

# **Super Featherweight Contender Edner Cherry Wins Tough Decision Over Omar Douglas in Main Event of Premier Boxing Champions TOE-TO-TOE TUESDAYS on FS1 & BOXEO DE CAMPEONES on FOX Deportes Tuesday Night from Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.**

BETHLEHEM, PA. (April 5, 2017) – Former title challenger Edner Cherry (36-7-2, 19 KOs) won a competitive decision over Omar Douglas (17-2, 12 KOs) in the main event of Premier Boxing Champions TOE-TO-TOE TUESDAYS on FS1 and BOXEO DE CAMPEONES on FOX Deportes Tuesday night from Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.

Cherry came out aggressive from the opening bell, landing a strong left hook and backing up Douglas early and often over the first few rounds. Douglas attempted to control the fight with his jab and movement and had some success moving his head to avoid many of the power punches from Cherry.

Douglas did well as he increased his attack to the body in the middle rounds and continued to move backward to avoid the power punches being thrown by Cherry. The differing styles left the judges with a decision to make in weighing the movement and technique of Douglas versus the aggression of Cherry.

In the end, the consistency of Cherry's attack, who frequently targeted Douglas with combinations to the head, was more effective in the minds of the judges. The final score totals were 98-92 and 96-94 twice for Cherry.

Additional action featured Philadelphia's Stephen Fulton (11-0, 5 KOs) earning a unanimous decision over previously unbeaten Luis Rosario (8-1-1, 7 KOs) in their eight-round super bantamweight contest.

Rosario was the more aggressive fighter in the early rounds, but it was Fulton who timed his opponent first and built up an early lead with a combination of check hooks and power punches. Fulton was patient against the attack-minded Rosario and was able to counter effectively while avoiding Rosario's power punches.

Fulton continued to have success in the middle rounds as Rosario's attack slowed, but the Puerto Rican fighter came out with an increased level of aggression in round seven and tagged Fulton during several exciting exchanges.

Despite the increasing pressure, Fulton was able to stay composed and fend off Rosario over the final two rounds on his way to winning a unanimous decision by scores of 78-74, 79-73 and 80-72.

The opening bout of the telecast saw Bethlehem's Frank DeAlba (22-2-2, 9 KOs) score a unanimous decision over Ryan Kielczweski (26-3, 8 KOs) in an eight-round super featherweight bout.

The hometown fighter got off to a slow start as Kielczweski appeared to control the early rounds using his movement and tagging the southpaw with right hands. DeAlba began to work on the inside of his opponent and found more success starting in the fourth round.

Once he had closed the distance, DeAlba began to land hooks to

the head and smothered much of Kielczweski's offense. With an increased emphasis on body-punching in the late rounds, DeAlba turned the tide of the fight in the judges' minds and earned a unanimous decision by scores of 77-75 twice and 80-72.

Here is what the fighters had to say Tuesday night:

EDNER CHERRY

"I take my hat off to Douglas. I thought I pulled out the victory. I tried to press for it but it was a back and forth fight.

"I'm excited to get the win. I beat a great young fighter. I hate when people say I'm old because I work harder than these young fighters. I drive an hour and a half to the gym every day to do this.

"I'm looking for big things. I want to be great and I want the biggest fights out there. I believe I'm going to get a significant fight."

OMAR DOUGLAS

"I didn't lose that fight. Period.

"The fight went how I expected it would in the ring. I've always been a fan of his. I feel like I fight great competition and I was able to out box him with my jab. He tried to bait me in and I showed I was the better boxer."

STEPHEN FULTON

"I feel good winning my first eight-round fight and televised bout. I feel great after that performance. The fight went exactly how I thought.

"I knew he would try to drop combinations on me, but I worked my jab and moved so I would not be in a straight line for his left hand."

LUIS ROSARIO

"Fulton is a good boxer. He did not want to fight man-to-man, but he moved well. He was shying away from exchanging with me.

"I thought it was a close fight that could have gone either way. I blocked a lot of his punches with my gloves."

FRANK DEALBA

"It was a great fight. He is a tough fighter and I felt I did enough to get the decision. I out boxed him. He was just looking for one big shot.

"Hopefully this win gets me to another level. He has fought really good opponents, so a win over him gets me to fight bigger fights. I was in great shape. I saw he was tiring and I thought that was the difference."

RYAN KIELCZWESKI

"It was a good fight for me and I stuck to my game plan. In the seventh round he hit me with a body shot and knocked the wind out of me.

"It was a close fight but I thought I won 5-3. I could have lived with a draw. He got the close rounds, but every round? Come on."

In non-televised action:

Jimmy Kelleher took a four-round unanimous decision over Jose Valderrama in a super middleweight bout.

Kelleher, 164 lbs of Scranton, PA won by scores of 40-36 on all cards and is now 4-0. Valderrama, 165.5 lbs of Manati, PR is 5-19.

Thomas Velasquez won a six-round unanimous decision over Wilfredo Garriga in a lightweight bout.

Velasquez, 135 lbs of Philadelphia won on all cards by 58-56 scores, and is now 8-0. Garriga, 132.8 lbs of Juana Diaz, PR is 3-6-1.

Gregory Clark stopped Devin McMaster in the fourth and final round of their middleweight bout.

Clark dropped McMaster in round two, and finished him off with a flurry of punches at 1:28 of round four.

Clark, 157.4 lbs of Washington, DC is 2-1 with one knockout. McMaster, 154.5 lbs of Allentown, PA is 1-1.

Hector Bayanilla and Jordan Peters rumbled to an entertaining four-round draw in a super featherweight bout.

Bayanilla took a card 39-37, while two judges saw it even at 38-38.

Bayanilla, 124.4 lbs of Allentown, PA is 1-0-1. Peters, 123.7 lbs of Washington, DC is also 1-0-1.

Tre'Sean Wiggins scored a five-round technical unanimous decision over Naim Nelson after Nelson was cut over his right eye by an accidental headbutt.

In round four, Nelson started to bleed from over his right eye, and the fight was halted.

Wiggins, 142 lbs of Newburgh, NY won on all cards 50-45, and is now 8-3. Nelson, 138.9 lbs of Philadelphia is 13-3.

Ryan Wilczak remained undefeated with a 2nd round stoppage over Courtney McCleave in a scheduled four-round super middleweight bout

In round two, Wilczak landed a left hook that put McCleave on the deck. McCleave was bleeding from his nose, and his right eye closed severely. Wilczak dropped him for a 2nd time at the end of the round and he could not beat the count at 3:06.

Wilczak, 160.5 lbs of Scranton, PA is 3-0 with 2 knockouts.  
McCleave, 164.5 lbs of Concord, NC is 2-7.

# # #

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## **Former Title Challenger Edner Cherry and Once-Beaten Omar Douglas Training Camp Quotes**

BETHLEHEM, PA. (March 31, 2017) – Former title challenger Edner Cherry (35-7-2, 19 KOs) and once-beaten Omar Douglas (17-1, 12 KOs) made their final camp statements before engaging in a 10-round lightweight bout that headlines Premier Boxing Champions TOE-TO-TOE TUESDAYS on FS1 and BOXEO DE

CAMPEONES on FOX Deportes, Tuesday, April 4 from Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.

Televised coverage begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and features an eight-round showdown between unbeaten featherweight prospects Stephen Fulton (10-0, 5 KOs) and Luis Rosario (8-0-1, 7 KOs) plus Bethlehem's Frank DeAlba (21-2-2-, 9 KOs) taking on Massachusetts-native Ryan Kielczewski (26-2, 8 KOs) in an eight-round super featherweight attraction.

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

Cherry of Wauchula, Florida has had a smooth camp while training in the Sunshine State and is ready for the 46th start of his professional start.

"Everything is good, and we will be prepared for everything on April 4th," said the 34-year-old Cherry.

"On April 4th, whatever Douglas brings, we will be prepared for. This is not the first time, that I've been in this position. He is the guy who has to prove he can perform. I have been there before, so the pressure is on him."

Cherry has been a top contender at both the 130 and 135 pound divisions, and he even challenged for a world title at 140 pounds. He believes there are many reasons that he has remained a viable contender who has only lost once in the last nine years and 13 fights.

"I am motivated and I believe in myself," said Cherry. "Those are the reasons that I am still here at the top of the 130 and 135 divisions. My family gives me drive every day. April 4th will be another great fight. This is my job and I have to go out and do it well."

Cherry believes a win should gain him another crack at a world title.

"A win definitely puts me ahead. It will open doors for better fights and better paydays. A title shot is what I want. But also a bigger money fight that will take care of my family."

Douglas has been training at home in Delaware, has been working hard for this fight, which could be a breakthrough fight on the heels of his narrow defeat to former world champion Javier Fortuna last November.

"Everything is great. This has been a long camp. I have been getting great work," said the 26- year-old Douglas.

"I am the better fighter. I have known about him for a long time. I watched him a lot when he fought on Friday Night Fights."

That fight with Fortuna was a major step up, and Douglas had a lot of positive moments, as he dropped the former champion in the 1st round, only to lose by three points on two cards and one point on a third card.

"The Fortuna fight let me know and let the people know that Omar Douglas is a world class fighter. Even in a loss, people did not expect me to do well. I thought that I showed a lot that night and I will carry that confidence into this fight on April 4th."

Douglas believes that a win over Cherry is his path to a world title.

"I think that it is time. I just happen to be crossing paths with Cherry. This fight makes sense for me. I will let people know that I am player at 130 pounds, and a win will earn me a title shot. I have shown that I will fight anyone. Look at the records of my previous opponents. Fortuna was 30-1 and one fight removed from being a world champion. Alexei Collado was



19-1; Frank De Alba was 17-1. So wins over those guys plus Cherry should have me right there, but I am focusing on Edner Cherry. He is a great veteran, but on Tuesday night I will be victorious.”

# # #

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## **Former Title Challenger Edner Cherry Takes On Once-Beaten Omar Douglas in Lightweight**

# **Clash That Headlines Premier Boxing Champions TOE-TO-TOE TUESDAYS on FS1 & BOXEO DE CAMPEONES on FOX Deportes Tuesday, April 4 From Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.**

BETHLEHEM, PA. (March 22, 2017) – Former title challenger Edner Cherry (35-7-2, 19 KOs) will meet once-beaten Omar Douglas (17-1, 12 KOs) in a 10-round lightweight bout that headlines Premier Boxing Champions TOE-TO-TOE TUESDAYS on FS1 and BOXEO DE CAMPEONES on FOX Deportes Tuesday, April 4 from Sands Bethlehem Events Center in Bethlehem, Pa.

Televised coverage begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and features an eight-round showdown between unbeaten featherweight prospects Stephen Fulton (10-0, 5 KOs) and Luis Rosario (8-0-1, 7 KOs) plus Bethlehem's Frank DeAlba (21-2-2-, 9 KOs) taking on Massachusetts-native Ryan Kielczweski (26-2, 8 KOs) in an eight-round super featherweight attraction.

"I have to give Omar Douglas credit for taking this fight," said Cherry. "We're both very hungry, so I think this is going to be entertaining for the fans. Omar is coming off of a loss so I know he needs this win. We both come with speed and power. It's going to be fireworks on April 4."

"I'm looking forward to a great fight on April 4," said Douglas. "I have a good experienced opponent in front of me. This fight will show my full arsenal, because I know he's going to bring pressure. I can box or come forward. I plan to

use my jab to win rounds and get this victory.”

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

Cherry, of Wauchula, Fla., enters this fight after a victory of Haskell Rhodes in June of last year and is 11-1 since 2009. His only blemishes since 2007 are losses to Timothy Bradley and Paulie Malignaggi at 140-pounds and his title challenge in 2015 against Jose Pedraza in which he dropped a split decision. Cherry, who was born in the Bahamas, owns victories over Vicente Escobedo, Monte Meza Clay and Wes Ferguson and will look to take down another contender on his way to another title shot.

Fighting out of Wilmington, Delaware, Douglas looks to bounce back after losing a narrow decision to former world champion Javier Fortuna in November. The 26-year-old impressed in his previous two outings when he defeated De Alba in a step up fight in 2015 and followed it up with a seventh round knockout of Alexei Collado in June 2016. Douglas has had his last five fights in Pennsylvania after an amateur career that saw him become a five-time Pennsylvania Golden Glove champion.

Born and raised in West Philadelphia, Fulton is coming off of a 2016 that saw him stop previously unbeaten Adalberto Zorrilla and Cristian Renteria. The 22-year-old is unbeaten since turning pro in 2014 and will be looking to make it a perfect 11 wins in 11 pro starts when he enters the ring on April 4.

A pro since 2013, Rosario fights out of Cidra, Puerto Rico and was unbeaten in his first six bouts before making his U.S. debut in June 2015 with a third-round knockout of Aaron Hollis in Alabama. He followed that up in Cincinnati with a fourth-

round stoppage of Aaron Hollis and most recently he won an eight-round decision over Saul Hernandez.

The 29-year-old De Alba had a 19 fight unbeaten streak snapped in December 2015, when he dropped a narrow majority decision to unbeaten Omar Douglas, but he has rebounded with four straight victories since. His last win came over German Meraz in February and he will be fighting for the fourth time at Sands Bethlehem on April 4.

A runner-up in the 2008 National Golden Glove tournament, the 27-year-old Kielczweski has an exciting style and always makes competitive fights. Born and raised in Quincy, MA., he won his first 22 pro fights and enters this contest a winner of four of his last five outings. Most recently he scored a first round knockout over Francisco Medel in December 2016.

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