

# **'PHILLY SPECIAL' UNDERCARD FEATURES RIVERS vs. WHITLEY IN BATTLE OF UNBEATEN WELTERWEIGHT PROSPECTS FEB. 8 AT 2300 ARENA**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – A rare six-round contest between a pair of unbeaten welterweight prospects—Marcel Rivers, of North Philadelphia, and Derrick Whitley, Jr., of Springfield, MA—highlights the preliminary card of Raging Babe's 'Philly Special' on Friday evening, Feb. 8, at the 2300 Arena.

Headlining the eight-fight program is an eight-round bantamweight match-up between undefeated Christian Carto, of South Philadelphia, and Victor Ruiz, of San Diego, CA. First bout is at 7.30 p.m.

Rivers, 31, has won all six of his pro fights, four by knockout. A single father, he balances boxing with a full-time, physically taxing job at Philadelphia Gas Works. Rivers, the sole caregiver for his 6-year-old son, Cameron, recently added another "why" to his quest to become a world champion. His new baby daughter, 4-month-old Jennah, provides him with new inspiration.

"I definitely have an incentive to work even harder now," said Rivers. "It's an honor to be on this card, with all the talent. A lot of these guys have backing, but I have come out of nowhere and found my way, so I appreciate the opportunity to fight on this card."

Whitley, Jr, 27, a southpaw, is unbeaten in five pro fights with one draw. He comes from a fighting family—his dad and uncle were veteran pros.

Derrick Whitley, Sr., had 52 pro fights from 1995 to 2007. Uncle Darren—twin brother of Whitley, Sr.—had 44 pro fights from 1995 to 2003. Both fought as super middleweights and light-heavyweights.

The younger Whitley trains at the family gym. He works with adults who have had brain injuries, a career he has pursued for many years. He also plays semi-pro football.

“Rivers vs. Whitley was not the easiest fight to make,” said matchmaker J Russell Peltz, “given the culture of boxing today where few fighters want to risk their spotless records at such an early stage. These two guys are different and I applaud them for it.”

In a six-round heavyweight bout on the Feb. 8 card, North Philadelphia’s Darmani Rock (13-0, 8 KOs) will look to secure his 14th win. Rock was a highly touted amateur with multiple national and international titles. He signed with Jay Z’s Roc Nation in 2016 before turning pro. Rock is trained by his father, Wayne, AKA Whiz.

The Feb. card also includes the highly anticipated professional debuts of two of Pennsylvania’s most promising amateurs in four-round fights. Heavyweight Sonny Conto, of South Philly, and bantamweight Jeremy Adorno, of Allentown, PA, announced last week that they had signed with Top Rank Boxing.

Conto, 22, was a standout baseball player at Rowan College at Gloucester County before turning his attention to boxing. He takes on Jimmy Levins, of Buffalo, NY. Jeremy Adorno, younger brother of fellow Top Rank signee Joseph Adorno, was born in Puerto Rico. He boasts an amateur record of 106-17 with multiple Silver Gloves National titles and two Ringside World titles under his belt.

Coatesville, PA, junior welterweight Gerardo Martinez (3-1, 1 KO) faces Haitian-born Osnel Charles (12-18-1, 2 KOs), of

Atlantic City NJ, who has appeared at the 2300 Arena in four of his last seven fights. This also is scheduled for four rounds.

Rounding out the card: New Hope, PA, bantamweight Alejandro Jimenez (4-0, 1 KO) vs. Edgar Cortes (6-4), of Vineland, NJ, in a six-round, bantamweight contest; Puerto Rican-born Jonathan Torres (1-0), of Bethlehem, PA, vs. Atlantic City bantamweight Dallas Holden (1-3) over four rounds.

“You have Gerardo Martinez with a 3-1 record going up against a 31-fight veteran in Osnel Charles,” said Peltz. “Or Alejandro Jimenez, at 4-0, fighting a capable 10-fight lefty in Edgar Cortes. There are times when four- and six-round fights are more appetizing than some of the so-called big fights you see on television.”

Tickets to “Philly Special” are priced \$50, \$75 and \$125. They can be purchased online at [www.2300arena.com](http://www.2300arena.com) or by calling 215-765-0922. Doors open at 6:30 pm and first bout is at 7:30 pm.

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## **Hot Prospect Jeremy Cuevas looking to knock out Jerome Rodriguez Saturday night in Philadelphia**

Philadelphia, PA (October 2, 2018) – This Saturday night, undefeated lightweight prospect Jeremy Cuevas is looking to make a statement by knocking out veteran Jerome Rodriguez in the six-round co-feature bout at the 2300 Arena in

Philadelphia.

The eight-bout card is promoted by Hard Hitting Promotions.

In the eight-round main event, undefeated heavyweight Darmani Rock (12-0, 7 KOs) of Philadelphia takes Pedro Julio Rodriguez of Miami, Florida, via Cuba in an eight-round bout.

Cuevas of Philadelphia is on the cusp of higher profile fights, but he 1st must get by the tough southpaw, Rodriguez from Allentown, PA.

“My training was great. My weight is great. I got awesome sparring with (IBF Junior Lightweight World champion) Tevin Farmer, (Undefeated prospect) Joseph Adorno, and some other good southpaws,” said Cuevas.

In Rodriguez he is facing a 19-fight veteran, who has faced 10 undefeated opponents, which includes wins over world-ranked Avery Sparrow and then-undefeated puncher Tre’shawn Wiggins.

“Rodriguez is a tough fighter. He has been in there, and has defeated good fighters. The challenge for me is not to beat him, but stopping him. My objective is to knock him out cold.”

Cuevas is now starting to get recognized on some prospect lists, and those acclaims are very motivating to the 22 year-old.

“This is a dream come true. I have been blessed to be with the right team of people. That has helped me to start to get noticed. People fear me because I am a slick southpaw that can punch.”

With bigger fights and names on the horizon, Cuevas is just taking one fight at a time, as he knows his time will be coming in the near future.

“I want the top guys, but my coach tells me that there is no rush. I am just 22 years-old, and, I am going to take my time.

This should be my last six-round fight, and my next fight should be an eight-rounder.”

Cuevas wants to follow in the footsteps of Farmer and Danny Garcia to become the next world champion from the historic fight town of Philadelphia.

“I look up to those guys, and being from Philadelphia, you have a standard. This city has such a rich history of boxing, that is has given me a pathway to become a world champion.”

Cuevas has fought all but one of his fights in Philadelphia, and this has given him the opportunity to start and grow a sizable fan-base that will root for their hometown fighter.

“It means the world to me to fight at home. Every fighter is not lucky enough to build themselves up at home, so it’s great that I have fans, and soon it will be time to expand my following outside of Philadelphia. I am ready to go on Saturday, and I am coming to put a hurting on my opponent.”

Cuevas, who is promoted by Hard Hitting promotions can be followed on Instagram at [jeremy\\_King\\_Cuevas](#) and on Facebook at [Jeremy Cuevas](#)

Branden Pizarro (11-1, 5 KOs) of Philadelphia will take on 30 fight-veteran Justin Johnson of Pittsburgh in a six-round junior welterweight fight.

Gadwin Rosa (7-0, 6 KOs) of Ocala, Florida takes on David Berna (16-5, 15 KOs) of Budapest Hungary in a super featherweight bout.

In four-round bouts:

Christian Tapia (5-0, 4 KOs) of Coamo, Puerto Rico fights Hector Marengo (7-13-4, 4 KOs) of Arecibo, Puerto Rico in a lightweight bout.

Marcos Suarez (5-0-1,1 KO) of Bronx, New York battles Israel

Suarez (4-6-2, 1 K0) of Luquillo, Puerto Rico in a lightweight bout.

Benny Sinakin of Philadelphia makes his pro debut against Alexander Lara in a light heavyweight bout.

Marcel Rivers (6-0, 4 K0s) of Philadelphia takes on an opponent to be named in a welterweight bout.

Tickets available now! \$50 GA , \$70 Premium, \$125 VIP +fees

Purchase Tickets online at [hardhittingpromotions.com](http://hardhittingpromotions.com) ; [2300arena.com](http://2300arena.com) or by calling 267.758.2173 as well as the 2300 Arena Box Office.

Doors 6PM – First bout 7PM

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THE PRESS CONFERENCE AND WEIGH IN WILL TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH AT 5 PM AT THE SHERATON SUITES PHILADELPHIA AIRPORT, LOCATED AT 4101 B ISLAND AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19153

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**Darmani Rock takes on Pedro Julio Rodriguez in main event on Saturday, October 6th at The 2300 Arena in**

# Philadelphia

Philadelphia, PA (October 1, 2018) – A terrific night of action is rounding into place as Hard Hitting Promotions presents an eight-bout card THIS Saturday, October 6th at The 2300 Arena.

In the main event, undefeated heavyweight Darmani Rock (12-0, 7 KOs) of Philadelphia takes Pedro Julio Rodriguez of Miami, Florida, via Cuba in an eight-round bout.

Rock of Philadelphia, who was the number-one amateur heavyweight in the United States and former Youth Amateur champion, has a record of 12-0 with seven knockouts.

The 22 year-old Rock is a two-year professional who has a 1st round stoppage over Carlos Cotto (8-1-1) on his resume. Rock is coming off a six-round unanimous decision win over Marquis Valentine on July 20th in Sloan, Iowa.

This will be Rock's 3rd appearance in Philadelphia.

Rodriguez has an impressive mark of 23-5 with 19 knockouts.

The 32 year-old Rodriguez is a n eight-year professional, who has defeated four undefeated fighters. Rodriguez holds a win over Andy Perez, who was 19-2 at the time.

Rodriguez is coming off a loss to Andrey Afonin on May 19th.

In the six-round co-feature, Jeremy Cuevas (10-0, 8 KOs) of Philadelphia will fight Jerome Rodriguez (7-9-3, 2 KOs) of Allentown, PA in a lightweight contest.

Branden Pizarro (11-1, 5 KOs) of Philadelphia will take on 24 fight-veteran Justin Johnson of Pittsburgh in a six-round junior welterweight fight.

Gadwin Rosa (7-0, 6 KOs) of Ocala, Florida takes on David

Berna (16-5, 15 KOs) of Budapest Hungary in a super featherweight bout.

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# Undefeated

# Heavyweight



# **Darmani Rock to headline on Saturday, October 6th at The 2300 Arena in Philadelphia**

Philadelphia, PA (September 17, 2018) – Top Heavyweight prospect Darmani Rock will take part in the eight-round main event on Saturday, October 6th at The 2300 Arena in Philadelphia.

Also, appearing in the co-feature bout will be rising lightweight prospect Jeremy Cuevas.

The show is promoted by Hard Hitting Promotions in association with Roc Nation Sports.

Rock of Philadelphia, who was the number-one amateur heavyweight in the United States and former Youth Amateur champion, has a record of 12-0 with seven knockouts.

The 22 year-old Rock is a two-year professional who has a 1st round stoppage over Carlos Cotto (8-1-1) on his resume. Rock is coming off a six-round unanimous decision win over Marquis Valentine on July 20th in Sloan, Iowa.

This will be Rock's 3rd appearance in Philadelphia.

Cuevas (10-0, 8 KOs) of Philadelphia will fight in a bout scheduled for six-rounds.

The 22 year-old Cuevas is a two -year professional, who has been recognized as one of the top lightweight prospects in the country. He has stopped his last two opponents, which includes his last bout when he stopped Deo Kizito at The 2300 Arena. This will be Cuevas's 3rd consecutive and 4th overall fight at The 2300 Arena.

Surging 18 year-old prospect Branden Pizarro will see action

in a six-round bout.

The former Junior Olympic champion has a record of 11-1 with five knockouts.

The Philadelphia native is a two-year professional, and has a win over previously undefeated Abdiel Padilla.

Pizarro, who has won three consecutive bouts, is coming off a 2nd round stoppage over veteran Hector Marengo on August 11th at The 2300 Arena. This will be Pizarro's 3rd consecutive appearance at The 2300 Arena.

Seeing action on the undercard in a six-round bout will undefeated super featherweight Gadwin Rosa (7-0, 6 KOs) of Ocala, Florida.

Also in a four-round bout will be undefeated super featherweight Christian Tapia (5-0, 4 KOs) of Coamo, Puerto Rico.

Undefeated welterweight Marcel Rivers (6-0, 4 KOs) of Philadelphia will take part in a four-round bout.

Making his pro debut will be 21 year-old Benny Sinakin of Philadelphia.

Also making his pro debut will be lightweight Thyler Williams of Philadelphia.

All opponents and more bouts will be announced shortly.

Tickets available now! \$50 GA , \$70 Premium, \$125 VIP +fees

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# MARCEL RIVERS TO BE HONORED FOR BIGGEST KO OF THE YEAR

PHILADELPHIA – Boxing fans certainly love a knockout, and 2017 was full of them in Philly. Of the many big KOs last year, the best of them all was by Marcel Rivers, at the 2300 Arena last September. Rivers, in his third professional fight, scored a picture-perfect-one punch-knockout of Osnel Charles in the fourth round. For this perfect punch, Rivers will receive a Briscoe Award for the “2017 Knockout of the Year”, on March 25, 2018, at the 11th Annual Briscoe Awards.

“It is exactly why boxing fans come out to the fights,” said John DiSanto, founder of the Briscoe Awards. “Big knockouts always steal the show, and Marcel’s was the biggest.”

The Briscoe Awards commemorate the best accomplishments of the Philly-area boxing scene. A total of eleven prizes will be given out in a variety of categories, including “Philly Fighter of the Year”, “Philly Fight of the Year”, “Amateur of the Year”, “Rookie of the Year”, “Prospect of the Year”, and others.

Advance tickets for the March 25, 2018 Briscoe Awards cost \$20 and are currently available for sale at [BriscoeAwards.com](http://BriscoeAwards.com), or by calling 609-377-6413. Tickets will not be sold at the door. The \$20 admission includes food, draft beer, wine, soft drinks, and a souvenir program and ticket. The Briscoe Awards will be held at the VBA Clubhouse, 2733 Clearfield Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19134.

The Briscoe Awards are presented by Philly Boxing History Inc., a 501c3 Non-Profit organization dedicated to preserving and honoring the great legacy of boxing in and around the city

of Philadelphia. For more information, call John DiSanto at 609-377-6413.