

Audio: Caleb Truax and Ray Flores on The Abrams Boxing Hour

Marc is joined by IBF super middleweight champion Caleb Truax and Boxing broadcaster Ray Flores on this episode.

Andre Dirrell Wins Unanimous Decision over Blake Caparello in Premier Boxing Champions on Spike Live from the Taj Mahal Casino & Hotel in Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ (April 30, 2016) – Olympic Bronze Medalist Andre Dirrell (25-2, 16 KOs) defeated Australia's Blake Caparello (22-2-1, 6 KOs) by unanimous decision (98-91 X 3) in a 10-round super middleweight attraction in the Premier Boxing Champions (PBC) on Spike main event from the Taj Mahal Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In a bout that started off with a lot of back and forth action, Caparello struck first with a left in the second round that sent Dirrell to the canvas.

"The knockdown I got in the second round felt good," said Caparello. "I knew I had him hurt, but I wasn't able to

capitalize on it.”

Caparello again got Dirrell against the ropes and seemingly into a bit of trouble with a similar left in round three, but eventually Dirrell settled in and managed to gain control of the fight.

Dirrell said, “My focus, determination and my drive got me the win tonight. I know I’ve got more work to do, but I never stopped grinding in there tonight.”

Caparello continued to go to work and battle, but it was clear who the ring general was from the close of the third round and until the final bell rang.

Dirrell exclaimed, “I wanted to send the boxing world and this whole division a message. I’m coming for anyone with a belt. I’ll take on anyone who’s a champion. I know I’ll be a world champion. I have to be a champion. I don’t slow down for anyone. I’m going to keep pushing to get where I’m going.”

On his struggles in the later rounds, Caparello said, “I continued to look for the same left hand all night, it just didn’t come again. Andre has a lot of tricks, he is both good and fast. I am not happy with my performance.”

Dirrell concluded, “Tonight my brother and I were both able to display our talents in front of a national audience on Spike. Anthony is strong as an ox and got the win quickly tonight. I got the win on determination and heart. I had to use my toughness in this fight, and I pushed myself as hard as I could to get the win.”

In the second televised bout of the evening, former world champion Anthony “The Dog” Dirrell (29-1-1, 23 KOs) met former world title challenger Caleb “Golden” Truax (26-3-2, 16 KOs) in a 10-round super middleweight affair.

The former 168-pound titleholder Dirrell got off to a quick

start, scoring two knockdowns in the first round, causing referee Harvey Dock to stop the fight at just 1:49 into the first round.

Dirrell said of the dominating performance, "What helped me tonight was landing my shots early. I was right on top of him with combinations and controlling my jab and that set the tone. I showed tonight that I work hard in the gym, and it paid off. If I work like I did this time leading up to the fight, then I know nobody can beat me."

A stunned Truax said, "Everything was great leading up to the fight. I don't know what happened tonight. He just caught me early. I think it was an overhand right."

Reflecting on what the victory means for his struggling hometown, Dirrell said, "My work tonight inside the ring made a big statement for what my brother and I are doing outside of the ring. A lot of people were watching tonight, and now they know a little bit more about what's going on with the Flint Water Crisis back home."

The opening televised bout featured undefeated knockout artist Jonathan Guzman (21-0, 21 KOs) continuing his hot streak in a 12-round super bantamweight title eliminator against Mexico's Daniel Rosas (20-3, 12 KOs).

Guzman, an unbeaten fighter out of the Dominican Republic and now training in Massachusetts, stabilized early and easily controlled the action in the second half of the fight.

Guzman said, "I used a lot of concentration early and let him make errors so I could see what he was planning to do. Once I saw the mistakes he was making I let my hands go."

Rosas was stunned in the third round, but Guzman was unable to close on a wobbled Rosas. In the fifth round, Guzman landed a left that knocked Rosas back and followed it with another, dropping Rosas just before the bell.

"I wanted to let him throw some punches early. It helped me gain confidence and learn his tendencies," said Guzman. "I saw him dropping that right hand, and I knew it would open up the opportunity for me to land my left."

Rounds six and seven saw Rosas take a pummeling, but miraculously stay on his feet. At the end of the eighth frame, Guzman dropped Rosas for a second time, and again Rosas was saved by the bell.

However, referee Benjy Esteves had seen enough and stopped the fight following the close of round eight.

When asked about the stoppage, Rosas said, "The Ref stopped the fight. I thought the fight should have continued, but he decided to stop it." Rosas continued, "(Guzman) knocked me down, but I kept on fighting. I was never hurt. Guzman is a strong fighter, but I felt I could have continued and come back in the rest of the rounds."

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The fight card was promoted by King's Promotions.

For more information visit www.premierboxingchampions.com and www.spike.com/shows/premier-boxing-champions. Follow on Twitter @PremierBoxing, @AndreDirrell, @BlakeCaparello, @AnthonyDirrell, @GoldenCalebT, @SpikeTV, @SpikeSports, @KingsBoxing_and @Swanson_Comm and become a fan on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/PremierBoxingChampions. Highlights available to embed at www.youtube.com/premierboxingchampions. PBC on Spike is sponsored by Corona Extra, La Cerveza Mas Fina.

Video: Caleb Truax talks Anthony Dirrell fight

Video: Anthony Dirrell talks Caleb Truax showdown

Andre Dirrell, Blake Caparello, Anthony Dirrell, Caleb Truax, Jonathan Guzman & Daniel Rosas Media Roundtable Quotes

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ (April 28, 2016) – With just two days until they enter the ring, Premier Boxing Champions on Spike fighters participated in media roundtables Wednesday in Atlantic City and discussed their respective Friday, April 29 showdowns taking place at Taj Mahal Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City.

The card is headlined by the return of the Dirrell brothers as Olympic Bronze medalist Andre “The Resurrected” Dirrell

battles Australia's Blake Caparello and former world champion Anthony "The Dog" Dirrell takes on Minnesota's Caleb "Golden" Truax. Televised coverage begins at 9 p.m. ET/PT with knockout artist Jonathan Guzman against Mexico's Daniel Rosas in a 122-pound eliminator.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by King's Promotions, are priced at \$100, \$75 and \$50, are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and are on sale now.

Here is what the fighters had to say Wednesday:

ANDRE DIRRELL

"I can tell that Caparello is coming from Australia to prove a point. He's hungry for a victory and It's my job to make sure he doesn't get that. I take this as a championship fight.

"The blessing in having a layoff is that my body is in great shape. I feel 25-years-old not 32.

"I don't see myself as the smaller man. I suppose he can take a few shots but I am going to display my skill and show that it will lead to a world championship.

"I feel I am at the championship level. I'll have an eye on the 168-pound title fights Saturday. I'm looking to get that championship as soon as I can. I am ready and I want DeGale. I don't care if it's in his hometown, backyard, basement, living room or kitchen. I want to make sure that fight happens.

"I worked really hard and I can't wait to get in the ring on Friday night."

BLAKE CAPARELLO

"It's good to be back in Atlantic City. I took a lot from my fight against Sergey Kovalev. Being in the ring with him taught me a lot about ring composure. This is my Atlantic City redemption.

"Dirrell is a very difference fighter. Andre is very quick and slick. I can't afford to make minor mistakes. I didn't make the 20-hour flight for a loss. I was small for 175 pounds which made the move to 168 very comfortable.

"The plan is to win and fight one of the champions but fighting Andre is a world title for me.

"People don't think that I can punch, but I'm coming to win and put on a show. I'm looking to bring a victory back to Australia."

ANTHONY DIRRELL

"It means a lot to share this card with my brother. We share everything. He is my big brother and this is a great moment for both of us.

"I will be watching the super middleweight title fights Saturday night, but I am not looking past Caleb Truax.

"I know Truax has fought some good competition in Daniel Jacobs and Jermain Taylor. I have my hands full but I prepared to have my hand lifted in Victory.

"I think the loss made me a better fighter because I know what it takes to get there. I am just looking for the next shot. When I get it, I'm going to capitalize and not let the title go.

"I'm going to stick to my game plan and try to get Truax out of there. Then I can start thinking about Badou Jack. I definitely want a rematch."

CALEB TRUAX

"I have to make the most of this opportunity. This is a huge fight for me. I can get another shot at a world title with a win.

“Dirrell is a good fighter. I’ve seen a lot of his fights and we’ve fought on the same card before. You have to respect that he is a former world champion.

“I have to draw from all the experiences I’ve had in my career. I have to use my experience and be on top of my game.

“Most of my fights have been around super middleweight. I don’t have to struggle to make weight as much and I couldn’t turn down this opportunity.”

JONATHAN GUZMAN

“Rosas is a typical Mexican fighter who will come forward and be in great condition. I’m ready for him and I feel I know him well.

“I want a world title and we’re happy that if we get this win we can compete for a belt next time out.

“We are excited to put on a great show Friday night. I will break him in half.”

DANIEL ROSAS

“We know our opponent is very good, but we trained 100 percent to get the victory.

“We’ve been waiting and putting in the work. If the knockout comes, it comes.

“I know this is an elimination bout. We came to win and we’re prepared for anything that comes. I’m ready to be a world champion.”

ANDRE DIRRELL VS. BLAKE CAPARELLO MEDIA SCHEDULE

All Times Are Eastern

Thursday, April 28

1:00 p.m. FINAL WEIGH-IN – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Location: Ego Bar & Lounge

Taj Mahal Casino & Hotel
1000 Virginia Avenue; Atlantic City, NJ 08401
12:30 p.m. – Media Arrival
1:00 p.m. – Fighters on Scale

Friday, April 29

6:00 p.m. TAJ MAHAL CASINO & HOTEL DOORS OPEN
1000 Virginia Avenue; Atlantic City, NJ 08401

6:30 p.m. FIRST FIGHT BEGINS

9:00 p.m. PBC ON SPIKE TELECAST BEGINS

CREDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION

Fight night credentials can be picked up on Friday, April 29 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET at the VIP check-in. Proper personal photo identification (driver's license or passport) is required for credential pick-up.

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Dirrell Brothers Return As

Premier Boxing Champions On Spike Hits Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ (March 22, 2016) – Olympic Bronze Medalist Andre Dirrell (24-2, 16 KOs) takes on Australia's Blake Caparello (22-1-1, 6 KOs) in a 10-round super middleweight attraction as Premier Boxing Champions (PBC) returns to Spike on Friday, April 29 from Taj Mahal Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Also on the same card, Dirrell's brother, former world champion Anthony "The Dog" Dirrell (28-1-1, 22 KOs) will meet former world title challenger Caleb "Golden" Truax (26-2-2, 16 KOs) in a 10-round super middleweight affair as part of an exciting night of PBC on Spike action beginning at 9 p.m. ET/8 p.m. CT.

The former 168-pound titleholder Anthony and two-time title challenger Andre are both prime for another run at championship gold, but will have stiff competition from opponents who have recently had their own title opportunities.

"April 29 is going to be a fun night of boxing," said Andre. "Caparello is hungry just like me and he's fighting for his career so I know he's a very dangerous man. Everything in camp has been perfect so far. I'm excited that both Anthony and I will get to showcase our skills and spread our family name even more on the same Spike show."

"It's an honor to be fighting on the same card as my brother," said Anthony. "It's going to be a great night of boxing. Truax is a good, rugged fighter who will bring out the best in me. I need someone to push me to the max. My prediction is always a knockout."

Caparello scored a first round knockdown in his 2014 world title bout before losing to Sergey Kovalev, while Caleb Truax

battled middleweight champion Daniel Jacobs in a PBC on Spike co-feature in 2015, failing to Jacobs in the final stanza.

"This is a huge opportunity for me to show the world that I am one of the best 168-pounders in all of boxing," said Caparello. "This is the weight class where I belong. Dirrell is a former Olympian and, like myself, a world title challenger. I expect a very tough fight on October 17, but I know that I will be victorious."

"This is a fight that I have to take advantage of and win," said Truax. "It's another great opportunity for me and I'm putting everything into training. Dirrell is a good, athletic fighter with skills. It's a tough task but I'm up for it. I'm bringing my A-game so he better do the same."

"April 29 will be an outstanding night," said Marshall Kauffman of King's Promotions. "Having the Dirrell brothers on the same card will be a great and unique night of boxing. Both are exceptional talents and they are in with two guys who are looking for breakthrough wins in Blake Caparello and Caleb Truax."

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by King's Promotions, are priced at \$100, \$75 and \$50, are available at all Ticketmaster outlets and are on sale now.

An amateur standout that won two U.S. World Championships in addition to his Olympic Bronze medal, the 32-year-old Andre Dirrell is ready to return to the ring after an illness delayed his previously scheduled bout against Caparello. The fighter out of Flint, Michigan holds victories over Arthur Abraham and Curtis Stevens and only has two narrow losses on his resume.

A crafty fighter out of Victoria, Australia, Caparello won his first 20 professional fights primarily fighting out of his home country. He owns victories over Michael Bolling, Jorge Olivera, Allan Green and previously unbeaten Robert Berridge.

The 29-year-old most recently scored a unanimous decision over Affif Belghecham in June and after his scheduled bout with Dirrell was delayed, he defeated Luke Sharp by decision.

Anthony Dirrell has seen more adversity than most throughout his career as his time in boxing has been seriously jeopardized twice, first in December 2006 when he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma and was sidelined for 20 months and again in May 2012 when he broke his lower left leg and left wrist in a motorcycle accident. The Flint, Michigan-native never let that hold him down as he kept winning fights and working his way up the professional ranks. In 2014 he won his first championship when he defeated defending champion Sakio Bika. His road back to a 168-pound title began in September when he dominated the action against Marco Antonio Rubio on his way to a unanimous decision victory.

Born in Osseo, Minnesota, Truax is an experienced veteran who has fought professionally since 2007. Fighting mostly in his home state, the 31-year-old won his first 14 fights. He dropped a 2012 showdown to Jermain Taylor but went undefeated in his next eight fights to earn the fight against Jacobs. Most recently, Truax stopped veteran Melvin Betancourt in the fourth round in February.

For more information visit www.premierboxingchampions.com and www.spike.com/shows/premier-boxing-champions.

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