

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shelestyuk utilized his 3½-inch height advantage to dominate

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“I would love to fight him again.”

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

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

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

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

All but Douglas were making their ShoBox debuts.

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

DAY CHANNEL

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

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

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

About ShoBox: The New Generation

Since its inception in July 2001, the critically acclaimed SHOWTIME boxing series, ShoBox: The New Generation has featured young talent matched tough. The ShoBox philosophy is to televise exciting, crowd-pleasing and competitive matches while providing a proving ground for willing prospects determined to fight for a world title. Some of the growing list of the 63 fighters who have appeared on ShoBox and advanced to garner world titles includes: Andre Ward, Deontay Wilder, Erislandy Lara, Shawn Porter, Gary Russell Jr., Lamont Peterson, Guillermo Rigondeaux, Omar Figueroa, Nonito Donaire, Devon Alexander, Carl Froch, Robert Guerrero, Timothy Bradley, Jessie Vargas, Juan Manuel Lopez, Chad Dawson, Paulie Malignaggi, Ricky Hatton, Kelly Pavlik, Paul Williams and more.

About Downtown Las Vegas Events Center

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

ANTOINE DOUGLAS PUTS UNBEATEN RECORD ON THE LINE AGAINST LES SHERRINGTON IN MAIN EVENT OF SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION QUADRUPLEHEADER

NEW YORK (Oct. 22, 2015) – Unbeaten rising star Antoine “Action” Douglas will fight on ShoBox: The New Generation for a fifth time when he takes on Les “Lock N Load” Sherrington in a clash of world-ranked middleweights in the main event of a quadrupleheader live on SHOWTIME (10 p.m. ET/PT, delayed on the West Coast) on Friday, Nov. 6, at Downtown Las Vegas Events Center (DLVEC), across from the D Las Vegas in iconic Downtown Las Vegas.

The popular prospect-oriented boxing series premiered in July 2001 and has produced 63 world champions to date. Antoine’s fifth ShoBox appearance will tie him with eight other fighters for second place on the all-time list (the ShoBox appearance record is held by Chris Avalos with six appearances). All of the fighters with five or more ShoBox appearances went on to challenge for a world title, five triumphed -Andre Ward, Ishe Smith, Robert Guerrero, Kendall Holt and Badou Jack-and three fell short -Avalos, Mike Arnaoutis and Sechew Powell. A sixth five-time Shobox participant, Lateef Kayode, is scheduled to challenge WBA Cruiserweight World Champion Denis Lebedev on

Nov. 4.

Douglas, of Burke, Va., is the WBA's ninth-ranked contender. He will enter the 10-round bout for the WBA and WBO International 160-pound titles with a record of 18-0-1, 12 KOs. Australia's Sherrington, the WBA's No. 12th-rated contender, is 35-7, 30 KOs.

"Douglas has been consistently entertaining throughout his fights on ShoBox and is fighting another older, more-experienced opponent once again," said ShoBox expert analyst Steve Farhood. "Part of the satisfaction of watching fighters develop on ShoBox is seeing them graduate to contender status. Douglas is just about at that point; he is taking his final classes."

The 10-round ShoBox co-feature will match former international amateur standout and 2012 Olympic Bronze Medalist, Ukrainian southpaw Taras "Real Deal" Shelestyuk (12-0, 8 KOs), of Los Angeles, Calif. against experienced Aslanbek Kozaev (26-1-1, 7 KOs), of Vladikavkaz, Russia, in a welterweight bout.

Two eight-rounders will round out the four-fight telecast: southpaw "Killa" Keenan Smith (8-0, 3 KOs) of Philadelphia battles Benjamin "Da Blaxican" Whitaker (10-1, 2 KOs) of San Antonio in a super lightweight scrap and O'Shaquie "Ice Water" Foster (8-0, 5 KOs) of Orange, Texas, confronts "Tsunami Sam" Teah (6-1, 2 KOs) of Philadelphia in a lightweight match.

All but Douglas will be making their ShoBox debuts in an event promoted by GH3 Promotions and Banner Promotions. All eight boxers will be fighting in Las Vegas for the first time. Tickets are priced at \$100.50, \$75.50, \$40.50, \$25.50 and \$20.50 and are available for purchase at www.ticketmaster.com.

Douglas, 23, has been impressive in four consecutive victories since he boxed a draw with former world title challenger Michel Soro in an eight-rounder that was part of the 200th ShoBox telecast on July 25, 2014. Douglas has won his last two

starts by knockout: on July 17, a third-round TKO over Istvan Szili and on March 13, a sixth-round TKO over Thomas LaManna.

"This is a very good matchup for me," said Douglas. "I feel I'm in the right place on my career. I want to move up the ranks and earn a title shot.

"I have seen Sherrington and he is tall and long. He likes to fight on the inside. He has lost to Sam Soliman. I've been in camp with Soliman and he's not a big puncher.

"This is my first fight in Las Vegas, I'm very excited. Las Vegas is the boxing mecca of the world. This is a huge step up for me."

Douglas, a top amateur who made it to the 2011 U.S. Olympic Trials, has been extremely active since turning pro in October 2012. He fought twice in 2012, nine times in '13, six times in '14 and this would be his third start this year.

Sherrington of Burleigh, Gold Coast, Australia, will be fighting outside of his native land for the first time in this, his U.S. and 2015 debuts. He's won two in a row and is 8-1 in his last nine fights, the loss coming to former IBF World Middleweight Champion Soliman in December 2013.

Since the bitter defeat to Soliman that knocked him out of the world rankings, Sherrington has been looking to redeem himself in a major matchup in a major stage. This is his opportunity.

"This fight is something I have been waiting my whole career for and I plan on giving it my best shot," he said. "I can't wait to get over to America and showcase my skills. Fighting top-tier fighters is all I've ever asked."

The well-conditioned 6-foot, 33-year-old Sherrington turned his career around after losing his pro debut in April 2002 and going 4-3 in his first seven starts. Since March 2006, he's 25-3 while winning several minor titles. In his last start on

Dec. 2014 he captured the WBA Oceania Middleweight Title with a shutout 10-round decision over Samir Santos Barbosa.

Taras Shelestyuk made his debut at the late age of 27. A prospect at 147 pounds, he was an amateur standout (195-15) in Ukraine with extensive international experience. He was the Gold Medalist at the 2011 World Championships and a Bronze Medalist at the 2012 Olympics, both at 152 pounds.

The 5-foot-10 29-year-old, who was born in Makeevka, Ukraine, is trained by International Boxing Hall of Famer, Freddie Roach. Shelestyuk is a lefthander with solid skills, movement and punching power who has exclusively campaigned in the United States since turning pro in March 2013. He went 6-0 in 2013, 3-0 in 2014, and is 3-0 this year. He's coming off a unanimous eight-round decision over Juan Rodriguez last April 3 in Ontario, Calif. He's gone eight rounds twice.

Regarding his nickname, Shelestyuk said, "My nickname is 'Real Deal,' and it means that I prove what I say in the business that I do."

Kozaev, 29, 5-foot-7, is making his 2015 debut and fifth U.S. start. He won his first two before losing his outing before last on a 12-round decision to prospect Ray Robinson in an NABO welterweight title fight on Feb. 21, 2014. He's short for the welterweight class and is spotting Shelestyuk 3 ½ inches in height.

Smith, the 2008 National Golden Gloves Featherweight Champion and a 2007 Junior Olympic National Champion, turned pro in April 2010-at 130 pounds.

The 5-foot-7, 25-year-old will be making his fourth start of the year after fighting just one time in both 2012 and 2011. He's won two of his three fights in 2015 by knockout, including an easy second-round knockout over Lavell Hadley last Aug. 15 in Atlantic City. This will be his second fight since signing with GH3 Promotions and his first since his

mother died in late September.

"This has been a rough training camp as my mom passed away and we had the funeral on Sept. 29," Smith said. "Going through that is extra motivating and I am dedicating this fight to her. I am excited to be in my first television bout. I can't wait for Nov. 6."

Smith went 72-4 in the amateurs. Two of the victories came against current world-ranked contender Amir Imam.

Whitaker, a 5-foot-9, 31-year-old, has fought in Texas in all but one of his fights. He's been impressive in his three fights this year, winning them all by clear and convincing eight-round decisions.

Whitaker produced a career-best victory two outings ago when he soundly out-tallied previously undefeated knockout artist and local favorite, Skender Halili. Also, Whitaker captured the vacant WBC United States (USNBC) and U.S.A. Texas State Super Welterweight titles by outpointing Rodolfo Gomez on Jan. 16 in Laredo.

"Talk is cheap, this fight is going to be a war," said Whitaker, a three-year pro who was victorious in his first seven pro fights and also owns a win over previously undefeated Felipe Rivas. "He wants to keep his undefeated record but I am trying to get to where I want to be."

Foster, 22, will be making his eight-round debut. A pro since August 2012, he's made short work of his last two opponents, scoring opening-round knockouts over Darius Jackson (1:03) and Frank Jordan (1:26) on Sept. 26 and Aug. 22, respectively.

"It is going to be a great fight. I am glad for the opportunity," said Foster, who's been brought along carefully after a 100-plus amateur career in which he advanced to the 2012 U.S. Olympic Games Trials where he lost to unbeaten pro prospect, Joseph "Jo-Jo" Diaz.

"I have been training really hard. I have looked at Teah and he throws a lot of wide and wild punches. I am looking forward to fighting in Las Vegas."

The 2011 Houston Golden Gloves and 2010 PAL National Champion, Foster was a five-time Ringside National Champion and two-time National Junior Golden Gloves Champion.

Teah, 28, a lightweight, will also be making his eight-round debut. All seven of his previous starts have been scheduled for four rounds. Since suffering his lone setback on a majority four-round decision to undefeated Lavidas Williams on July 25, 2014, Teah has won two in a row, both on shutout four-round decisions, including a 40-36 whitewash against Raymond Velez in his lone start this year on July 17.

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