is that he looked like an amateur. He didn’t adjust to the pro game. He didn’t show enough strength and enough determination. He was a disappointment and [Sam] Teah took advantage of that.”

Teah, making his eight-round debut, won his third in a row. “I’m ecstatic and couldn’t ask for anything better,” he said. “This is definitely my biggest win and I definitely felt I won. I could have done more, but I did enough. This was a great win for my team. Working 10 hours a day paid off for me.

“This was my first time going eight rounds and I felt strong. To beat an unbeaten fighter was huge. The first six rounds I coasted. The last two rounds fatigue set in and I started to feel the weather, but I feel great now.”

If anyone of the eight boxers froze under the bright lights it was Foster. “For some reason I just wasn’t myself in there,” a visibly disappointed Foster said. “I could have done so much more but I just didn’t throw enough punches. It’s time for me to regroup and get it together for the next time.”

All but Douglas were making their ShoBox debuts.

The ShoBox quadrupleheader will re-air this week as follows:

DAY CHANNEL

Monday, Nov. 9, 10 p.m. ET/PT SHOWTIME EXTREME

Friday's four-fight telecast will be available at SHOWTIME ON DEMAND® beginning today/Saturday, Nov. 7.

Barry Tompkins called the ShoBox action from ringside with Farhood and former world champion Raul Marquez serving as expert analysts. The executive producer was Gordon Hall with Richard Gaughan producing and Rick Phillips directing.

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 63 fighters who have appeared on ShoBox and advanced to garner world titles includes: Andre Ward, Deontay Wilder, Erislandy Lara, Shawn Porter, Gary Russell Jr., Lamont Peterson, Guillermo Rigondeaux, Omar Figueroa, 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.

About Downtown Las Vegas Events Center

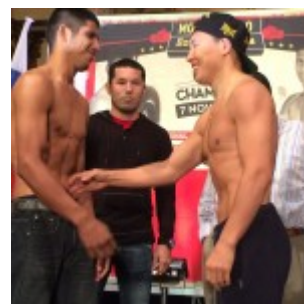
Located at the corner of Third St. and Carson Ave. across from the D Las Vegas, the Downtown Las Vegas Events Center can accommodate up to 11,000 guests and features state-of-the-art stage, sound and lighting. The open-air design is inviting to both tourists and locals and offers the perfect spot for concerts, conventions and other large-scale events. Embracing the uninhibited spirit of Downtown Las Vegas, the new venue plays host to a line-up of curated events including premier concerts, food festivals and more. The venue is also the first entertainment arena in Las Vegas to accept Bitcoin as

currency. For more information, visit www.dlvec.com or follow on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @DLVEC.

Weights from Monte Carlo

Monte Carlo, Nov 6 – The world-famous Monte Carlo Casino was a hive of activity as all 10 boxers weighed in successfully for the “Night of Champions” tournament on Friday afternoon.

A large crowd of onlookers was on hand to see the fighters step onto the scales. They all looked in excellent condition.



SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION WEIGHTS & PHOTOS

LAS VEGAS (November 5, 2015)– Weights for Friday night’s ShoBox: The New Generation card at the Downtown Las Vegas Events Center across from The D Hotel. The 1st bout is at 6 PM PT with the ShoBox televised portion beginning at 7 PM PT. (The telecast will air on SHOWTIME at 10 PM ET/PT, delayed on

the west coast)

Antoine Douglas 158.2 – Les Sherrington 159.6
(WBO International Middleweight Title)



Taras Shelestyuk 145.8 – Aslanbek Kozaev 147
(NABO Welterweight Title)



Keenan Smith 141.8 – Benjamin Whitaker 146.2



O'Shaquie Foster 136.2 – Samuel Teah 137



Fedor Papazov 134.6 – Miguel Gonzalez 136
Jeremy Nichols 147 – Issac Freeman 144.4
Hector Frometa 146.8 – Oscar Mora 146.2

Tickets are priced at \$100.50, \$75.50, \$40.50, \$25.50 and \$20.50 and are available for purchase at www.ticketmaster.com.

The Siberian Rocky meets the Princess of Monaco

Monte Carlo, Nov 5 – On Thursday, “The Siberian Rocky” Ruslan Provodnikov had the honor of meeting royalty as he was able to meet Charlene, The Princess of Monaco just two days before his steps into the ring against Jesus Alvarez Rodriguez (14-0, 11 KO’s) in Monte Carlo.

Provodnikov will attempt to be the King of the Ring on Saturday when he and Rodriguez will headline a big night of boxing that is promoted by Golden Gloves and Banner Promotions.

Online reservations: <http://www.montecarloboxingbonanza.com/>

This world class event is exclusively distributed internationally by leading boxing rights distributor and sports marketing firm, Protocol Sports Marketing. The company is presently in conversation with top broadcasters worldwide to ensure that the November 7 telecast can be seen by sports fans everywhere.

TICKET SALES

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ShoBox: The New Generation Training Camp Notes

LAS VEGAS (November 4, 2015)—All eight fighters that will participate in this Friday, Nov. 6 ShoBox: The New Generation quadrupleheader at the Downtown Las Vegas Event Center have finished their training camps and are ready for the big night of boxing. The four bouts will be televised live on SHOWTIME (10 p.m. ET/PR, delayed on the West Coast).

In the main event, Antoine Douglas (18-0-1, 8 KOs), a world-ranked rising middleweight prospect, will put his undefeated record on the line against veteran Les Sherrington (35-7, 20 KOs) in a 10-round bout. In the co-feature, 2012 Olympian Taras Shelestyuk (12-0, 8 KOs) taking on Aslanbek Kozaev (26-1-1, 7 KOs) in a 10-round bout for NABO Welterweight Title and Keenan Smith (8-0, 3 KOs) will be battling Benjamin Whitaker (10-1, 2 KOs) in an eight round welterweight matchup. Opening the telecast, O'Shaquie Foster (8-0, 5 KOs) will be taking on Samuel Teah (6-1, 2 KOs) in an eight round lightweight bout.

Below is what the fighters had to say as they finished their respective training camps:

Antoine Douglas—"I had a very productive training camp. I spent most of my camp in Colorado Springs at the Olympic

Training Center. I had different sparring partners. I feel that I'm as ready as I can be. I'm ready to go."

Les Sherrington—"This will be a tough fight for me, Antoine can fight.

"My team and I feel Antoine is still young and eager. He will come at me pretty hard in the first few rounds, but I'm ready for him. I'm very confident that if I go out there and focus on what I do best, I will win."

This is my biggest fight by far, mate. I am 33-years-old and I'm ready to have my shot. This is my time to shine."

Taras Shelestyuk—"I'm very excited about my upcoming fight. Not only because it'll be televised on SHOWTIME, but also because it will be in Las Vegas, the mecca of boxing. I'm sure it will be spectacular bout, boxing fans will be at the edge of their seats.

"I watched my opponent's fights, he is a tough guy. I'm going to box him and crack his tactic.

"My team and I did a great job in training camp. I'm very content with my new trainer Eric Brown. I sparred 124 rounds. I'm absolutely ready."

Aslanbek Kozaev—"Training camp went well. I'm ready. I know Taras [Shelestyuk] very well. We have sparred a lot in the past."

O'Shaquie Foster—"This has been the best camp I have had so far. I'm looking forward to this fight, but more importantly, I'm looking forward to showing what I can do on national television. This is a huge opportunity for me."

Samuel Teah—"My training camp was really good. We are still working. I can't wait to get in the ring and get the job done. I am excited and ready to go and make the best of this opportunity."

Keenan Smith—"Training camp is going well. I have my mind set on winning. I'm motivated and hungry. I am on weight and cannot wait until November 6th."

Benjamin Whitaker—"Camp went good, it was a normal training camp.

"I take this fight like I take every other fight. I take one fight at a time. Every fight is important."All eight boxers will be making their Las Vegas debut.

Tickets are priced at \$100.50, \$75.50, \$40.50, \$25.50 and \$20.50 and are available for purchase at www.ticketmaster.com.

PROVODNIKOV — RODRIGUEZ PRESS CONFERENCE

Monte Carlo, Nov 4 — Ruslan Provodnikov has been promised another world championship fight within six months, if he gets through Saturday night's fight against Jesus Alvarez Rodriguez in Monte Carlo.

This was the pledge of US promoter Art Pelullo, who warned that the Russian junior-welterweight puncher cannot think beyond this weekend's assignment.

Pelullo was speaking at the media conference of the Golden Gloves "Night of Champions" tournament hosted at the world-famous Café de Paris in the shadow of the Monte Carlo Casino on Wednesday evening.

"HBO and Showtime want him," said Pelullo. "Ruslan is one of the premier fighters in the world. He's a murderous puncher and never been down once as an amateur or pro. I've had the

privilege of promoting him his entire career. He destroys people and is one of the highest rated fighters on US television. He never does less than 1,5-million viewers. He's the Siberian Rocky; just a great fighter."

Pelullo is never short of a word or three, which is just as well because Provodnikov kept his pronouncements short and sweet, saying only "I will be world champion again".

Rodriguez, 23, spoke via his manager-trainer Carlos Espinosa, "In this business, everyone knows who Ruslan Provodnikov is. No-one knows the Mexican. But Jesus will be a big surprise, he is a strong man."

Pelullo was impressed by the courage of the unbeaten Mexican to fight Provodnikov, particularly as so many better-regarded fighters wanted nothing to do with him.

"This kid wants to beat Ruslan; he's embraced his chance. He sees the opportunity and he's coming to win, not to just put on a good showing. He's young and hungry and that makes him dangerous."

Pelullo praised the contribution of new trainer Joel Diaz, promising a new dimension to Provodnikov's fighting style on Saturday.

Lead promoter Rodney Berman, who will be staging his seventh tournament in the principality, predicted a great event with Ricky Hatton protégé Zhanat Zhakiyanov threatening to steal the show. Top-rated Russian David Avanesyan also features, as do cruiserweight contender Youri Kalenga and a host of other overseas contenders.

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JOEL DIAZ PROMISES TO MAKE PROVODNIKOV CHAMP AGAIN

Monte Carlo, Nov 4 – There was a moment, a few weeks ago, when trainer Joel Diaz knew he had made the right move in agreeing to coach former junior-welterweight champion Ruslan Provodnikov.

The likeable Russian, who knows only a smattering of English, raised his arms in the gym and bellowed, “I am champion! I am champion!”

Diaz called him over. “Ruslan, I promise I will make you champion again – if you listen.”

“Coach,” said Provodnikov, “I will listen. I will sleep on the floor of the gym if I have to. I’ll do whatever it takes.”

Boxer and trainer are now in Monte Carlo preparing to fight unbeaten Mexican Jesus Alvarez Rodriguez, who is officially 13-0, but claims to be 20-0, on the Golden Gloves tournament headliner on Saturday.

Diaz explained that the boxer had been anxious and frustrated that a number of big fights had been waylaid, but instantly switched into fight mode when promoters Rodney Berman and Art Pelullo did a deal.

Said Diaz: “His motivation shot up. We had a great camp. I was concerned that Ruslan was leaving Los Angeles for Indio, a

small town. I wasn't sure he would like it. But by week two he was smiling. He said he felt at home and really opened up."

Diaz wasn't tempted to reconstruct Provodnikov, who has built a huge fan base on account of his rugged, come-forward style. He took the view that the Russian had already built a career. He didn't want to change him; he wanted to polish him and make him better.

"He gets hit a lot, so I focus more on defence . . . head movement and some other tricks of the trade so he don't get hit so much. He wants to go for the kill, but blocks himself. It's hard for him to do offence-defence. I'm teaching him to use offence as defence.

"I'm not changing his style. We're working on making opponents miss, and counter-punching. He needs to put together more combinations and improve his workrate. I'm also working on making him a devastating body-puncher. He's reacted well; he's so good to work with."

Although there are obvious language issues, Diaz says instinct has taken over. He demonstrates what he wants and tries to explain as best he can. Typically, Provodnikov shows his smarts by absorbing these lessons and demonstrating them in sparring.

"I'm excited," says Diaz. "It makes my job easier. I was nervous after the first week and wondered if he liked my work. I know he does because he's a happy fighter and happy fighters always perform better."

He likens his newest pupil to Julio Cesar Chavez sr, chiefly in their unstoppable styles, although Chavez was a master defence-wise. With more work, Diaz expects Provodnikov will improve in this area in the months to come.

Diaz has experienced some great nights working with a range of top fighters, among them Tom Bradley, Omar Figueroa, his

brothers (Antonio and Julio), Felix Diaz and Diego De La Hoya, but one of his best career highlights was more prosaic.

Last year he orchestrated a dynamic performance from Juan Martinez, a warhorse with a 19-15 record, over hot favourite Alejandro Perez.

"You take a guy like Ruslan or Tim Bradley and the highest percentage of an outcome is the win. Anything can happen, but you're at least 75 percent sure of the win. But when your guy is just the 'opponent' and he wins, that's special."

At the age of 42 and well entrenched a top trainer, Diaz says he couldn't be happier. He trains champions and prospects alike, thrilling to the many rhythms of the fight game.

On Saturday, he expects to walk out as a winner. It's what drives him.

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Video: Time to Shine Promo

“The Siberian Rocky” Ruslan Provodnikov arrives in Monte Carlo

Monte Carlo October 31 – This afternoon, former junior welterweight world champion Ruslan Provodnikov (24-4, 17 KOs) arrived in Monte Carlo for next weekend’s showdown with Jesus Alvarez Rodriguez (14-0, 11 KOs) of Mexico.

“I had a great camp! My trainer Joel Diaz has done a lot of work on improving my defense and I already have felt certain improvements in sparring! I Hope to see everybody on November 7 in Monte Carlo!,” Said Provodnikov

The bout will take place on November 7th and is prompted by Golden Gloves and Banner Promotions.



Video: Petr Petrov