

Janelson Figueroa Bocachica Remains Undefeated with Decision Win Over Mark Reyes Jr. on ShoBox: The New Generation®

February 18, 2021 – Janelson Figueroa Bocachica remained undefeated by winning an 10-round majority decision over previously perfect Mark Reyes Jr. in the headline bout of a ShoBox: The New Generation show at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut.

The show was televised Live on Showtime®.

The fight was fought at a quick pace throughout the affair that saw Bocachica take the lead on the exchanges, and was able to catch Reyes with some solid combinations around the counter attempts of Reyes.

Bocachica showed a great chin, as Reyes landed some solid counters, mostly with the left hook. Those punches were sandwiched in between Bocachica landing two or three solid shots of his own. Bocachica was able to control the action at distance, but he wanted to put on an entertaining fight, and he was able to win by scores of 97-93, 96-94 and 95-95.

“I felt like I had a unanimous decision but I just need to go back and watch the tape,” said the 22-year-old Bocachica. “I felt like it was an easy victory and I took him to school.”

“He had a short temper and he came out talking trash so you know I had to talk my trash back,” continued Bocachica. “But it was all part of the game plan to get him emotional in the ring and it worked in my advantage.”

With the win, the native of Detroit raised his perfect mark to 17-0. Reyes of Tampa, Florida is 14-1.

Bocachica is managed by Split-T Management and promoted by King's Promotions.

Undefeated Welterweight Janelson Bocachica Headlines on ShoBox: The New Generation® against Mark Reyes Jr. Live on SHOWTIME® (9 PM ET/PT)

February 17, 2021 – TONIGHT!!, Heralded welterweight prospect Janelson Bocachica looks to keep the momentum going from his sensational knockout on last October, when he takes on fellow undefeated Mark Reyes Jr. in a bout that will headline a ShoBox: The New Generation event from the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut, and LIVE ON SHOWTIME (9 PM ET / PT)

Bocachica of Detroit, Michigan will be making his second consecutive ShoBox appearance as he took out Nicklaus Flaz in the opening round of their October 7th bout in the same venue.

The win pushed the 22 year-old's mark to 16-0 with 11 knockouts.

Reyes of Tampa, Florida is 14-0 with 12 knockouts.

At Tuesday's weigh-in, Bocachica was 146 1/2 lbs. Reyes was

147 lbs.

Janelson Bocachica quotes:

"My last fight on ShoBox, I feel like I surprised a lot of people. I wasn't surprised myself because I know what I have to give. I showed my skills even though I could have done a little better, and that's what I'm trying to do this fight. I won't be satisfied until I get the WBC belt.

"I could have been better with my movement in my last fight. I wasn't totally tuned into the fight. I wanted to make him work a little bit more even though I set him up perfectly.

"I usually don't watch much tape on my opponents. The level of opponents that he's faced doesn't match up to the fighter that I am, so there's not a whole lot that I can learn from watching tape. He won't be able to do the same things with me that he's done with the guys he's faced. I have seen a couple highlights though and he does look good. He looks like a good fighter and that's why I picked this fight.

"Whenever I fight there's a high chance for an explosion. If he tries to pressure me and he's throwing punches, he's going to be receiving them back. I'm not a walking punching bag. I tried to box in my last fight but every time somebody gives me an opening my precision is there. That's what we train for. As soon as he opens up and gets cocky with it, I'll step on the gas and get him out of there.

"I have power in both hands. If he really wants to fight, then he can look for a fight. I just don't think a fight with me will last very long for Mark Reyes. I think I'm super close to being a top contender. This fight is going to help me a lot. It's another stepping-stone and I feel like you guys are going to be seeing a lot more of me."

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JANELSON BOCACHICA VS. MARK REYES JR. OFFICIAL WEIGHTS, QUOTES FOR SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION® TOMORROW LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

UNCASVILLE, Conn. – February 16, 2021 – Exciting welterweight prospect Janelson Bocachica and fellow undefeated Mark Reyes Jr. both made weight a day before their main event showdown tomorrow night, Wednesday, February 17, live on SHOWTIME at 9 p.m. ET/PT from Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn. as *ShoBox* continues its 20th anniversary year showcasing boxing's rising stars matched tough.

Detroit's Bocachica (16-0, 11 KOs) is following up on a dominating performance in his *ShoBox* debut in October when by facing the power-punching Reyes (14-0, 12 KOs) from Tampa, Fla., in a 10-round welterweight bout. The co-main event will feature unbeaten Russian and Detroit-trained Vladimir Shishkin (11-0, 7 KOs) taking on Ghana's Sena Agbeko (23-1, 18 KOs) in a 10-round super middleweight matchup, while Alejandro Guerrero (12-0, 9 KOs) of Houston, Texas, returns to *ShoBox* and faces Mexico's Abraham Montoya (19-2-1, 14 KOs) in an eight-round lightweight bout.

The previously announced middleweight matchup between Timur Kerefov (9-0, 4 KOs) and Argenis Espana (15-1, 14 KOs) will no longer take place. Kerefov will now face Fernando Farias (10-0-2, 4 KOs) in an eight-round middleweight non-televvised scrap.

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 Richard Gaughan producing and Rick Phillips directing.

The three-fight telecast is promoted by Salita Promotions.

FINAL WEIGHTS

Welterweight 10-Round Bout

Janelson Bocachica – 146 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Mark Reyes Jr. – 147 lbs.

Referee: Danny Schiavone (Conn.); Judges: Tom Carusone (Conn.), Don Trella (Conn.), Steve Weisfeld (N.J.)

Super Middleweight 10-Round Bout

Vladimir Shishkin – 169 lbs.

Sena Agbeko – 168 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Referee: Arthur Mercante (N.Y.); Judges: Don Ackerman (N.Y.), Glenn Feldman (Conn.), John McKaie (N.Y.)

Lightweight Eight-Round Bout

Alejandro Guerrero – 135 lbs.

Abraham Montoya – 135 lbs.

Referee: Johnny Callas (Conn.); Judges: Tom Carusone (Conn.), John McKaie (N.Y.), Steve Weisfeld (N.J.)

FINAL QUOTES:

Janelson Bocachica

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people. I wasn't surprised myself because I know what I have to give. I showed my skills even though I could have done a little better, and that's what I'm trying to do this fight. I won't be satisfied until I get the WBC belt.

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"I have power in both hands. If he really wants to fight, then he can look for a fight. I just don't think a fight with me will last very long for Mark Reyes. I think I'm super close to being a top contender. This fight is going to help me a lot. It's another stepping-stone and I feel like you guys are going to be seeing a lot more of me."

Mark Reyes Jr.

"This could definitely be a short fight. It may not last long. But I can definitely say I'm prepared to go into the ninth and 10th round just as strong as I'm coming on in the first. But if the opportunity presents itself, there's no reason to sit

around and wait. If I hit anybody flush a few times, I don't think many people are going to withstand that.

"I feel like winning this fight would be a push towards making a name for myself in the welterweight division. It would definitely set me up for future fights and opportunities that I've been wanting and looking for.

"A lot of my power comes from my timing. Sometimes, the biggest punchers have a habit of relying on their power too much. You'll see that with time, there are guys that are able to withhold and weather the storm and actually end up knocking those guys out. I would say the most important thing is if you are a powerful puncher, you definitely want to rely on timing and speed just as much as you do your natural abilities.

"We got in the gym right away making sure that we got our rounds in sparring. Obviously, we all know that sparring is a different type of conditioning. You can do all your running and all your training, but if you're not having the right quality of sparring and getting those rounds in you might second guess yourself when you get into those later rounds. That's definitely something that I wanted to make sure that I was ready for. I'm absolutely ready to go 10 rounds. If this was a 12-round fight, I would be ready to go 12 rounds.

"A win over this guy would definitely place me in a good position for my future fights this year. The long-term goal is to fight for a world title within the next two years. If I am able to move and grow steadily, then that's the plan. I have to take the right fights and make sure that I'm always learning, always growing, and if the opportunities present themselves, I am definitely willing to take them."

Vladimir Shishkin

"Agbeko is a solid fight for me. He is physically strong and he will come to fight. He's a good boxer and he's a big featherweight. I will have to put in a good performance to

score a victory. My plan is to just listen to my trainer, L.J. Harrison, and if I listen and follow the plan the result will be perfect.

“I made the move to train with L.J. and stop working with SugarHill Steward because I have a very good relationship with L.J. I have a great connection with him and I believe a lot in what I’m learning and what he’s teaching me. I am more flexible, he’s teaching me distance and balance. I feel that I am improving and it’s going to pay off in this fight.

“I think that I’m an elite fighter and I want to show on February 17 that I can compete at an elite level. I think that I am ready to face the best in the super middleweight division. I have already beaten guys that were ranked in the top 15 at the time like Nadjib Mohammedi and DeAndre Ware. I am ready for guys like Canelo and the best in the division.”

Sena Agbeko

“This fight is coming at the perfect time for me. I’m ready to launch myself and possibly challenge for a world title soon. I feel like I really need to get going with my career. There have been so many starts and stops and I’m ready to be done with that and just have a more consistent flow with the fights.

“Training with people like Badou Jack and Caleb Plant, you get to understand the discipline that is required to perform at that level. Prior to that, the assumption was just to go out there and try to make a statement, but the certain patience and discipline that you have to adhere to at the highest level is what I learned. You get punished for even the simplest mistakes, so sparring with them got me a lot of experience.

“Back in 2014 when I first came to the U.S., I feel that I was mentally very underdeveloped. I had a very different perception of the sport. I feel that I wasn’t quite ready. I didn’t understand what it took mentally to be at the level I

wanted to be at. That was the biggest difference. Now, I'm more mature and I've been around the U.S. I've been to different camps all around the country – New York, Miami, Las Vegas, Houston – and through it all I've learned to deal with the mental aspect of the sport. My mental preparation and being in a calm state of mind ready to perform is the biggest difference.

"I don't see myself as the B-side. I actually like playing the role of the underdog. One of my biggest strengths is my ability to adapt in the ring and being the best that I can be. I have a plethora of tools to use and as the fight goes on, I will be able to adjust to whatever I need to adjust to. The goal is to win and I'm not going to wait until it's too late. Every step of the way, I am going to do things that will put me ahead.

"I was informed on Tuesday that my opponent from my last fight, Roy King, passed away on Monday night. It's unfortunate. Roy is somebody that was doing a lot for his city, Johnson City, in Tennessee. When I met him at the weigh-in, I talked to him and he was very nice. It's so unfortunate that this happened. I did go to see him in the hospital shortly after our fight and I was expecting him to recover, but unfortunately, he passed away after a year of dealing with it."

Alejandro Guerrero

"I don't think the layoff will have any effect on me. If anything, I'm going to come back harder and stronger. It wasn't a big issue being laid off. I had more time to train. I was training harder and doing things the right way. This is my first fight where I've been completely focused on boxing. I haven't been working a fulltime job like I normally was, so physically, I feel I'm in the best shape of my life. I feel like I can take on the world.

"My last fight on *ShoBox* with no crowd felt totally off. I'm used to the crowd going crazy when I land a nice combination. I'm a crowd-pleaser. That's what motivates me to continue going harder and harder. Not having a crowd, there isn't a huge issue, but at the same time it does kind of change the whole setting of the fight.

"In that last fight against Angulo, I had him hurt in the last three rounds but I just didn't have the opportunity to completely take him out of the way. He was strong. He was taking all my hits. I feel that I wasn't at my best in that fight and I didn't do everything the correct way. This fight, I'm coming back stronger and tougher and I'm not going to need any judges..

"Anybody who has seen me fight knows that I like to come forward. I like to throw a lot of shots. I always see myself as the big dog in the ring. I like to take control of the fight. I'm just going to take all my movement and power and skills to another level and it's going to be more explosive. You are going to see a totally different 'Pork Chop' that's way better than I was in my last fight.

"I've been getting great work in sparring. I started off by sparring people around my weight but I was taking them out. They couldn't last more than four rounds so I've been using heavier, stronger guys for this camp. I know this guy that I'm facing has nothing compared to the guys that I've been sparring. That's why I'm so confident. I'm going in with everything I have. It's not going to be an easy fight but I'm going to make it look easy."

Abraham Montoya

"I am a very offensive fighter naturally, but I'm also the type of fighter that is always willing to adapt and adjust to my opponent's style. The plan is to just go out there, listen to the bell ring and get close to my opponent and get to work.

I will read him, adjust as I need to and do what I have to do.

“Normally, fighters change weight classes when they have defeats. But for me, I am not coming off a loss. I decided to start fighting at lightweight because it was just the right time. I was the national champion and North American champion at super featherweight. I spent all last year looking for good opportunities but I didn’t find any. That’s why I am so excited for this opportunity and why I decided to move to lightweight.

“We have watched Guerrero and we are aware that he is a very aggressive fighter. He’s the type of opponent that will come to clash. He has a lot of fire. Getting a win against him is going to be a big deal for me and my career. I have faced better opposition than Guerrero, so I may be considered a favorite, but I feel like an underdog. When I’m the underdog, that just gives me even more motivation.

“I wasn’t born yet when my father Eduardo fought for a world title. There weren’t a ton of cameras around back then so I haven’t been able to watch a lot of video of his fights. What I rely on is the stories that he and everybody who knew him tell me. That’s what motivated me to become a fighter.

“For my fight against Yakubov in Russia, we were negotiating for four weeks. It took a long time. I accepted the fight and it was finally finalized with just 18 days’ notice. I did the best I could with that time but I was not 100 percent prepared for that fight. For this fight, of course I am 100 percent prepared. I’ve been preparing for the fight since the first week of January. I am the type of fighter that is 24/7, always training. There are no excuses this time around.”

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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 83 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.

FIVE UNBEATEN FIGHTERS TAKE CENTER STAGE IN SHOBX: THE NEW GENERATION® QUADRUPLEHEADER WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

NEW YORK – January 20, 2021 – Exciting welterweight prospect Janelson Figueroa Bocachica will meet fellow undefeated Mark Reyes, Jr., in a ShoBox: The New Generation main event bout Wednesday, February 17 live on SHOWTIME at 9 p.m. ET/PT from Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn. Bocachica vs. Reyes headlines a four-fight card featuring eight compelling

prospects with a combined record of 119-4-1, five of whom are undefeated.

Detroit's Figueroa Bocachica (16-0, 11 KOs) is following up on his dominating performance in his ShoBox debut in October when he faces the power-punching Reyes (14-0, 12 KOs) from Tampa, Fla., in a 10-round welterweight bout. The co-main event will feature unbeaten Russian and Detroit-trained Vladimir Shishkin (11-0, 7 KOs) taking on Ghana's Sena Agbeko (23-1, 18 KOs) in a 10-round super middleweight matchup. In addition, Alejandro Guerrero (12-0, 9 KOs) of Irving, Texas, returns to ShoBox and faces Mexico's Abraham Montoya (19-2-1, 14 KOs) in an eight-round lightweight bout. Another Russian-based in Detroit, Mich., Timur Kerefov (9-0, 4 KOs), will battle middleweight prospect Argenis Espana (15-1, 14 KOs) of Venezuela in the eight-round telecast opener.

The four-fight telecast is promoted by Salita Promotions.

"I am delighted to promote an exciting night of boxing, featuring some of the best young talent in boxing in opposing corners," Salita said. "The February 17 card features possibly the best new talent in four different weight divisions in pick 'em fights. Middleweight Timur Kerefov, fighting with trainer SugarHill Steward in his corner, is looking to quickly climb up the ladder. Super featherweight Alejandro Guerrero is fighting his toughest test against Abraham Montoya. Super middleweight Vladimir Shishkin is looking for a breakout performance against the hungry Sena Agbeko, who is looking to make a name for himself. This show may also be the crowning of one of the best new welterweights in the world with an exciting matchup between undefeated prospects, Janelson Figueroa Bocachica and Mark Reyes, Jr."

Steward, who legally changed his name to SugarHill Steward to honor his late uncle Hall of Fame trainer Emanuel Steward, calls Kerefov, "One of the best middleweights in the world right now," and that there is no limit to how far the 30-year-

old can go. "We don't have long conversations because of the language barrier, but I'm impressed how Timur is able to process the information I tell him, and quickly get better in the short time we've worked together," said Steward, who is also training Anthony Dirrell at Big Time Boxing and Fitness in Boca Raton, Fla. "The Russians who come to Detroit are here to work and not run the streets, which I like. They have families and know that boxing in the United States is the mecca. So, they take it very seriously."

Bocachica vs. Reyes – 10-Round Welterweight Main Event Bout

Bocachica returns for his second consecutive ShoBox appearance as the 22-year-old Detroit native overpowered Puerto Rico's Nicklaus Flaz from the start earning a first-round TKO at 2:43 of round one in October. Bocachica is a four-year pro who began boxing at age eight. He won four consecutive Ringside Championships (2011-14), the National PAL Championships and the 2015 Detroit Golden Gloves. He boasts an amateur record of 55-5. He is trained by his father, Nelson Figueroa.

"After the last appearance on ShoBox, I felt like that was the performance that I needed," Bochachia said. "I picked Mark Reyes out myself because I wanted better competition and he is 14-0. I want to put a statement out to all of the fighters in the 147-pound division. A win gets me closer to my dreams. I am fighting better opposition. It shows that Janelson is the truth, and I am coming for everyone in the welterweight division. I am not worrying about anything."

Reyes is coming off of a first-round knockout of Diego Perez on November 21, in his hometown of Tampa. Reyes was a successful amateur winning the PAL National Tournament in 2012, as well as the Junior Olympics and Ringside Tournament. He also won two National tournaments competing for Puerto Rico: the 2015 Frankie Larvae National Championships and 2016 Cheo Aponte National Championships. Overall, he accumulated a record of 45-5 before turning pro in March 2016. He is now

trained by Raul “Chino” Rivas, who also coaches former world champion Tevin Farmer.

“I am excited to be in this position, fighting on ShoBox, where a win will put my name on the boxing map,” Reyes said. “Bocachica is a solid fighter, but I look forward to adding the first loss to his record and showing the viewers why I took this fight on short notice. Training camp has been going great and I will be ready.”

Shishkin vs. Agbeko – 10-Round Super Middleweight Bout

Shishkin has previously fought twice on ShoBox earning impressive wins over Ulises Sierra and DeAndre Ware. Steward worked Shishkin’s corner for the Sierra fight, but Steward’s commitment to heavyweight champion Tyson Fury has not allowed the two to train exclusively together. Shishkin has recently been working with L.J. Harrison. In his last fight on August 20, he recorded a ninth-round technical knockout of Oscar Riojas. Shishkin is currently ranked No. 9 by the WBC, No. 11 by the WBA and No. 12 by the IBF in the 168-pound division.

“I’m grateful, once again, to get the chance to showcase my skills on SHOWTIME,” said Shishkin, 29. “I’m preparing in a new gym called Superbad with a new coach. I’m curious how that will affect me in the bout. I know this fight puts me just one step closer to my goal of becoming a world champion.”

Born and raised in Accra, Ghana, Agbeko was a member of the Ghanaian National Team as a youth and had 69 amateur bouts. Agbeko turned pro in 2011 at the age of 19 and had his first 15 bouts in Ghana before relocating to the United States in 2013 to pursue his dream of becoming a world champion. Agbeko has fine-tuned his craft serving as a sparring partner for Caleb Plant, Badou Jack and Brandon Adams. Agbeko currently lives in Nashville, Tenn., with his wife.

“Training is going great and we’ve been training for a while already, so we’re just doubling down on a few things and fine-

tuning as well for the fight,” Agbeko said. “I know my opponent has an extensive amateur background and a style that’s reflective of where he’s from in Russia. I expect an aggressive, yet well-calculated fighter. I will win this fight because I know I want it more and, as a result, have put more effort into preparation. My superior boxing skills coupled with desire and effort will get it done.”

Guerrero vs. Montoya – Eight-Round Lightweight Bout

Fighting out of Houston, Texas, Guerrero is a big-punching prospect who won a closely contested slugfest via majority decision over Jose Angulo in the last ShoBox telecast before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the sports world for several months in March 2020. Prior to that win, Guerrero had stopped three consecutive opponents including a second-round TKO of Darnell Jiles, Jr. in January 2020. A celebrated amateur who won two junior national titles, the 22-year-old “Pork Chop” has sparred with the likes of world champions Mikey Garcia and Brandon Rios at the famed Garcia Boxing Academy in California.

“I know nothing about my opponent, but I’ve watched one clip of him and that’s all I needed to see to know he will go down,” Guerrero said. “This fight will mean a lot to me because it will show the world I’m the real deal. I will win this fight for my career and my family.”

The 26-year-old Montoya, of Baja California, Mexico, will be making his United States debut on February 17 and will be fighting outside of his native Mexico for just the second time. After dropping his second professional contest, Montoya rallied to go unbeaten in his next 18 bouts before traveling to Russia in November 2019 to take on undefeated prospect Muhammadkhuja Yaqubov, where he lost a 12-round decision. Montoya rebounded to score a second-round TKO over Reyes David Lopez his last time out in October, and also owns an impressive victory over then-undefeated prospect Luis Alberto Lopez Vargas.

"Fighting in the U.S. and on SHOWTIME has always been my dream and I can't wait for February 17 to show what I can do," Montoya said. "I've never worked or trained as hard for a fight as I have for this one. I've seen my opponent and know he will bring the action just like his last fight. He will be tough, but I'm as ready for this as I've ever been."

Kerefov vs. Espana – Eight-Round Middleweight Bout

Hailing from Shaluska, Russia, and now fighting out of Detroit, Mich., Kerefov will make his ShoBox debut on February 17. Kerefov, 30, amassed an impressive 298-12 amateur record in his home country during his nearly decade-long reign at the elite level of international amateur boxing. In 2019, Kerefov turned in five impressive victories in Russia prior to his United States debut at the famed Kronk Gym in Detroit in August 2020, where he turned in a dominating unanimous decision victory over Calvin Metcalf in a middleweight bout.

"I am in the middle of a great training camp with trainer SugarHill Steward in Florida," Kerefov said. "I look forward to showing the boxing fans that I am the new face of the middleweight division."

The 31-year-old southpaw, Espana, will be fighting for the first time in the United States as 14 of his 16 professional bouts have taken place in Venezuela. The power-punching Espana's only career loss was to Dervin Colina in 2019 and 14 of his 15 victories have come via knockout. In December, he TKO'd Leonard Carrillo in his last fight.

"This is a great opportunity for me to appear in the U.S.," Espana said. "I know very little about my opponent, but that does not bother me at all. I am always training and ready to go the distance or less. Victory will get me closer to a world title."

International Boxing Hall of Famer Barry Tompkins will call the action from ringside with fellow Hall of Famer and boxing

historian Steve Farhood and former world champion Raul Marquez serving as expert analysts. The executive producer is Gordon Hall with Richard Gaughan producing and Rick Phillips directing.

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