

Banner Promotions Fighters Turn in Solid Performances Over the Weekend

PHILADELPHIA – September 23, 2019 – This past Friday night, three members of the Banner Promotions stable were in action and had impressive performances.

In Midland, Texas lightweight Michael Dutchover (13-1, 10 KOs) took on Thomas Mattice in the main event of ShoBox: The New Generation that was televised Live on SHOWTIME.

Dutchover took the fight to Mattice and was up on two of the three judges scorecards as the bout entered the eighth round.

In that round, Dutchover was cut over the left eye. The cut was ruled from a punch, but instant replays were inconclusive on how the cut occurred, and Mattice was ruled the winner of the bout.

Dutchover was ahead 69-64, 68-65 while Mattice was ahead on one card 67-66.

“It was a great fight. Mattice is a warrior, but the fight was going my way,” said Dutchover. “My body punches and uppercuts were working well, and I stunned him in the 6th round. It was a good performance and I had the fight won.”

On the punch the allegedly stopped the fight, Dutchover did not know how the cut was opened. “They said I got with a punch, and I guess that’s boxing. I don’t know if it was a punch and I don’t know if it was a headbutt. I just know that I started bleeding. I was good, but the doctor stopped the fight. The thing that disappointed me was that they did not let my cutman Andrew Rodriguez work on it between rounds. In fact, after the fight was over, he worked on it for about 20

seconds, and the cut was under control.”

Dutchover showed great sportsmanship in defeat.

“I take my losses the same way I take my wins, but now I just can’t wait to get back in there. It says that I have a loss on paper, but with my performance, I feel that I won. I would take a rematch with him without hesitation. But as soon as I heal up, I would take that as the 1st fight back.”

The fight took place in front of a sold out crowd in Dutchover’s hometown for which SHOWTIME analyst’s said it was the loudest they heard a venue in many years.

“Midland supported this event, and I helped bring a major event here. It exceeded all expectations, the fans loved the fight, and they are already talking about bringing another event here.”

In the co-feature, world-ranked featherweight, Ruben Villa (17-0, 5 KOs) was very impressive in shutting out previously undefeated Enrique Vivas to retain the WBO International title.

Villa used a variety of punches throughout the fight which included a perfect two punch combination that dropped Vivas in round two, and Villa cruised to the victory by matching 100-89 scores on all cards.

“It was a pretty good performance. He was confident, but we had a good game-plan which we stuck to the whole fight, and I was smart about it what I wanted to do in there,” said Villa.

“We planned that he would be more aggressive. We know that feints and jabs would be key and they worked great. Once I landed the jab that was followed by a left hand in round that that dropped him, I saw him begin to lose his confidence.”

Villa was very satisfied with his performance in his 3rd appearance on ShoBox.

"If you consider the tough opponent, who came in undefeated and combine it that I scored a knockdown and won all the rounds, I would say it was my best performance to date."

Villa is very confident that major opportunities are on the horizon.

"I am going to take a couple of weeks off, and then get right back in the gym. I am hopeful that by middle of next year I will get my world title opportunity."

In Ontario, California, two-time world title challenger Petr Petrov registered his 3rd stoppage victory of the year as he stopped Dedrick Bell in the 2nd round of their main event at The Doubletree Hotel.

Petrov dominated the action, and stopped Bell with a body shot at 2:48.

With the win, Petrov (41-6-2, 22 KOs) will look for a major opportunity, which could include a world title shot with a particular interest in fighting newly crowned WBC Interim lightweight champion Devin Haney.

"I am very proud of Michael, Ruben and Petr," said Artie Pelullo, President of Banner Promotions. "Michael was ahead in the fight that ended because of a situation where no one has clearly seen a punch. If the referee would have declared it a headbutt, Michael would have won the fight as he was ahead on two the cards. It's just bad luck. Michael is 21 years-old and he is terrific young fighter. It is just a bump in the road. Ruben was outstanding, and he keeps showing us he is on his way to a world title. He took on an undefeated fighter who was promoted by Mikey Garcia's company. Mikey knows talent. Ruben won every round, and he is proving why he is one of the best at 126 pounds in the world. Once again Petr showed that he is a true professional as he has been active, and has three straight knockouts. A big fight is in his near future."

Dutchover and Villa are co-promoted by Thompson Boxing.

MICHAEL DUTCHOVER vs. THOMAS MATTICE FINAL WEIGHTS, QUOTES & PHOTOS FOR SHOBOX TRIPLEHEADER TOMORROW LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

MIDLAND, Texas – September 19, 2019 – Midland native and undefeated Michael Dutchover and highly regarded lightweight prospect Thomas Mattice both made weight a day before their main event showdown on ShoBox: The New Generation Friday, September 20 live on SHOWTIME (10:30 p.m. ET/PT).

Dutchover (13-0, 10 KOs) is making his second appearance on ShoBox and is fighting in his hometown for the first time as a professional. Dutchover said he would enter the ring wearing the high school football jersey of Midland legend and former NFL star Cedric Benson, who was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident on August 17 in Austin. Cleveland's Mattice (14-1-1, 10 KOs) will be fighting on ShoBox for a fifth time.

In the co-feature, undefeated featherweight prospects Ruben Villa (16-0, 5 KOs) of Salinas, Calif., and Garcia Promotions' talent Enrique Vivas (17-0, 9 KOs) of Mexico City clash in a 10-round matchup. In the telecast opener, super lightweight prospect Brandun Lee (15-0, 13 KOs), of La Quinta, Calif., will face Milton Arauz (10-1-1, 5 KOs), of Jinotega, Nicaragua in an eight-round bout.

Tickets for the event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing in association with GH3 Promotions, Garcia

Promotions and Now Boxing Promotions, are priced at \$120, \$100 and \$80 and can be purchased online at www.haciendamidland.com or by calling 432-563-3737.

FINAL WEIGHTS, REFEREES AND JUDGES

Lightweight 10-Round Bout

Michael Dutchover – 134 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Thomas Mattice – 134 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Referee: Robert Velez

Judges: Jesse Reyes (Dallas), Ursaio Perez (San Antonio),
Ruben Carrion (San Antonio)

Featherweight 10-Round Bout

Ruben Villa – 125 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Enrique Vivas – 126 lbs.

Referee: Robert Velez (El Paso, Texas)

Judges: Jesse Reyes (Dallas), Ursaio Perez (San Antonio),
Ruben Carrion (San Antonio)

Welterweight 8-Round Bout

Brandun Lee – 142 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Milton Arauz – 142 lbs.

Referee: Daniel Sandoval (El Paso, Texas)

Judges: TBA

In Non-Televised action, Mattheus Avrella Lamarque and Marquese Steward each weighed 135 lbs. Lamaque is promoted by Banner Promotions.

Here's what the fighters had to say before they weighed in at the Doubletree by Hilton.

FINAL QUOTES:

MICHAEL DUTCHOVER

"This is just like another fight. My family lives here, but I'm staying at the fight hotel and treating it like any other fight. The location doesn't matter but I'm glad it's here

though. The ring is my home, so I fight at home every fight.

"Everyone knows football is king here, but my dream has come true and it is time for Friday Night Lights, boxing-style.

"Training camp at the Santa Fe Springs Boxing Club went great with my trainer Danny Zamora. We peaked at the right time. We're just ready to go.

"Cedric Benson is a Midland legend and went to my arch-rival high school Midland Lee High. I grew up seeing him star here locally and then play in the NFL. He was a true inspiration for me and all aspiring athletes from Midland.

"August 31 is a tragic day for all of Midland and West Texas as five people were gunned down here. For the past few weeks everyone has been sad, but I feel this is a perfect time to bring some happiness and positivity to the area.

"My last fight was quick, but you can never be a perfect boxer and you can always get better. So we worked on some things and Friday night I'm going to show how I've improved.

"My ring generalship and just being calm in the ring is what I've focused on. The fight is won in training camp and I'm in the best shape I've been in."

THOMAS MATTICE:

"This will be a tough test, but we're ready. The crowd might 'ooh' and 'ahh', but I won't hear it. The crowd means nothing because what it boils down to is two men in a square.

"People expect me to start slow and that's what I've shown, but you'll see something different from me right from the start.

"There is a regional WBO belt on the line so it's a big fight. Whoever wins will be ranked after this fight.

"I'm going to be on point tomorrow night. When I get hit, it's

because I do something stupid. That's not going to happen this time."

RUBEN VILLA:

"I feel like I adjusted OK in my last fight on ShoBox against an awkward fighter. It was a good learning experience. I can keep my composure and I know that if I'm in a dog fight, I can adjust and go into deep waters. My opponent will start to fade around round six and I can drown him.

"I feel like quiet and soft-spoken doesn't get you very far, so I plan to be a little more aggressive.

"There aren't many people as fast as me. I feel like my confidence is pretty high right now, but anything can happen.

"I'm a fast fighter and my quick feet are my biggest attribute. We all know, 'slow feet, don't eat.'

"Going to Robert [Garcia]'s gym in Riverside really helped me because he has a lot of young and hungry guys.

"Shakur Stevenson was my amateur rival and I know he's fighting next for a world title. But my time will come. I predict that within 12 months I will be doing the same."

ENRIQUE VIVAS

"I know I'm fighting a tough and skilled opponent, but I just feel like this is my time. We're both Olympians and have had success. We know each other and have sparred together. This is a once in a lifetime chance for us and we jumped on it. It's too big an opportunity to pass up.

"For this fight we decided to train in Otomi, Mexico. My trainers are Mario and Ramon Morales and they have many years of experience as they were trainers for Marco Antonio Barrera and they also helped me train when I won the regional WBF North America belt and the Latin American WBC belt.

"Villa is a very intelligent fighter with good technique. He's not an easy fighter but we are prepared and look forward to getting the victory.

"I'm excited to fight on SHOWTIME. I fought on television once before against Edixon Perez, who was supposed to fight Diego De La Hoya in Mexicali, and I got the victory; I'm looking for the same result on my second televised fight.

"He is a good technical puncher and I know his style and that he won't be too aggressive. So we've worked on how to close the ring. It's a great style matchup and we expect an exciting fight.

"[His promoter] Mikey Garcia always watches my fights and gives me advice. He has taught me to fight more intelligently and always tells me to be patient. He's my idol. I appreciate his guidance."

BRANDUN LEE

"I'm excited to gain some new fight fans and I'm excited for my TV debut. I've worked for this my entire life.

"My defense, my speed and my offense are my biggest attributes. You'll see great boxers who run around and around. I don't do that. I always have a game plan and can do it all.

"Jaron [Ennis] and I are both managed by Cameron Dunkin and we were in the amateurs together. He has a bright future and we've become pretty close friends.

"I've gained so much confidence with who I've sparred and trained with in the past. I feel like this is just my moment to shine. I'm only 20 years old and still have so much to learn.

"It took me six fights to realize you can't knock everyone out in the first round. After about 10 professional fights I think I finally started to feel comfortable in there.

“Boxing isn’t a tough-man competition. I don’t have to show that I’m the toughest, I just have to show I’m the most skilled.”

MILTON ARAUZ

“I’ve been here for more than a week and we worked out in California and did some sparring and completed our medicals and paperwork.

“I’m very happy for this opportunity and I’m well prepared. Tomorrow night I’m going to take away an undefeated record. I can’t wait.

“Being on TV for the first time doesn’t affect me. I won’t be nervous. I’m just excited.

“No one knows who I am, but I know I can win this fight. That’s how confident I am. I have to be smart and attack him from the start.

Nicaragua has had a strong history of former boxing champion, guys like Roman “Chocolatito” Gonzalez and Ricardo Mayorga. But Alexis Arguello is my favorite.

“I have a solid team behind me, including Marcos Caballero who is the father of former IBF bantamweight world champion Randy Caballero.”

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

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About ShoBox: The New Generation

Since its inception in July 2001, the critically acclaimed SHOWTIME boxing series, ShoBox: The New Generation has featured young talent matched tough. The ShoBox philosophy is to televise exciting, crowd-pleasing and competitive matches while providing a proving ground for willing prospects determined to fight for a world title. Some of the growing list of the 80 fighters who have appeared on ShoBox and advanced to garner world titles includes: Errol Spence Jr., Andre Ward, Deontay Wilder, Erislandy Lara, Shawn Porter, Gary Russell Jr., Lamont Peterson, Guillermo Rigondeaux, Nonito Donaire, Devon Alexander, Carl Froch, Robert Guerrero, Timothy Bradley, Jessie Vargas, Juan Manuel Lopez, Chad Dawson, Paulie Malignaggi, Ricky Hatton, Kelly Pavlik, Paul Williams and more.

TOP PROSPECT MICHAEL DUTCHOVER TO FACE THOMAS MATTICE IN HOMECOMING BOUT ON SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 LIVE FROM MIDLAND, TEXAS

NEW YORK – August 22, 2019 – Undefeated lightweight prospect Michael Dutchover returns to ShoBox: The New Generation seeking to make a statement win in his homecoming fight against Thomas Mattice in the 10-round main event of a three-fight telecast on Friday, September 20 live on SHOWTIME (10:30

p.m. ET/PT) from La Hacienda Event Center in Midland, Texas.

The fast-rising Texan prospect Dutchover (13-0, 10 KOs) returns for his second consecutive test on ShoBox after making an impressive debut in May with a first-round knockout. The 21-year-old prospect will face his toughest test to date in ShoBox veteran Mattice (14-1-1, 10 KOs), a fearless five-year pro that has displayed promising boxing skills in previous appearances on the developmental prospect series.

In a battle of undefeated featherweight prospects, two-time Junior Olympic National Champion and two-time Golden Gloves Champion Ruben Villa (16-0, 5 KOs) will face Garcia Promotions' most coveted prospect, Mexico's Enrique Vivas (17-0, 9 KOs) in a 10-round matchup. In the opening bout, undefeated welterweight prospect Brandun Lee (14-0, 12 KOs) will face an opponent yet to be named.

Tickets for the event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing in association with GH3 Promotions, Garcia Promotions and Now Boxing Promotions, are priced at \$120, \$100 and \$80 and can be purchased online at www.haciendamidland.com or by calling 432-563-3737.

"We were able to put together one of the best ShoBox cards we've seen so far this year thanks to the collective efforts of five promoters that didn't shy away from matching their prospects tough," said Gordon Hall, Executive Producer of ShoBox: The New Generation. "We get to see unbeaten Michael Dutchover making his hometown debut in a step-up fight against the talented Thomas Mattice, a match of unbeaten prospects in Villa vs. Vivas and the series debut of a top prospect and former amateur standout Brandun Lee. September 20, is without any doubt, the classic example of what ShoBox is all about."

"We are excited to once again be able to showcase Michael Dutchover and Ruben Villa on ShoBox," said Artie Pelullo, President and CEO, Banner Promotions. "It will be a great

experience for Michael to fight at home and continue his ascension up the ranks. Ruben is ranked very high, so we expect a great performance as he continues to position himself for a world title."

"In a lot of ways this is a coming out party for Michael, but anyone that has followed his career knows he boasts world championship talent and has the dedication to get to the top," said Ken Thompson, President of Thompson Boxing. "Also on the card is Ruben, another supremely talented youngster that will also be in the mix for a world title shot in the near term. Boxing fans who tune in on SHOWTIME are going to see two incredible talents."

Dutchover, of Santa Fe Springs, Calif. by way of Midland, Texas, started boxing at the age of eight, compiling a notable amateur record of 130-17. He was a runner-up at the 2016 National Golden Gloves and a Bronze Medalist in the 2016 Olympic qualifiers, turning pro shortly afterwards. Dutchover, who boasts a 77 percent K0 ratio, has knocked out his last five opponents including durable prospect Rosekie Cristobal in his last outing in just 109 seconds.

Dutchover will wear former NFL running back and legendary Texas Longhorn player Cedric Benson's jersey to the ring on fight night. Benson, who also played football for the renowned Robert E. Lee High School in Midland, was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident on August 17.

"Mattice is a talented fighter, he will bring out the best in me," said Dutchover, who is excited to headline in his hometown. "Fighting at home means everything to me. I have fought mostly in California and on the East Coast. This homecoming is overdue. Like Friday Night Lights, I will be the next big thing from Midland, Texas. I will have my teachers, coaches and classmates there on fight night. I am ready for a big outing."

Mattice, who is making his fifth start on the series, is

looking to rebound after last minute opponent, Will Madera, handed him his first defeat in his last ShoBox appearance. Hailing from Cleveland, Ohio, the 28-year-old lightweight fought to a split-draw in an immediate rematch with Zhora Hamazaryan in September 2018 after winning a controversial split-decision in their first bout. Prior to his back-to-back fights with Hamazaryan, Mattice had won six consecutive bouts via knockout. He scored a decision over Angel Sarinana in his last start in May.

"I am focused and confident," said Mattice. "I haven't watched much on my opponent. I let my team watch and develop the best possible game plan. I know he is a durable guy but I'm coming to win. This is my fifth ShoBox appearance and I feel that shows people recognize my talent and hard work."

"Since day one Thomas Mattice has put his character on the line letting everyone know he doesn't duck anyone," said Mattice's promoter Vito Mielnicki, President of GH3 Promotions. "It's a crossroads fight for both fighters; Mike [Dutchover] is young and hungry and has never been in a top-level fight but has the pedigree, and Thomas has been tested and proven he belongs. It's going to be the fight of the night. I predict Thomas will win by KO."

The 22-year-old Villa of Salinas, Calif., returns for his third consecutive test on ShoBox after scoring a unanimous decision over Luis Alberto Lopez in May and outclassing then-unbeaten Ruben Cervera in January. Villa, who started boxing at the age of five, owns victories over Shakur Stevenson, Devin Haney and Gary Antonio Russell as an amateur (166-17). He turned pro in 2016 and is considered by many a prospect to watch. He hopes to continue his rapid ascension in the featherweight ranks with an exceptional showing against the undefeated Vivas.

"I am looking forward to performing in front of the fans in Texas," said Villa, "I sparred with Enrique Vivas in the past,

he's an aggressive fighter. My team and I put together a good game plan and I'm going to follow it. I think a win here will position me a step closer to a title shot. I hope to be in a title eliminator or championship fight within the next 12-to-18 months. I have my eye on the vacant WBO belt."

Vivas of Texcoco, Mexico, is coming off a unanimous decision victory over Jose Estrella in his United States debut in June. He started training in martial arts and kickboxing from an early age, turning to the sweet science at 17, after a motorcycle accident. As an amateur, he won national, regional and state championships, amassing a 93-7 record. He turned pro in late 2014 and has stayed very active, fighting three-to-five times per year. Nicknamed "El Ejecutor" (The Executioner) for his devastating combinations, the 25-year-old has built his undefeated record against limited opposition and a victory over a gifted prospect like Villa can catapult his rise through the ranks.

"I am very happy I got this opportunity," said Vivas, who is making his television debut on September 20. "Ruben Villa is a very strong southpaw with a lot of experience. He is one of the best featherweights out there. I'm up for the challenge. All of the struggles I have been through in my life have led me here, to this fight. When I fight, I let it all out. It will be a very exciting fight. Don't miss it."

"I'm very excited for Vivas' debut on ShoBox," said four-division champion Mikey Garcia, who is the President of Garcia Promotions. "This is a 50-50 fight. When we agreed to this matchup, we made the decision with a premise in mind that we firmly believe in: We fight the best to be the best. That is and will continue to be the foundation of Garcia Promotions."

Super lightweight prospect Lee, of Coachella, Calif., turned pro at 17 after a stellar amateur run (196-5). He has sparred with Mikey Garcia, Devin Haney and Mauricio Herrera. Trained by his father Bobby, the 20-year-old has built up an 86-

percent knockout ratio. A very active fighter, he has fought Pablo Martinez and Jorge Munguia. A definitive win on his TV debut would help put his name on the map.

"I am very excited and grateful for this opportunity to fight on national television," said Lee. "I am young and any good performance will boost my career in a positive way, whether it is a knockout or decision. I am a boxer-puncher and I can adapt to anything in the ring. I am looking forward to showcasing my skills on national television."

"I can't describe how excited I am about Brandun Lee," said Now Boxing Promotions' Cameron Dunkin, Lee's promoter. "He was 196-5 as an amateur and won 16 National Championships. He is truly gifted and very talented. He's of Korean heritage and his fan base is huge. They really support him. He has an amazing future."

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

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