

**Video: Antoine Douglas talks
about his fight with Avtandil
Khurtsdize**

Video: Avtandil Khurtsidze

Video: Marcello Matano

Video: Julian Williams

Video: Stephen Edwards

Video: Julian Williams Media Roundtable

Video: Julian Williams media workout

SHOWTIME BOXING: SPECIAL EDITION® OFFICIAL WEIGHTS

IBF 154-Pound Title Eliminator – 12 Rounds

Julian Williams – 154 Pounds

Marcello Matano – 150 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pounds

Middleweight Bout – 10 Rounds (WBO International Middleweight Title)

Antoine Douglas – 158 $\frac{3}{4}$ Pounds

Avtandil Khurtsidze – 160 Pounds

Middleweight Bout – 10 Rounds

Tony Harrison – 156 $\frac{1}{4}$ Pounds

Fernando Guerrero – 156 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pounds

NON TELEVISED BOUTS

Ievgen Khytrov 159.3 – Kenneth McNeil 158.4

Joey Dawejko 242 – Ytalo Perea 250

Amir Shabazz 173. – Hakeem Atkinson 172.2

Chordale Booker 150.4 – Antonio Allen 150.6

Terrence Williams 161.5 – Anthony Miller 159.5

Here is what the fighters had to say Friday

JULIAN WILLIAMS:

"He obviously has a dream, and I have to respect his dream. It's my job to break his dream.

"No one wanted to fight me. But this guy accepted it, he came here and he's in my way.

"This is the biggest fight of my life. I win this and I fight for a title this year.

"People don't want to see us dance around for 12 rounds. They want to see action.

"We opened camp on Nov. 9. We've been waiting for this fight and now it's finally here."

MARCELLO MATANO:

"My dream has always been to fight for the world title. Now, I'm almost there.

"People may not be familiar with me, but champions can be born everywhere.

"On paper, Williams is a better fighter, the favorite. But will he be able to translate his skills in the ring? That's the question. I will be the more active fighter. I'll push the action and frustrate him."

ANTOINE DOUGLAS:

"We're coming to win. With the work we put in, we're ready for anyone. We prepare the same way

"I just plan to go out there and win. Any guy with two hands is dangerous. We just have to fight out fight.

"This guy is so aggressive it's going to hurt him. We know he's going to keep coming but we're going to keep our hands in his face.

"I haven't made it yet. I'm still hungry. I know I need to win this fight to move on to the next step, to get my shot at the title."

AVTANDIL KHURTSIDZE:

"We're going to be aggressive. Once he feels the power he's going to change his game plan. Once we take his jab away it's going to be difficult for him.

"This is a huge opportunity for me. I have to win. Losing isn't an option.

"There's never been a world champ from Georgia. If I win this fight, I'm that much closer to becoming that first champion.

"I sparred with Marcus Browne, (Ievgen) Khytrov, (Sergiy) Derevyanchenko. We had a great camp and now we're ready to fight."

"Mike Tyson is my favorite fighter. I model my style after him."

TONY HARRISON:

"I don't want to leave any questions. I don't want to go 10 rounds with Fernando Guerrero

"I want to be back to where I was before I lost. To get back where I was, I have to win impressively. I think winning this fight gets me back to where I was."

FERNANDO GUERRERO:

"I haven't felt this good mentally and physically in a while. I'm more well-rounded now.

"This is my natural weight. When I was fighting at middleweight I was always the smaller fighter.

"Tony has some speed and he was a real good amateur, but I'm a veteran professional. I'm going to take him out of his comfort zone."

Saturday, March 5

5:30 p.m. SANDS BETHLEHEM EVENTS CENTER DOORS OPEN

Location: 77 Sands Blvd.; Bethlehem, PA 18015

6:45 p.m. FIRST BOUT

10:00 p.m. SHOWTIME BOXING: SPECIAL EDITION BROADCAST BEGINS

CREDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION

Fight night credentials can be picked up on Saturday, March 5 from 5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Backstage Entrance. Proper personal photo ID (Driver's license or passport) is required for credential pick-up.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by King's Promotions, are priced at \$108, \$83 and \$58, not including applicable service charges and taxes and are on sale now. Tickets are available HERE at www.ticketmaster.com. To charge by phone call Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000.

For more information visit www.SH0.com/Sports and www.sandseventcenter.com, follow on Twitter @SH0Sports, @JRockBoxing, @Action_Douglas, @IAmBoxing, @FernandoDomini, @TheSBEC and @Swanson_Comm or become a fan on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SH0Sports

JULIAN WILLIAMS VS. MARCELLO MATANO FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

BETHLEHEM, PA. (March 3, 2016) – Undefeated top contender Julian “J-Rock” Williams and Italy’s Marcello Matano went face-to-face for the first time Thursday at the final press conference before they meet with the IBF’s No. 1 spot at 154-pounds on the line this Saturday, March 5 live on SHOWTIME® (10 p.m. ET/PT) from Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.

Saturday’s SHOWTIME BOXING: SPECIAL EDITION® tripleheader features middleweight matchups between rising contender Antoine Douglas and Avtandil Khurtsidze and exciting Detroit prospect Tony Harrison against former title challenger Fernando Guerrero.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by King’s Promotions, are priced at \$108, \$83 and \$58, not including applicable service charges and taxes and are on sale now. Tickets are available HERE at www.ticketmaster.com. To charge by phone call Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000.

Here is what the fighters had to say Thursday:

JULIAN WILLIAMS

“I want to thank Matano and his team for coming all the way over here. We’ve had a difficult time getting opponents for different reasons, but I’m excited to headline this stacked card.

“When I win this fight I’ll be able to accomplish my dream of being a world champion. It’s one step closer.

“I’m going to attack the head and body as much as I can. I’ve

got enough film on him to see what he's got. He's pretty solid. He got better each time out. But those guys in Italy don't have the skills that I have. I think he's going to bring it for as long as he can handle it.

"He's an awkward fighter. He's definitely a boxer and he can be a little skittish in the ring. I know I've fought the better competition and I've trained my hardest for this.

"I'm ready to make a statement. I'm not worried about a knockout. However the win comes, it's great. I'm just looking to win and beat him down.

"I'm expecting a good Philadelphia crowd to be out here supporting me. Ninety percent of my career I've been on the West Coast and other places. But now fighting in front of my hometown fans, there's nothing better. It's perfect."

MARCELLO MATANO

"I feel very good. I've been here since Friday so I have gotten used to the time zone difference and I'm ready to fight. My American experience is just starting and I'm looking forward to it.

"It's been a hard two months of training for this fight. This is by far the most important fight of my career so I've trained even harder than I usually do.

"I know that Julian Williams is a top-notch athlete and that he is coming to give his best, just like I am. It's going to be an exciting fight because we both want to get to the top.

"I can adapt myself to any opponent. I can be a boxer or I can be a brawler. But in my heart, I am a warrior and I will come forward all fight. I am coming to leave that ring victorious.

"This is a dream come true to come here to the United States. I've always worked hard and it's gotten me here. I will put all of my heart into the ring on Saturday night."

ANTOINE DOUGLAS

"You can always look forward to an action-packed fight when I step into the ring. I have an admirable opponent who I know is coming to fight.

"I've grown into this role and into who I am. If you asked me earlier in my career, I would have never thought I'd be here. This is great and it comes from all the hard work I've put in over the years.

"You will see my growth Saturday night in the ring. I plan on being victorious. The work I put in won't let me be any less than that. I'm looking forward to the action.

"I have a very strong opponent and I think it will make for a more exciting fight than Sam Soliman.

"I just always have to be prepared for whatever is thrown at me. This is boxing – there are no guarantees. We just have to be prepared for everything and do our best.

"The styles of Soliman and Khurtsidze are completely different, but we always base our offense and defense off a fighting at range and working the jab. I'm not going in blind – I've faced opponents who come forward. We'll be ready for him and ready to make the adjustments in the ring.

"A win on Saturday will definitely put me in a position for a title shot. We just take it day-by-day. It's not about looking at future opponents. We take each step successfully and see where it puts us."

AVTANDIL KHURTSIDZE

"I'm very happy to be here and I'm grateful for the opportunity. I'm fighting a very strong fighter. Once I step into the ring I'm expecting a good challenge and I can't wait for Saturday night.

"Everything in training went well. We've trained really hard and we're ready for Saturday night.

"Douglas is a good fighter. He's a good boxer and he has a good left hook. But none of that means anything until you get in the ring.

"Once I step into the ring, I will bring 100 percent. I am not going to stop swinging until Douglas goes down."

FERNANDO GUERRERO

"We're ready to fight. We had a great training camp and there's not too much to say. It's warrior time.

"I've been through my ups and downs, but I'm still here and I'm not going anywhere. This is for my whole nation, everyone in the Dominican Republic who is watching. You have to step in that ring for something.

"This isn't a game. This is the only sport that you cannot play. I'm going to make this one of those fights that will be one of the best of the year. It will either be the best knockout or the best fight of the year. This is going to be memorable.

"This is the kind of opponent who will bring out the best of me. Everybody has to watch out for me. I'm coming to make a statement on Saturday."

Friday, March 4

6:00 p.m. OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Location: Vision Bar (Located inside Sands Bethlehem Events Center)

77 Sands Blvd.; Bethlehem, PA 18015

5:00 p.m. – Media arrival

6:00 p.m. – Fighters to scales

Saturday, March 5

5:30 p.m. SANDS BETHLEHEM EVENTS CENTER DOORS OPEN

Location: 77 Sands Blvd.; Bethlehem, PA 18015

6:45 p.m. FIRST BOUT

10:00 p.m. SHOWTIME BOXING: SPECIAL EDITION BROADCAST BEGINS

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JULIAN WILLIAMS MEDIA WORKOUT QUOTES

Philadelphia, Pa. (March 2, 2016) – Julian “J-Rock” Williams (21-0-1, 13 KOs) held a media workout on Tuesday in Philadelphia at James Shuler Boxing Gym as he prepares to put his undefeated record on the line in a 154-pound world title eliminator this Saturday, March 5, live on SHOWTIME (10 p.m.

ET/PT, delayed on the West Coast).

The SHOWTIME BOXING: SPECIAL EDITION® main event pits Williams against Italy's Marcello Matano (16-1, 5 KOs) as part of a tripleheader live from Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Also featured on the telecast will be middleweight contender Antoine Douglas (19-0-1, 13 KOs) facing off against Avtandil Khurtsidze (31-2, 20 KOs) in a 10-round middleweight bout and exciting Detroit prospect Tony Harrison (22-1, 18 KOs) battling former title challenger Fernando Guerrero (28-3, 20 KOs) in a 10-round super welterweight matchup.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by King's Promotions, are priced at \$100, \$75 and \$50, not including applicable service charges and taxes and are on sale now. Tickets are available HERE at www.ticketmaster.com. To charge by phone call Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000.

Here is what Julian and his trainer, Stephen Edwards, had to say Tuesday:

JULIAN WILLIAMS

"I am extremely focused. There is a lot at stake this Saturday. I am finally in the position I wanted to be in since turning pro.

"I have come to a conclusion that if people don't have to fight Julian Williams then they won't. It hasn't been that frustrating though because I always have a fight on the books. I can't worry about the people who won't fight me. I just have to stay ready and put myself in the mandatory spot. That's what I am going to do on Saturday night.

"It's never any challenge fighting at home. I know exactly what I have to do. I don't cut any corners in camp. The biggest challenge is the waiting because I am so anxious to

get in there and get a win, especially in front of my home crowd.

"I always knew I wanted to pursue a boxing career, so I treat it like I want it. I've been dreaming about this for a long time and my opportunity is finally here.

"I've been a student of the game since I started watching boxing. I want to learn and I want to know everything about boxing.

"It means everything to have my biggest fight to date in my backyard. I know my fans cheer loud and it feels great to have their support in my corner.

"I know everything about my opponent. I probably know what kind of toothpaste he used this morning. I searched high and low for videos of Matano. I am ready because I know he is ready.

"He is a little bit awkward. He seems to have a really good gas tank. He said he wants to take me the distance, so we'll see.

"The last fight solidified the things that I already knew about myself. I know I am fundamentally sound and I know I am the hungriest fighter in the world.

"I always want to put on an explosive performance. It's always about a win.

"In about nine months, Philadelphia will have it's fourth IBF super welterweight champion after David Reid, Robert Hines and Buster Drayton."

STEPHEN EDWARDS, Williams' trainer

"We are ready. It's been a long four-month camp. We thought we were going to fight in January, so we've been grinding through this rough weather early in the morning. Julian is chomping at

the bit and ready to rock 'n roll.

"We thought we were going to fight Austin Trout in December, and he saw that Julian gave his opponent a concussion and said I don't want to fight him. It's just that simple. We have to get past Matano and then we can talk about (super welterweight champion Jermall) Charlo.

"Anybody with two hands and a heartbeat can fight. Matano is ranked and just because he isn't well known, it doesn't mean he can't fight. He is 16-1 and they didn't have a hard time convincing him to take the fight. The best soldiers are volunteers. Any time someone willingly comes to someone else's country, you have to take him seriously.

"I don't want to make a prediction, but Julian will hurt this guy very bad."

Thursday, March 3

3:00 p.m. PRESS CONFERENCE -OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Location: Berks Meeting Room (Located inside Sands Bethlehem Events Center)

77 Sands Blvd.; Bethlehem, PA 18015

2:30 p.m. – Media arrival

3:00 p.m. – Press conference begins

Friday, March 4

6:00 p.m. OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

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5:00 p.m. – Media arrival

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