

Ruben Villa Wins WBO Youth Title Saturday Night in Front of Hometown Fans

PHILADELPHIA, Penn. / ORANGE, Calif. (April 16, 2018) – Prized prospect Ruben Villa (11-0, 4 KOs) continued his upward trajectory by thoroughly dismantling Marlon Olea (13-3, 12 KOs) to win the vacant WBO Youth Featherweight Title Saturday night from his hometown of Salinas, Calif.

Villa, just days before his twenty-first birthday, headlined his first event and won his first title in front of a raucous home crowd. The southpaw delivered an impressive performance, winning every round on all three scorecards (80-72 x3).

“It’s exactly how I wanted to end this night,” said Villa, who is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing. “I blocked out the crowd and just did what I had to do. Olea moves around a lot, but I was able to land whatever I wanted.”

After a feeling out first round, Villa turned up the heat in the second. Both hands began to split Olea’s guard, which became a constant theme throughout the 8-round title fight.

As in his other fights, Villa consistently landed a seldom used punch by most boxers, a stiff jab to the midsection that neutralized the Colombian’s attack.

In the third round, a “Ruben” chant broke out in the Salinas Storm House, just as the former back-to-back Golden Gloves champion started to land heavy combinations. Villa, who is managed by Danny Zamora, thrilled the sold-out crowd with his aggressive punching.

“I thought Ruben had a terrific performance on Saturday,” said Artie Pelullo, president of Banner Promotions. “It was a great

night for him to perform in front of his hometown fans, and capture his 1st title. This is the 1st of many titles in Ruben's future, and by the way, the fans turned out for him. I see Salinas being the home of many more fights for Ruben."

"Ruben put an exclamation point on what turned out to be a fantastic event," said Ken Thompson, president of Thompson Boxing. "It's the best I've seen him fight since he turned professional. He showed the skill and confidence of a veteran, yet he's barely turning 21. The sky is the limit for Ruben."

Ruben Villa Fight Day Media Links

ORANGE, Calif. (April 14, 2018) – Below are media links about undefeated featherweight prospect Ruben Villa. Villa fight's tonight for his 1st title, the WBO Youth Featherweight title against Marlon Olea in Villa's hometown of Salinas, California.

<https://www.boxingscene.com/ruben-villa-i-feel-like-my-time-kicking-right-now-127133>, Ruben Villa: I feel like my time is kicking in right now, Thomas Gerbasi, Boxingscene.com

<http://ucnlive.com/thompson-boxing-promotions-goes-storm-house/>, Thompson Boxing Goes Storm House, Steve Kim, UCNLIVE.COM

<http://www.kion546.com/news/salinas-boxer-back-home-for-title-fight/727855313> , Salinas Boxer Back Home for Title fight, KION, CBS affiliate in Salinas

<https://www.thecalifornian.com/videos/sports/2018/04/12/salinas-ruben-villa-iv-coming-home-his-title-fight/509441002/>,

Salinas' Ruben Villa IV, Coming Home for His Title Fight, The Californian

<https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/sports/2018/04/12/homecoming-salinas-ruben-villa-iv-returns-fight-his-career/501586002/>, Homecoming: Salinas' Ruben Villa IV Returns For The Fight of his Career. Angel Ostly, The Californian.

<https://www.ringtv.com/533294-ruben-villa-im-pretty-sure-shakur-stevenson-will-fight/>, Ruben Villa: I'm Pretty Sure Me and Shakur Stevenson Will Fight Aagain, Joseph Santoliquito, RINGTV.com

Tickets for "New Blood" are priced at \$75 & \$125, and are available for purchase by calling 714-935-0900, or online at ThompsonBoxing.com.

All fights will be live streamed on TB Presents: New Blood via Thompson Boxing Facebook page and ThompsonBoxing.com.

The livestream starts at 6:00 p.m. PT / 9:00 p.m. ET with Beto Duran as the blow-by-blow announcer and Steve Kim providing expert color commentary.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m. local time with the first bout at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Salinas Storm House is located at 185 Maryal Dr. Salinas, CA 93907.

"New Blood" is presented by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing Promotions.

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Ruben Villa, 124.8 lbs. vs. Marlon Olea, 124.9 lbs

ORANGE, Calif. (April 14, 2018) – Ruben Villa (10-0, 4 KOs) cleared the final hurdle in his first attempt at a title by weighing in at 124.8 lbs., while Colombian Marlon Olea (13-2, 12 KOs) measured 124.9 lbs. at Friday's weigh in from 2 Steps Ahead Fitness in Salinas, Calif.

The pair fight for the vacant WBO Youth Featherweight Title TONIGHT from the Salinas Storm House in Salinas, Calif. The "New Blood" main event is set for 8-rounds.

Villa, a southpaw from Salinas, is making his professional hometown debut.

"There's been a lot of build up to this moment," said Villa, who is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing. "I need to stay focused and do what I need to do to win."

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Ruben Villa Eyes First Title Saturday Night from Salinas, CA

PHILADELPHIA, Penn. /ORANGE, Calif. (April 11, 2018) – Top featherweight prospect Ruben Villa (10-0, 4 KOs) looks to add the first championship of his young career when he battles Colombian Marlon Olea (13-2, 12 KOs) for the vacant WBO Youth Title this Saturday night from the Salinas Storm House in Salinas, Calif.

Villa, who turns 21 next week, will be fighting in his hometown for the first time as a professional.

“There’s a lot of firsts for this fight,” Villa said. “It’s a great feeling to fight for a title and to do it in my home city with me as the headliner [also a first], it’s a dream come true. These are the types of fights I’ve been working toward ever since I was little.”

The southpaw with fast hands and high IQ split his training camp from the arid climate of Riverside, Calif., to the coastal weather of Salinas. Villa faced a variety of sparring partners to prepare for the quick hitting style that Olea will bring on Saturday night.

“The key to any training camp is to get tested against quality fighters,” said Villa, who is promoted by Banner Promotions

and Thompson Boxing. "I went against boxers that were real slick with their movements, and others that came forward and threw a lot of punches. I feel confident in what I want to do against Olea."

In addition to making his first headlining appearance on "New Blood," Villa also fights for the first time at 8-rounds. He is coming off three straight 6-round unanimous decision victories. Until recently, Villa had won every round on every scorecard in his six decision wins with the exception of dropping one round on one scoresheet against Juan Sandoval in February.

Olea, for what it's worth, holds a unanimous decision loss to WBA world champion Danny Roman from November of 2016. That matchup was contested at 122-pounds, while Saturday night's fight is set for 126-pounds. Villa would appear to have the size advantage, as he is a natural featherweight with room to fill out as he gets older.

"In this sport, you take any advantage you can get," Villa remarked. "He's still a talented guy so I can't get over confident on that."

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