

# Video: Deemtrius Andrade

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## **JOHN MOLINA OUTPOINTS RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV; DEMETRIUS ANDRADE DELIVERS STATEMENT KO VICTORY AND DEJAN ZLATICANIN WINS 135-POUND TITLE SATURDAY ON SHOWTIME®**

VERONA, N.Y. (June 11, 2016) – John Molina outpunched Ruslan Provodnikov in an all-action fight by revealing a new weapon in his arsenal, a sharp and steady jab. Molina captured a surprising unanimous decision in a 12-round junior welterweight bout that featured fierce exchanges throughout Saturday on SHOWTIME from Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, N.Y.

In the co-feature on SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING, Demetrius Andrade delivered a statement, knockout victory over Willie Nelson, staking his claim as one of the world's best in the stacked 154-pound division. In the opening bout, Dejan Zlaticanin knocked out Franklin Mamani to earn the vacant 135-pound world title and make history as the first native of Montenegro to win a world championship.

Molina and Provodnikov promised a war, and they delivered. But what surprised many was the volume of punches and effective

jabbing from Molina (29-6, 23 KOs), a veteran more known for engaging in brawls than his boxing prowess. Molina threw nearly 1,110 total punches, including 643 jabs compared to just 265 for Provodnikov, who failed to close the range on his naturally bigger opponent.

"We knew we had to outwork Provodnikov," said the 33-year-old Covina, Calif., native. "It was a fight that we needed. Ruslan Provodnikov is a very notable name. He's a tough, tough guy. He kept moving forward.

"People don't realize I had my amateur career in the pros, and now it's my time to step out and shine. I have a new trainer. Shadeed (Suluki) showed me how to throw punches and use my power."

Molina vs. Provodnikov was scored 116-112, 117-111, 115-113.

"I think it (the scorecard) was self-explanatory. A fighter knows when they won a fight. I won that fight and it was going to be hard to take it away from me."

The judges agreed on nine of the 12 rounds, a relatively high percentage according to SHOWTIME analyst Steve Farhood.

"Today the decision was the right one," Provnikov said. "Molina won the fight – he was better tonight. Everything was scored the way it should have been.

"We expected that he was going to box, he was going to move. We expected him to do that. It wasn't my night. Maybe I don't have the same hungriness as before. I'm not going to make excuses, but it was hard for me to find my groove tonight.

"I don't think it's that (the layoff). There are no excuses. I lost the fight tonight. I couldn't find the hungriness. I have to sit down and think of why that happened.

"I'm sorry if I disappointed."

Undefeated former world champion Demetrius Andrade put on a masterful performance against top-10 ranked Willie Nelson, flooring the former world title challenger four times including once in the opening round and emphatically in the final round to close the show (TKO 12, 1:38).

With the win, Nelson, who landed a staggering 57 percent of his power punches in just his second fight in two years, moved one step closer to earning another shot at a title fight. Andrade, who never lost his belt in the ring, is now the second mandatory challenger for the WBC Super Welterweight World Title, currently held by Jermell Charlo.

"I'm coming to get those belts," said the 28-year-old Andrade. "People can't run no more. The best have to fight the best. I'm coming for them.

"I came back, I'm stronger. Me and my team worked hard. We figured out what we need to do to take it to the next level. I'm ready for the Charlo brothers. I want them."

Andrade was on his way to pitching a shutout, delivering a statement performance after months of frustration from "boxing politics." The former WBO 154-pound champion targeted the head and the body of Nelson, relying on a steady diet of combos to floor the 6-foot-3 Nelson in the first, 11th and twice in the 12th.

"I'm young enough and my reaction time is still going," Andrade said. "Willie Nelson is a true champion. He pushed me to the limit where I had to figure out what punches to throw. But I put the pieces of the puzzle together and got the knockout, baby.

Nelson, of Cleveland, dropped to 25-3-1 with 15 KOs.

"He was tough," Nelson said. "I was forcing my shots too much. I felt like I was getting back into the fight, but he was crafty and mobile.

"I am ready for whatever is next and, despite what happened tonight, I am here to stay. My career won't end like this."

In the opening bout of the SHOWTIME telecast, Zlaticanin blasted late-replacement Mamani with a third round TKO (:54) to win the vacant WBC Lightweight World Championship.

The 32-year-old Zlaticanin (18-0, 10 KOs) became the first native of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro to capture a world championship.

"I'm very proud. I made Montenegro proud," Zlaticanin said. "I want to thank my fans that came to support me. I think I made my country proud. I think they will be delighted. I don't think they know what this means, but in a few days they will know."

The southpaw Zlaticanin pounced with a powerful straight left that had Mamani in trouble just seconds into the fight. The Bolivian, who was also aiming to become the first native of his homeland to win a title, survived the round but he was in trouble again in the third. Zlaticanin staggered with an overhand left and followed with a series of unanswered blows that forced referee Charlie Fitch to halt the contest with Mamani (21-3-1, 12 KOs) defenseless against the ropes.

"I knew that I would knock him out. He stood too close to me.

After the fight, Zlaticanin called out Jorge Linares, the WBC Lightweight "Champion in Recess", who pulled out of a tentatively scheduled match with Zlaticanin due to an injury.

"I want Linares next. He can't run from me anymore.

In undercard action on SHO EXTREME, Willie Monroe Jr. (20-2, 6 KOs) won a unanimous decision (96-92, 95-93, 99-89) over John Thompson (17-2, 6 KOs) in a 10-round middleweight matchup of former world title challengers. Monroe scored two knockdowns, one in the second and another with a straight right jab in the

fifth.

In the opening bout on SHOWTIME BOXING on SH0 EXTREME, Russian heavyweight Andrey Fedosov (29-3, 24 KOs) scored four knockdowns en route to a sixth round TKO (1:33) of Mario Heredia (11-2, 9 KOs, 1-2 in WSB).

Saturday's event from Turning Stone Resort Casino was promoted by Banner Promotions and DiBella Entertainment.

Saturday's SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING tripleheader replays Monday, June 13 at 10 p.m. ET/PT on SHOWTIME EXTREME. The SHOWTIME BOXING on SH0 EXTREME telecast replays Tuesday, June 14 at 10 p.m. ET/PT on SH0 EXTREME.

Brian Custer hosted the SHOWTIME telecast, with Mauro Ranallo calling the action, Hall of Fame analyst Al Bernstein and former two-time world champion Paulie Malignaggi commentating and Jim Gray reporting. Barry Tompkins and Steve Farhood called the SHOWTIME EXTREME action. In the Spanish simulcast, Alejandro Luna called the blow-by-blow and former world champion Raul Marquez served as color commentator. The executive producer of SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING was David Dinkins Jr. with Bob Dunphy directing.

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For Turning Stone Resort Casino: [www.turningstone.com](http://www.turningstone.com) ;  
Twitter: @turningstone ; Facebook:

# **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV & JOHN MOLINA JR., DEMETRIUS ANDRADE & WILLIE NELSON, DEJAN ZLATICANIN & FRANKLIN MAMANI FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES & PHOTOS**

VERONA, N.Y. (June 9, 2016) – The six fighters, including main eventers Ruslan “The Siberian Rocky” Provodnikov and John “The Gladiator” Molina, who will compete on this Saturday’s SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® tripleheader live on SHOWTIME® (9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT), participated in the final press conference Thursday at Turning Stone Resort Casino here.

Russia’s Provodnikov (25-4, 18 KOs) and Molina (28-6, 23 KOs) of Covina, Calif., clash in an eagerly awaited matchup in the main event. Provodnikov, a former WBO Junior Welterweight World Champion, was involved in the Fight of the Year in 2013 with Tim Bradley; former world title challenger Molina was in the 2014 Fight of The Year with Lucas Matthyse.

A can’t-miss co-feature at Turning Stone Casino will match unbeaten former 154-pound world champion and 2008 U.S. Olympian Demetrius Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs), of Providence, R.I., against Willie Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) of Cleveland, Ohio, in a 12-round WBC Super Welterweight Title Elimination bout. The telecast will begin with a 12-rounder for the vacant

WBC lightweight world championship between undefeated No. 1 ranked Dejan Zlaticanin (17-0, 10 KOs), of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro, and Franklin Mamani (21-2-1, 12 KOs) of Bolivia.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions, Inc., are priced at \$85, \$60, \$45 and \$35 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Turning Stone Box Office, by calling 877.833.SHOW, or online at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)).

Also this Saturday, from Turning Stone, former world title challengers Willie Monroe Jr. (19-2, 6 KOs, of Rochester, N.Y. and John Thompson (17-2, 6 KOs), of Newark, N.J., clash in a 10-round middleweight bout in the main event on SHOWTIME EXTREME (7 p.m. ET/PT). In the SHO EXTREME opener, heavyweight Andrey Fedosov (28-3, 23 KOs), of Hollywood, Calif., meets Mexico's Mario Heredia (11-1, 9 KOs, 1-2 in WSB) in a 10-round heavyweight bout.

Below is what the fighters said Thursday:

RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

(On training camp) ...

"This camp went very well. Everything went great. Now I'm just waiting for Saturday."

(His thoughts on Molina) ...

"I have a lot of respect for Molina and his team. He's a great fighter. These are the types of opponents I like. Most of the fights I've had are fights like this, opponents like this. This actually motivates me. I don't have a problem with getting into a fight like this. This is what I'm looking for. This is the type of fight I expect."

(On his determination and will to win) ...

"Words are not so much associated with explaining this because

anybody can talk and anybody can say words. I think the fans or the people have to see how my fights have been and the way that I've fought those fights. For me to say right now that I'm going to 'die in the ring', they're words right now. The fight will show, then the fans will have an understanding in their mind of was I just saying that or is that really the way it is. The actions show, not the words."

(On how he sees the fight playing out) ...

"It's very hard to predict and I usually don't make predictions. I never make predictions for my fights. Let's just wait on June 11 and see.

(Final thoughts) ...

"I want to take this moment to thank everybody that has to do with this fight. All the people that made this happen."

JOHN MOLINA JR.

(Thoughts and reflections on Muhammad Ali) ...

"The world lost a great human being, not only inside the ring but outside the ring. A champion is the best way to describe him. The greatest of all time. An innovator. Somebody that changes the world in and out. My heart goes out to his family."

(On whether he's the underdog or this is a 50-50 fight?) ...

"In the grand scheme of things, the boxer – experts if you will – I don't know how many times they've been in the ring but for what they do in boxing, they seem to have him as the favorite but rightfully so. In a sense because of the personality and persona that he's portrayed in past times. I don't think too much about the hype. We've prepped for war on Saturday night. We would be doing ourselves a disservice if we didn't prepare right for someone like Ruslan. He's a hell of a fighter, a hell of a competitor and we were both in a Fight of the Year. What people don't realize is we were both in Fight



of the Year on the losing side and now we're going to be in a Fight of the Year, but both of us going for the winning side. I think the fans are going to be pleasantly surprised. I'm ready. The stage is set to showcase my capabilities Saturday night."

(On how you prepare for a fighter like Provodnikov) ...

"Just like you prepare for a fighter like everybody I've faced. Whether it be someone like Matthysse. Whether it be other fighters, I don't want to go into names because right now my undivided attention is on Ruslan Provodnikov but the preparation is like that of any other man. I hate comparing the guy's style to other people because again, the whole disservice you'd be doing is to yourself. You can study their style and get used to their mannerisms and what they portray in the ring and you can prepare yourself. With that being said, June 11 will be the first time I ever face Ruslan Provodnikov so what I do to prepare myself is work on my strong points and make sure those are up to par and make sure my energy is set and ready to fire on all cylinders Saturday night and I can tell you that they are set right."

(On what fans should expect) ...

"Fireworks. Like I said, every word that we use in the thesaurus is an understatement. Boxing is a 'what have you done for me lately' sport and Saturday night is no different. I believe in my heart of hearts the fans are going to get a treat with Ruslan Provodnikov coming forward, not wanting to take a backward step with myself coming forward not wanting to take a backward step. We're both going to try and go in there and pose our will on each other and you're not going to see a boring fight. It won't be Dancing With The Stars, it's going to be a fight."

DEMETRIUS ANDRADE

(On his opponent and his quality of opposition) ...

"Tony Harrison is definitely not Demetrius Andrade. Yes, he's probably a prospect and doing good things but everybody sounds good, everybody's a prospect until you get in there with somebody that knows how to fight. They can try to bring the will out of you and that's what Willie did is bring the will out of himself to beat somebody like Tony Harrison, but Tony Harrison's definitely not me.

"Willie Nelson, yeah he's tall, they say he's strong but I'm all that too. My IQ is greater, smarter and this is my time. This is it. This is something that either makes or breaks me. It's a good challenge so the people get to see that, due to the layoff and everything. I came back to fight a guy like this and I came back to win the 154 division.

"I came here, chewing bubble gum and kicking ass. I ran out of bubble gum so come June 11, I will be kicking some ass. I am happy that SHOWTIME gave me this opportunity and put me back on the network, put me back on prime TV.

"There's definitely going to be violence to open up the main event show with Provodnikov and John Molina, which is going to be a tremendous fight. Thanks for everybody coming out ... and I am the greatest alive."

(On the division and possible future opponents) ...

"I think that I'm going to make history by beating two twins that hold title belts and it's going to be a legendary thing for me. So, I'm tuned in, I'm ready and I'm focused. This is my division, it's my war."

(On what he sees playing out on fight night) ...

"I'm just going in and do my thing, you know, I'm the type of person with character. I've been in the ring for many years through the amateur program and fought 300-400 times, against everybody in the whole world. So, there's not nothing I haven't seen or fought. A tall guy like Willie Nelson with no

legs or upper body, I'm going to push him to the limit. That's pretty much the plan. I'm going in and its knockout season for me."

WILLIE NELSON

(On fans not expecting him to win) ...

"It's what happens all the time. I'm always the underdog. It's OK and I try not to worry about it much.

"I'm not one to predict the fights; about what can and can't happen, but it's going to be an interesting fight. We know each other's background and we have sparred before at the U.S. Training Camp."

(On Muhammad Ali)...

"It hasn't really affected my mindset in terms of this fight. With the passing of Muhammad Ali it's very sad for boxing, and for the world. Because he wasn't only a great fighter but also a great icon, a great man and a great leader."

DEJAN ZLATICANIN

(On what fighting for a world title means to him) ...

"I've prepared for this hard fight for a long time because they changed opponents and it's hard to be prepared for that. But I have waited for this opportunity for a long time. This is the most important fight of my life, and I am going to win this fight."

(His prediction) ...

"I don't like to talk too much. I will talk in the ring and I promise I will knock out Franklin Mamani."

FRANKLIN MAMANI

(On this opportunity)...

"This is the chance of a lifetime, I feel like I have the winning lotto ticket and I just need to cash it in Saturday night. I come from a boxing family of 9 brothers, I have been in boxing since I was 12 years old and I always dreamed of fighting for a world title in the United States. My country (Bolivia) and my family will be watching and I will not disappoint them."

(On his opponent)...

Zlatikanin is an aggressive, strong and talented fighter. It will be an honor to trade leather with him inside the ring and be able to win the WBC lightweight championship of the world against the number one contender in my division."

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

5 p.m. OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN

Location: Turning Stone Convention Center

Rooms: Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga and Tuscarora

5218 Patrick Rd, Verona, N.Y. 13478

4 p.m.- Fighter check-in

5 p.m.- Fighters On-scales

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

5 p.m. Doors Open

6 p.m. First Fight Begins

7 p.m. SHOWTIME EXTREME® Telecast Begins

9 p.m. SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® Telecast Begins

Media Credentials: Please pick up media credentials between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. in the Cypress Room. Valid ID required.

Post-Fight Press Conference will take place immediately after the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast concludes in the Cypress Room.

About Provodnikov – Molina

On Saturday, June 11, Ruslan Provodnikov (25-4, 18 KOs), a

former WBO Junior Welterweight World Champion, and former world title challenger John Molina Jr. (28-6, 23 KOs), of West Covina, Calif., will face each other in the 12-round main event. In the co-feature, undefeated former 154-pound world champion and 2008 U.S. Olympian Demetrius Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs), of Providence, R.I., will face Willie Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) of Cleveland, Ohio, in a 12-round WBC Super Welterweight Title Eliminator.

Opening the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® tripleheader is a battle for the vacant WBC Lightweight World Championship between No. 1 ranked Dejan Zlatikanin (17-0, 10 KOs), of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro, and WBC No.-ranked

Also on June 11, former world title challengers, Willie Monroe Jr, (19-2-0, 6 KOs), and John Thompson, (17-2-0, 6 KOs,) will meet in a 10-round middleweight bout in the main event on SHOWTIME EXTREME® (7 p.m. ET/PT). In the SHOWTIME BOXING on SH0 EXTREME® opener, heavyweight Andrey Fedosov (28-3, 23 KOs) takes on Mario Heredia (11-1, 9 KOs, 1-2 in WSB) in a 10-round heavyweight bout.

Turning Stone Resort Casino is no stranger to hosting high caliber nationally televised boxing events. Last year, Turning Stone hosted the epic battle between Provodnikov and Matthysee, selected over arenas in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Miami. When Provodnikov returns to Turning Stone on June 11th, it will mark Turning Stone's 18th nationally-televised boxing event, cementing the resort as a mecca for knockout fights. Located in Upstate New York, Turning Stone is an award-winning destination resort, offering world-class amenities including four hotels, 21 restaurants and dining options, two luxurious spas, five beautiful golf courses, and several bars, cocktail lounges and nightlife venues.

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## **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE PROVIDENCE, R.I. MEDIA WORKOUT QUOTES**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (June 7, 2016) – A Team Promotions hosted an open media workout on Monday at Bix Six Academy in Providence for undefeated former world champion Demetrius “Boo Boo” Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs). The 2008 U.S. Olympian, of Providence, R.I., is finalizing preparations for this Saturday 12-round WBC Super Welterweight eliminator against Willie “The Great” Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) of Cleveland, Ohio, in one of three fights on SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® live on SHOWTIME (9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT) from Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, N.Y.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions, Inc., are priced at \$85, \$60, \$45 and \$35 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Turning Stone Box Office, by calling 877.833.SHOW, or online at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)).

Here's what Andrade, who'll also be risking his WBO International title, said Monday:

DEMETRIUS ANDRADE

Reflections of Muhammad Ali:

"Muhammad Ali certainly shook the world, and not only in boxing. He was colorful; nobody talked like him. He helped boxers, too. Ali is the reason Floyd (Mayweather, Jr.) is who he is because Ali set the bar high.

"As an entertaining boxer, Ali brought blacks and whites together and later he spread the word about religion, culture and his other diverse interests.

"What young boxer didn't do the Ali Shuffle? I know I did, and taunted my opponents like him, too."

About Pros in the Olympics:

"I'm for pros in the Olympics as long as an amateur, who has a few Olympic trials, has the first opportunity to qualify for the Olympics. Coming up in the amateurs, I fought grown men, some who had been Olympians a few times. I was 21 and some of the opponents were 34-35 and had already been Olympians one or two times. They had advantages in experience, power and skill. Unfortunately, Americans only have Olympic opportunities when they're young amateurs.

"Would I go the Olympics now? Yes! The Olympics is the biggest thing on the planet. To represent the United States again, yeah, I'd do it now for the chance to win gold. But I do think headgear should be applied in amateur boxing, including the Olympics."

On the 154-pound division:

"I'm putting myself in the best position to fight for the WBO or WBC title. There are rumors of Canelo fighting (WBO

champion Liam) Smith. Let me fight Smith and the winner gets Canelo. Or let me fight Canelo with the winner getting Smith.

"I'm going to knock out the Charlo twins. Both guys have fought on SHOWTIME, so those fights shouldn't be too difficult to make. Once I take care of business with the Charlo twins, I'll fight Lara (WBA champion) to clean up the division."

On Gennady Golovkin:

"I definitely want to fight Golovkin. Let me build myself up first, by cleaning out the 154-division, and then we'll have a mega-fight with two different styles. GGG is known for his knockouts. I knock out people, too, but I'm a better boxer than him. It'll be one of the biggest fights in the sport of boxing. I'm going to clean up the 154-division, make my reputation and then it's a go with GGG."

Relationship with his opponent Willie Nelson:

"We were in the U.S. amateurs together, but because we were in two different weight classes – he was 140-147 and I was 152 – there were no problems between us. We used to watch each other fight and watch other Americans box.

"Nelson is experienced having gone through the amateurs. He fought (Vanes) Martirosyan, who I beat (for the vacant WBO title by 12-round unanimous decision). He's fought at this level. I know he's tall, but I'm 6-foot-1, so our height difference isn't serious."

On returning to the ring:

"I'm pleased that we have this opportunity. SHOWTIME has given me this chance and now it's up to me to prove I can backup what we said."

For more information: Twitter: @AndradeATeam, @BooBooBoxing, @ShowtimeBoxing, @SH0Sports. Instagram: @BooBooATeam, [www.Facebook.com.DemetriusAndrade](http://www.Facebook.com.DemetriusAndrade)



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

6 p.m. FIGHTERS ARRIVALS

Location: Turning Stone Resort Casino-Winter Garden Lobby (In front of the waterfall)

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

11 a.m. FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE

Location: Turning Stone Resort Casino, Exit 33 Atrium (Located by P14)

5218 Patrick Rd, Verona, N.Y. 13478

11 a.m. Press Conference Begins

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## **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV vs. JOHN MOLINA JR., DEMETRIUS ANDRADE vs. WILLIE NELSON MEDIA CONFERENCE CALL HIGHLIGHTS**

NEW YORK (June 2, 2016) – Ruslan “The Siberian Rocky” Provodnikov and John “The Gladiator” Molina Jr., along with Demetrius “Boo Boo” Andrade and Willie “The Great” Nelson, hosted an International Media Conference Call on Tuesday in advance of their highly anticipated battles as part of a SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® tripleheader live on SHOWTIME®

(9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT) from the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, N.Y.

Also taking part was Arthur Pelullo, President of Banner Promotions, and SHOWTIME Sports Executive Vice President and General Manager Stephen Espinoza.

Provodnikov (25-4, 18 KOs), a former WBO Junior Welterweight World Champion, and former world title challenger Molina (28-6, 23 KOs), of West Covina, Calif., will face each other in the 12-round main event. In the co-feature, undefeated former 154-pound world champion and 2008 U.S. Olympian Demetrius Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs), of Providence, R.I., will face Willie Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) of Cleveland, Ohio, in a 12-round WBC Super Welterweight Title Eliminator.

Opening the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING tripleheader is a battle for the vacant WBC Lightweight World Championship between No. 1 ranked Dejan Zlatikanin (17-0, 10 KOs), of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro, against WBC No. 5 ranked contender Franklin Mamani (21-2-1, 12 KOs) of La Paz, Bolivia.

Also on June 11, former world title challengers, Willie Monroe Jr, (19-2-0, 6 KOs), and John Thompson, (17-2-0, 6 KOs,) will meet in a 10-round middleweight bout in the main event on SHOWTIME EXTREME® (7 p.m. ET/PT). In the SHOWTIME BOXING on SHO EXTREME® opener, heavyweight Andrey Fedosov (28-3, 23 KOs) takes on Mario Heredia (11-1, 9 KOs, 1-2 in WSB) in a 10-round heavyweight bout.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions, Inc., are priced at \$85, \$60, \$45 and \$35 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Turning Stone Box Office, by calling 877.833.SHOW, or online at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)).

Below is what the boxers said Tuesday on the conference call:

RUSLAN "THE SIBERIAN ROCKY" PROVODNIKOV

"I will try to not disappoint anyone and try to bring my best on June 11. I don't like to make any predictions. Boxing is very unpredictable; anything can happen on June 11. We've got a little bit to wait until fight night and for me it's just important to win the fight.

"I am very thankful for everyone who has made this fight happen. I am pleased with the opponent that I have because John Molina is a tough fighter. It's going to be a tough fight and I am looking for it to be a battle. So everybody be ready because on June 11 it will be a great fight."

JOHN "THE GLADIATOR" MOLINA JR.

(On how he feels fighting someone who is going to force the fight like himself)

"For me, in a perfect world, I would have a guy right there to exchange with me but Ruslan and his team have been around the game a long time. They know that I'm a puncher. I anticipate Ruslan to do what he does best, which is sit there and fight but I also anticipate him also utilizing his boxing ability given his amateur pedigree and his experience in the pro game. We're prepared for any Ruslan whether he tries to get up and box or whether he sits there and bangs. We know he's a strong fighter. We know he's a strong puncher and we're prepared for that. Ruslan is going to be Ruslan and he's going to sit down and fight with me."

(On how he mentally prepares for fights)

"I have no other way. You look at my fights and the outcome, we have that fighter spirit in us. If we're being cordial, it's because we're professional. It's what we do for a living. If we take it outside of the ring that's very ignorant and not very mature. Believe me, I understand and know, and Ruslan understands and knows, that come June 11 all of the kindness goes out the window. After the fight we could be best of friends. But during the fight, I always use the example that

he's trying to take something away from my family. So, it's very serious business inside that ring. Outside the ring, I don't want to waste energy or negative feelings toward anybody. This is what I do for a living. I have a competitive spirit, I don't even like to lose in checkers.

"I have had a very successful career in boxing and I'm looking forward to making an even better one come June 11. Every fight is serious, and remember, I've been playing this game since I was 24 years old and I only had 22 amateur fights so essentially my amateur career was in the pro game. Whether the fights I've had are a loss or a win, I've always gained experience and I have become a better fighter because of it. I'm just getting warmed up and the fight on June 11 is going to catapult me in the right direction."

DEMETRIUS "BOO BOO" ANDRADE

"The champ is in. The champ is in. I feel good. I'm grateful. I want to thank SHOWTIME for giving me the opportunity to showcase my skill and talent on this June 11 card, especially with the Hall of Fame going on. It is a big main event between Provodnikov and John Molina; two guys that are going to back up and give some good entertainment. In my eyes, Willie Nelson and Demetrius Andrade is the number one 154 fight that you don't want to miss leading up to fighting for a title shot for the WBC against a Charlo brother (Jermell)."

(On how it felt to be inactive for so long)

"I've been staying busy, staying focused knowing that there's a bigger picture at the end of the day. All great legends and all Hall of Fame fighters have their story lines. My time is coming around. The tables are turning and people are going to have to step up and fight each other in one way or another. Sometimes, where you are in life is more conducive than your bank account. So, I'm not upset, or mad or frustrated with a thing that is going on and how everything played out.

"At this point, there is a lesson in everything that you go

through in life and I learned my lesson through that point in time. Me trying to be frustrated and take it out on people, no, I took it out in the ring.”

(Thoughts on Willie Nelson)

“I’ve seen him in the amateur program. I’ve seen him fight tough guys that are top guys today. I know he’s bringing that experience. He’s fought previous fighters that I’ve fought. I know I’m going up against a giant but I consider myself a giant as well and it’s going to be a great matchup, a great fight for the 154 (division). I feel that it is one of the best fights in the 154 division that has ever been made.

“Not looking past Willie Nelson but me, my character, my hard work and my ethics, I’m looking to be the best and fight the best out there. I want to put out there and say congratulations to the Charlo twins on making history for being twin brothers to win (titles). But I’m going to make history by taking both of those titles and beating both of them.

(On what it was like to be stripped of a title)

“A belt doesn’t identify me. That doesn’t change anything about me, my fight style, who I am or anything like that. Nowadays you don’t have to have a title to be king of the ring but this is an opportunity for me to get back in the likes of fighting with the WBC. Fighting on the SHOWTIME June 11 card is going to be good movement for me. As far as boxing, the days are coming back where the champ is fighting the best.”

**WILLIE “THE GREAT” NELSON**

“This is Willie Nelson, one of the top contenders for the 154-pound division. I’m excited for this fight. I think that both of us feel like this fight right here is going to be the shot that both of us have been looking for. I feel like this is my time right now. With me and Boo Boo’s past history, unfortunately we have to come to this fight. We’re pretty cool as friends but it’s our time so we have to get in there and

show the world what we're made of."

(On the reasoning behind the lengthy layoff)

"One of the reasons was because of the death of Steve Smith but also because it is hard getting fights. Nobody wants to fight a 6-foot, 4-inch junior middleweight that's actually coming to fight and that has decent pop. Besides that, look at my career. My career has been nothing but fights and layoffs. I've been pro since I was 19 years old and I only have 27 pro fights. That's just been my career: fights and layoffs I guess.

"Regardless of who I fight and where I'm fighting, I'm going to give it my all, always. It doesn't matter what place, what promoter, network or venue. I just perform to the best of my ability and look forward to doing what I do."

STEPHEN ESPINOZA, Executive Vice President and General Manager, SHOWTIME Sports

(On taking a fighter like Ruslan and what it is about him that attracted SHOWTIME)

"One thing that has characterized Ruslan throughout his career is that he is a fan favorite and that is consistent regardless of what the scorecards are at the end of the fight. As a network executive what we're looking for is entertaining programming, and fights that people want to see, fights that people talk about, and that is consistently what Ruslan has delivered throughout his career. He is one of those types of fighters who, like John [Molina Jr.] as well, that even if they have a handful of losses on their record, it really doesn't matter because they are as entertaining and enjoyable to watch as anyone in the sport.

"We try to have a variety of fights; some with really skilled guys, some guys who are really big punchers, a variety of weight classes, a variety of different types of fighters. This is one where it's not about titles, not about anything but two guys who fight really hard and who give it their all. [It's



about two guys] meeting in the ring to figure out who's the better boxer on that night.

"This is one way to add a different type of variety to the sport. Once we had the fight at the top of the card we tried to be consistent for the whole card down. If you look at guys like Demetrius and Willie, Dejan and even down to Willie Monroe Jr. and John Thompson, I think that characterizes this as what should be and all-action night."

(On Demetrius and Willie)

"I give all the credit to Demetrius and Willie for this fight. For Willie on stepping up to this challenge. We have one of the most avoided guys in the division in Demetrius, who's taking such a tough fight after a relatively long layoff and period of inactivity. It just shows what kind of guys these are and how they are anxious to step up to the next level of their careers."

ARTHUR PELULLO, President of Banner Promotions

"One thing led to another where we felt that there were more opportunities on SHOWTIME with all of the different fighters...There's more of an opportunity for Ruslan Provodnikov to show his skills and we were able to go down this road.

"John Molina is the toughest fight right now. This is the fight he has to get by but there is a real opportunity, whether he wins or loses. Both guys have a real opportunity on SHOWTIME because of the pool of talent there."

Turning Stone Resort Casino is no stranger to hosting high caliber nationally televised boxing events. Last year, Turning Stone hosted the epic battle between Provodnikov and Matthysee, selected over arenas in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Miami. When Provodnikov returns to Turning Stone on June 11th, it will mark Turning Stone's 18th nationally-televised boxing event, cementing the resort as a mecca for knockout fights. Located in Upstate New York, Turning Stone is an award-winning

destination resort, offering world-class amenities including four hotels, 21 restaurants and dining options, two luxurious spas, five beautiful golf courses, and several bars, cocktail lounges and nightlife venues.

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## **Undefeated Demetrius “Boo Boo” Andrade Fighting way back to top of Super Welterweight Division**

PROVIDENCE (May 31, 2016) – Undefeated super welterweight Demetrious “Boo Boo” Andrade is in a good place as he prepares for his June 11 showdown versus Willie “The Great” Nelson on SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® live on SHOWTIME® (9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT) from Turning Stone Casino in Verona, N.Y.

Approaching the peak of his professional boxing career, the 28-year-old Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs) has moved past a frustrating three-year stretch that, after he won a 12-round decision over Vanes Masrtirosyan for the vacant World Boxing Organization (WBO) 154-pound world title, found him fighting only twice. One was his only title defense, in which he won impressively by way of a seventh-round stoppage of then WBO No. 1 mandatory title challenger Brian Rose. But, due to promotional issues, Andrade was later stripped by the WBO for inactivity. His last fight was this past October when he recorded a second-round knockout of Dario Fabian Pucheta for the WBO International belt.

Now, Andrade has a new three-year promotional contract that gives his company, A Team Promotions, 50 percent of his promotional rights to go along with 25 percent each for Banner Promotions and Star Boxing.

"I've always been in a good place, mentally, because I have confidence in myself," said Andrade on what he went through during his long stretch outside of the ring. "I continued training hard. The politics of boxing, well, I'm not 100 percent there yet. Not until I'm actually in the ring and fighting will I actually know if that's worked out for me.

"I'm satisfied in my future, showcasing myself in the ring. I own 50 percent of myself and that – being a promoter – is a big factor. I know everything now, including all the real numbers, and I've learned about the ins and outs of this business. I'm also meeting the right network of people to help my career."

Andrade is thrilled to be fighting on SHOWTIME for the second time during his career, the first back in 2013 on ShoBox: The New Generation against Freddy Hernandez. "The top 154-pounders are with SHOWTIME. I'd like to thank SHOWTIME for giving me this amazing opportunity."

Andrade-Nelson is a 12-round WBC title elimination fight to determine the second mandatory challenger for new WBC Super Welterweight Champion Jermell Charlo, who, as the WBC No. 1 contender was matched last May 21 with No. 2 rated John Jackson. No. 3 Andrade was originally slated to face No. 5 Charles Hatley in a title eliminator to determine the No. 1 mandatory contender. However, negotiations with Hatley's promoter, Don King, failed to materialize and Andrade moved on to fight WBC No. 10 Nelson. The WBC declared Hatley as Charlo's mandatory challenger, despite him being ranked lower than Andrade, with the Andrade-Nelson winner now declared the mandatory title challenger for the future Charlo-Hatley victor.

Andrade, though, has no hard feelings with the WBC about its decisions. "I'm just thankful to be fighting in this 'tournament'," he commented. "Charlo was the WBC International champion and he should have had the opportunity to fight for the vacant title. I have the WBO International title, Hatley the WBC Silver title, so Hatley should probably have been ranked higher than me by the WBC. I respect the WBC's decision to make him the first mandatory challenger."

Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) and Andrade are familiar with each other through the USA Boxing amateur program, but the two have never met in the ring.

"Nelson lets his hands go," Andrade noted. "He likes to mix it up and so do I. I like to think that I'm a little smarter than him in the ring. This is going to be an interesting fight. I respect him for taking the fight and I'm preparing to fight the toughest opponent I've ever faced. He may be the tallest guy (6' 3") I've ever fought as a pro, but it's only a few inches, and not a big deal."

Andrade is back on his way to reaching the peak of the 154-pound division once again.

"I am ready to set the roof on fire on June 11," Andrade said. "Once everyone at 154 pounds gets a taste of me, they will know I am the greatest. The Charlos made history by becoming the first twins to hold titles in the same weight division. I will make history by beating both of them. Then I will beat Lara and unify all of the belts.

"Stay tuned. I am a force to be reckoned with. I will show the world that the best 154 pound fighter in the world is Demetrius Andrade."

#### INFORMATION

Twitter: @AndradeATeam

Instagram: @BooBooATeam

[www.Facebook.com.DemetriusAndrade](http://www.Facebook.com.DemetriusAndrade)

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## **Ruslan Provodnikov, John Molina Jr. & Demetrius Andrade Luncheon Quotes**

NEW YORK (April 12, 2016) – Former junior welterweight world champion Ruslan Provodnikov, former world title challenger John Molina Jr. and undefeated former 154-pound world champion Demetrius Andrade participated in a media luncheon on Tuesday hosted by SHOWTIME® and Banner Promotions before beginning training camp for their June 11 fights, live on SHOWTIME® from Turning Stone Casino in Verona, N.Y.

Former Fight of the Year participants Provodnikov and Molina will meet in the June 11 SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® main event. The tripleheader begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and features former WBO Junior Middleweight Champion Demetrius Andrade facing off against Willie Nelson in a WBC Super Welterweight Title Eliminator. In the opening bout, WBC No. 1-ranked lightweight Dejan Zlatcanin will challenge No. 2-ranked Emiliano Marsili for the vacant WBC Lightweight World Championship.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Banner

Promotions, Inc., are priced at \$85, \$60, \$45 and \$35 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Turning Stone Box Office, by calling 877.833.SHOW, or online at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)).

Below is what the fighters had to say:

RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

"As soon as I heard the name John Molina, I jumped on it. Molina fights with the type of style that people want to see. He brings the action.

"June 11 is another Fight of the Year-type fight. You can expect fireworks.

"People expect action fights when I get in the ring. I appreciate that SHOWTIME saw a value in what I can offer and I want to make sure that I don't let them down.

"I've only seen one fight of his, and that was the fight with (Lucas) Matthysse. That fight shows the type of fighter he is.

"I think our styles are going to clash. The reason people love this is because it's unpredictable. Nobody knows what's going to happen on June 11. Nobody can even predict which way it's going to go. We're both punchers, we both go forward, we both fight in a risky style. I think that's going to make this fight a fight that everybody should watch.

"The fight is already a huge motivation, but the fact that the Hall of Fame is the same weekend is definitely great. I'm definitely pleased to know that because hopefully one day I can be a part of that."

JOHN MOLINA JR.

"We're never say die fighters. We come forward. It's literally like two trains that are going to collide. It's a can't miss fight.

“He’s a hell of a fighter. He has a big heart and a big will.

“Right now, my only focus is – and I know it sounds generic – but my only focus is on Ruslan Provodnikov. He deserves my undivided attention right now because he’s that kind of fighter.

“I have to prepare for someone that has a never say die attitude. He’s like a virus that will never go away. He’s a hell of a fighter – he has a big heart and a big will. It’s tough to beat a guy that wants to win.

“We’re going to give the fans a treat, a Gatti-Ward type fight. I expect nothing less. We can have a phone booth, we don’t need a big ring.

“The judges probably don’t even need to be there because we’re going to decide the fight ourselves.”

DEMETRIUS ANDRADE

“Willie Nelson, he’s going to come in and he’s going to try and throw those power shots. He’s going to try to stomp me down and make a statement, but I’ve been doing this for too long. I’m just ready to be where I need to be, where I deserve to be, and that’s on the top.

“I’m not worried about ring rust. I stayed in the gym like a true champion should. I’m still young in the game so I don’t think I should have any problems seeing or ducking any punches.

“I’m confident and I know I’m the best 154-pounder out there and this fight right here is going to let people know that I’m back in business.

“Everybody knows the work that I’ve put in. The time is now and the time is coming.

“I’m ready to re-introduce myself to boxing fans and show them I’m the best 154-pounder in the world.



“After this fight with Willie Nelson, I plan on fighting the winner of Jermell Charlo and John Jackson and getting that WBC belt. And after that, I want to face the rest of the division and prove I’m the best.”

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## **Demetrius Andrade vs. Willie Nelson WBC Super Welterweight Title Eliminator Added to SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® on June 11**

NEW YORK (April 11, 2016) – An outstanding super welterweight clash has been added to SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING on Saturday, June 11 as undefeated, former WBO Junior Middleweight Champion Demetrius Andrade will face hard-hitting perennial contender Willie Nelson in a WBC Super Welterweight Title Eliminator. The winner of the 12-round co-feature will become the mandatory challenger to the winner of the May 21 showdown between Jermell Charlo and John Jackson, who face off for the vacant WBC 154-pound title on SHOWTIME.

Andrade vs. Nelson will serve as the chief support to the all-action matchup between former junior middleweight world champion Ruslan Provodnikov and former world title challenger

John Molina Jr., live on SHOWTIME (9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT) from Turning Stone Casino in Verona, New York. Andrade vs. Nelson is a co-promotion with Banner Promotions, Joe DeGuardia's Star Boxing and DiBella Entertainment

In the opening bout of the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING tripleheader during International Boxing Hall of Fame weekend, WBC No. 1-ranked lightweight Dejan Zlatikanin will take on No. 2-ranked Emiliano Marsili for the vacant WBC Lightweight World Championship.

Fighting out of his native Providence, R.I., the 28-year-old Andrade has compiled an unblemished record of 22-0 with 15 knockouts since turning professional in 2008 after representing the United States in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

A crafty southpaw with a piston-like jab and knockout power in each hand, Andrade won the vacant WBO Junior Middleweight World Championship with a career-best performance over Vanes Martirosyan on November 9, 2013 and successfully defended the title against No. 1-ranked mandatory challenger Brian Rose on June 14, 2014. Most recently Andrade, who is a consensus top-5 super welterweight, scored a second-round knockout over Dario Fabian Pucheta on October 17, 2015.

A true road warrior who is extremely tall for a junior middleweight at 6-foot-3, Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KO's) has faced and defeated numerous top contenders over his 10-year career. Fighting only once in 2015, the Cleveland native upset highly regarded and undefeated junior middleweight prospect Tony Harrison with a ninth-round knockout on July 11 in Tampa, Florida. In his first start of 2016, Nelson stopped Jonathan Batista in the second round on March 25.

Other notable names the all-action Nelson has defeated include John Jackson, Luciano Cuello, Michael Medina and Yudel Jackson. On October 14, 2014, Nelson came up just short

against Martirosyan, losing a hotly contested 10-round decision on SHOWTIME.

The southpaw Zlaticanin (17-0, 10 KOs) was an accomplished amateur in Eastern Europe before making a statement in his U.S. debut with an impressive fourth-round TKO of previously undefeated Ivan Redkach in a 135-pound title eliminator last June 13 on SHOWTIME.

Two bouts prior to the win over Redkach, Dejan (pronounced "DAY-han) Zlaticanin (silent "z" – pronounced "la-ti-CAH-nin) earned a well-deserved 12-round split decision over hometown favorite and former two-division world champion Ricky Burns in 2014.

The 31-year-old Zlaticanin is an offensive-minded fighter who constantly pressures his opponents, outworks them and wears them down. Zlaticanin, of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro, will be making his first start in nearly 12 months.

The win over Redkach last June earned Redkach the WBC's mandatory position at 135 pounds. He was scheduled to face WBC Champion Jorge Linares in early 2016, but Linares pulled out of the bout with a broken hand. Due to the injury, the WBC has since named Linares their champion in recess, creating the opportunity for the vacant title shot.

The Italian Marsili (32-0-1, 14 KOs) will make his 2016, U.S. and SHOWTIME debut. The undefeated southpaw has fought all but one of his professional fights in Italy, the lone exception a 2012 TKO of veteran contender Derry Matthews in Britain.

The 39-year old fought twice in 2015, a seventh-round TKO of Gyorgy Mizsei Jr., for the European lightweight belt and a 12-round unanimous decision over Gamaliel Diaz for the WBC's 135-pound silver title.

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## **Demetrius “Boo Boo” Andrade signs a new promotional contract with Banner Promotions and Joe DeGuardia’s Star Boxing**

Philadelphia, PA. / Bronx, NY (March 25,, 2016) – A Team Promotions, Arthur Pelullo’s Banner Promotions and Joe DeGuardia’s Star Boxing are pleased to announce the re-signing of former WBO junior middleweight world champion, Demetrius “Boo Boo” Andrade to a new exclusive multi-year promotional contract.

“We are very happy to have Demetrius re sign with Joe & I,” said Banner Promotions president, Arthur Pelullo.

“We are looking to move forward together with Demetrius becoming one of the major players in boxing. The next step is to win the WBC world title and then to unify all the title belts.”

“We have promoted Demetrius since he turned pro 7 years ago. We believed then, as we do now, Demetrius is one of the most talented boxers in the world. We are all looking forward to a bright future together,”said Star Boxing CEO, Joe DeGuardia.

“We are excited to get Demetrius career back on track and are looking forward to have Demetrius be a co-promoter for his career. He is excited to get back in the ring as quickly and as often as possible,” said Ed Farris of A-Team Promotions.

Andrade of Providence, Rhode Island has a record of 22-0 with 15 knockouts.

The 27 year-old former world amateur champion and 2008 Olympian turned professional in 2008 and became the WBO junior middleweight world champion with a 12-round split decision over 2004 United States Olympian Vanes Martirosyan.

He made one defense of the crown by stopping Brian Rose in 7 rounds on June 14, 2014.

He is coming off a 2nd round stoppage over Dario Fabian Pucheta on October 17th in Uncasville, Connecticut.

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## **Andrade scores 2nd round knockout**

Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs) stopped Argentinian Dario Fabian Pucheta (20-3) at the 50-second mark of the second round Saturday night at Mohegan Sun Arena to capture the vacant World Boxing Organization (WBO) International Junior Middleweight Title in the main event while Lundy disposed of Carlos Winston Velasquez (23-22-1) 23 seconds into the fifth round of the co-main event to bring home the World Boxing Council (WBC) Continental Americas Lightweight Crown.

The dual main event headlined CES Boxing’s “Gold Standard” card, promoted in association with Banner Promotions and Star

Boxing.

Fighting for the first time in 16 months, Andrade – the former world title-holder in the WBO – made quick work of Pucheta, sending him to the canvas twice in the opening round, the first time courtesy of a straight left hand and again just seconds later with a right uppercut. Already on wobbly legs, Pucheta gave it a go in the second round, but Andrade laid him out flat with another right, sending the pro-Andrade crowd into an uproar.

Andrade will now vault back into the WBO rankings, where he says he's ready for the "big boys" at 154 pounds, whether that's World Boxing Association (WBA) junior middleweight champion Erislandy Lara, WBC middleweight champ Saul "Canelo" Alvarez, or anybody else in that weight class.

"Everybody else can get the big fights. Why can't I get the big fights?" Andrade said. "Lara calls out Delvin Rodriguez and he gets that fight, but I can't get Lara. He can go in and barge in on Canelo's press conference and get that fight. Why can't I get the same thing? I called him a bitch, nationally!"

"No disrespect to any fighter because anyone who gets in that ring, I have high respect for, but it's time for me to showcase what I really have against the guys everyone thinks is No. 1."

Showing no signs of ring rust, Andrade came out firing Saturday and could get his shot real soon.

"This layoff, I just took the time to get better physically, spiritually, mentally, just all around, to be better myself," he said. "Once I found out I was fighting September 17th, I always keep the synthetic oil in, but I had to get the motors running again. Here we go, man."