

RUBEN VILLA CONTINUES TO IMPRESS WITH UNANIMOUS DECISION VICTORY ON SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION FRIDAY ON SHOWTIME®

SHREVEPORT, La. – January 31, 2020 – After his fourth consecutive victory in a little more than 12 months on ShoBox: The New Generation, Ruben Villa is ready to graduate from the 19-year prospect series.

The undefeated featherweight Villa put on a boxing clinic in a dominating unanimous decision win over Alexei Collado. The judges scored the fight 99-91 and 98-92 twice in the main event Friday night from George's Pond at Hirsch Coliseum in Shreveport, La.

Photo By Emily Harney/Banner Promotions

The 22-year-old Salinas, Calif., native Villa (18-0, 5 KOs), who entered the ring paying tribute to the late Kobe Bryant by wearing his No. 8 Lakers jersey into the ring, called his performance "solid" against a "tough and aggressive fighter."

"He was challenging throughout the fight," said Villa. "I feel like I put on a good show. He was a big knockout puncher and he's no pushover. He brought out the best in me."

Villa, who was also the 2014 and 2016 National Golden Gloves Champion, is currently ranked No. 5 at 126 pounds by the WBO and No. 13 by the WBC. He said after the fight he's ready for the best his division has to offer.

The 31-year-old Cuban Collado (26-3, 23 KOs) who lives in Miami, lost for the first time in seven bouts. "It was a good

fight,” said Collado, who won the 2006 Junior World Title in the flyweight division. “We both brought everything. We put on a good show for the fans. He moves a lot and he’s a smart fighter. I feel like when I threw a lot I hit him but I wasn’t active enough.”

Villa said he stayed disciplined training during the holidays. “Now I’m going to take a few weeks off and then get right back in the gym,” he said.

In the co-featured bout, undefeated Ukrainian and 2012 Olympic Bronze medalist Taras Shelestyuk (18-0, 10 KOs) recorded a dominating unanimous decision victory against Argentina’s Luis Alberto Veron (18-2-2, 9 KOs). The judges scored the 10-round welterweight fight 97-93 and 98-92 twice.

Shelestyuk, who overcame a bad fifth-round cut on his forehead, had boxed just 10 rounds in the last three years.

Photo By Emily Harney_Banner Promotions

“It was a good fight,” Shelestyuk said. “I hit him with some good shots, and controlled the fight. I have been out since March, and I feel that I performed well. I am happy to be back on television.

“The cut didn’t bother me. This is professional boxing, and these things happen. I want to be back in May or June. If I come back in the next several months, I want to fight a big name – guys like Keith Thurman and Danny Garcia.”

In the telecast opener, late replacement Sulaiman Segawa (12-2-1, 3 KOs) looked impressive in his ShoBox debut seemingly out-boxing Zhora Hamazaryan (9-1-2, 6 KOs) and recording the better stat sheet, but the close lightweight fight was called a split-decision draw. One judge had Segawa winning 78-74, another 77-75 for Hamazaryan and the third judge called it even, 76-76.

ShoBox analyst Steve Farhood had the fight scored 77-75 Segawa, while Barry Tompkins and Raul Marquez both saw it 78-74 in favor of Segawa.

"I won the fight," said Segawa, who took the fight on just four days' notice. "I maintained him and his aggressiveness. I came up to his weight and dictated the action. I staggered him a couple of times and he was not touching me."

Segawa earned the better stats in nearly every category. Hamazaryan was more active (57.5 punches per round to Segawa's 53.6) but Segawa outlanded him 130-100 overall, 42-14 jabs and 88-86 power and was more accurate in all phases (30%-22% overall, 28%-8% jabs, 31.3%-31.1% power). Segawa even led 25-22 in body connects

Segawa, 28, moved to Silver Spring, Md., two years ago and is originally from Kampala, Uganda. He has won six times against previously undefeated opponents with his two losses also to undefeated fighters.

Hamazaryan, who was making his third ShoBox appearance, returned to the ring after 16 months as he returned to his native Armenia to get his physical education degree.

"It was a good fight," the 23-year-old Hamazaryan said. "I started slow because of the switch in opposition and felt rusty. I'm going to go right back to the gym and keep on learning. And I will be better."

It was the second consecutive split draw for Hamazaryan, who also recorded a split draw against Thomas Mattice in his last ShoBox appearance in September of 2018.

Friday's fights were promoted by Banner Promotions, Thompson Boxing and Bishop Promotions LLC. The full telecast will replay on Monday, February 3 at 10 p.m. ET/PT on SHOWTIME EXTREME and will be available on SHOWTIME ANYTIME® and SHOWTIME on DEMAND®.

Hall of Famer Barry Tompkins called the action from ringside with fellow Hall of Famer 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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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 81 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.

VIDEO: SHOBX PRESS
CONFERENCE: VILLA VS COLLADO

RUBEN VILLA VS. ALEXEI COLLADO OFFICIAL WEIGHTS, QUOTES AND PHOTOS FOR SHOBX: THE NEW GENERATION TOMORROW LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

SHREVEPORT, LA. – January 30, 2020 – Undefeated featherweight prospect Ruben Villa and hard-hitting K0 artist Alexei Collado (pictured above) both made weight a day before their ShoBox: The New Generation main event on Friday, January 31 live on SHOWTIME (10 p.m. ET/PT) from George's Pond at Hirsch Coliseum in Shreveport, La.

The former two-time Junior Olympic National Champion Villa (17-0, 5 K0s) of Salinas, Calif., will make his fourth ShoBox: The New Generation appearance in just over a year as he faces Cuba's Collado (25-2, 22 K0s) in a 10-round 126-pound bout. Undefeated Ukrainian and 2012 Olympic Bronze medalist Taras Shelestyuk (17-0, 10 K0s) meets Argentina's Luis Alberto Veron (18-1-2, 9 K0s) in a 10-round welterweight matchup in the co-featured bout. In the telecast opener, ShoBox veteran Zhora Hamazaryan (9-1-1, 6 K0s) from Armenia has moved over to the "A" side and will face new opponent Uganda's Sulaiman Segawa (12-2, 3 K0s) who replaces Jerry Perez, who fell out of the fight earlier in the week because of the flu. The lightweight bout is scheduled for eight rounds.

The event is promoted by Banner Promotions, Thompson Boxing and Bishop Promotions LLC. Tickets can be purchased at www.Bishoppromotions.com and prices are \$20-\$100.

Hall of Famer Barry Tompkins will call the action from ringside with fellow Hall of Famer 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.

FINAL WEIGHTS, REFEREES AND JUDGES

Featherweight 10-Round Bout

Ruben Villa – 125 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Alexei Collado – 125 lbs.

Referee: Mark Nelson (Minnesota); Judges: Keith Thibadeaux (Houma, La.), Pat Dayton (Monroe, La.), Micky Lofton (Monroe, La.)

Welterweight 10-Round Bout

Taras Shelestyuk – 146 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Luis Alberto Veron – 146 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Referee: Keith Hughes (Mississippi); Judges: Keith Thibadeaux (Houma, La.), Pat Dayton (Monroe, La.), Todd Singletary (Baton Rouge, La.)

Lightweight 8-Round Bout

Zhora Hamazaryan – 136 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.*

Sulaiman Segawa – 135 lbs.

*Initially missed weight, but was allowed to re-weigh and after one hour made weight.

Referee: Mark Nelson (Minnesota); Judges: Keith Thibadeaux (Houma, La.), Pat Dayton (Monroe, La.), Todd Singletary (Baton Rouge, La.)

FINAL QUOTES:

RUBEN VILLA:

“I said in the past it will be one year till I fight for a world title and I think that’s still true.

“I’m ready and can’t wait to display my talents. I’m on ShoBox

again and a main event. I want to look good and get the win, so it's No. 2 on my list to get the stoppage. Getting the win is most important.

"I know there are some boxing fans who appreciate what I do. As far as me being concerned about what others think of me, I don't care. We work on footwork every day, religiously. Every day for 45 minutes. That's our priority.

"I'm not running away from anyone in there. I'm progressing and still an exciting fighter.

"I know I look relaxed out here, but I'm locked in. Once I finish all of my interviews I'm back and locked in. The fun starts now because I get to eat."

ALEXEI COLLADO:

"The last time I fought on ShoBox I was undefeated and weight was an issue because I'm not a 135-pound fighter.

"I know how Villa fights: Box, box, box. I have to be smart and we have our game plan. No one has been able to figure him out yet, but we will see. He's in for a test, and I have the experience.

"The hunger is still there and I have to do this for my family. Because they have supported me and are behind me.

"I come from the Cuban school of boxing which is hit and don't get hit. I want the knockout. We're on T.V. so we need to be impressive."

TARAS SHELESTYUK:

"I fought on ShoBox in the past but I think I'm more experienced now and had never fought 10 rounds before that. I think I'm mentally stronger.

"I've lived in Los Angeles since 2013 when I turned pro. I

know I've been inactive but it won't affect me. I'm 34-years-old and now I'm looking for the next big fight, the Keith Thurmans or the Kell Brooks. I want to be back in the mix at 147 pounds so it's of course important that I look good and I'm looking forward to showing that Friday night.

"I've had a long layoff, 22 months. But I've always been training. It's a variety of reasons I was out of the ring. Sometimes the opponent just falls out.

"I'm so excited to be back on ShoBox. Most of the great champions have fought on ShoBox. I have had a goal since a very young age to be the world champion. I feel my body has served me well over the years.

"Bobby Benton will be in my corner, as well as my brother Bogdan Shelestyuk."

LUIS ALBERTO VERON:

"I fought just 12 days ago in Argentina so I'm definitely ready for this battle.

"I know I have to correct some mistakes I've made in the ring recently, and we went right back to the gym and did that.

"In my mind I'm always thinking about winning and I'm always looking for the victory.

"This is my debut in the United States and I've fought 20 times in my native Argentina and one time in England. It's exciting being here, and I'm ready to put on a show. Don't miss it. It's going to be fun giving him his first defeat.

"I have more confidence now that I see him face-to-face and he's not even as big as I thought or as big as me.

"I know I have to make a statement on Friday night. This is a big step-up fight for me and so important for my career."

ZHORA HAMAZARYAN:

"I did recently receive my degree in physical education back in Armenia. Boxing is my life right now, but it's good to have something to fall back on.

"I have a new trainer now Edmund Tarverdyan and my training camp was the best one ever. He was the Armenian National coach and worked as the former trainer to Vic Darchinyan and Rhonda Rousey. It's been three months now and things are going great.

"I'm living full-time in Armenia but have applied for my Green Card. ShoBox fans know me from the (Thomas) Mattice fights. Not many agreed with the decision when I lost to him, but I'm just looking to move forward and just looking ahead.

"My opponent is a strong fighter and a southpaw. I've fought lots of them so I'll be ready.

"I'm so excited to be back on ShoBox. It's a dream come true. I've been watching fights on T.V. since I was a kid."

SULAIMAN SEGAWA:

"I just got called on Monday for this fight, but it's great and I'm ready.

"My style is unique and I have a ton of weapons. I've fought stronger competition than he has and I know this is a fight I can win.

"I haven't watched my opponent's past fights but my trainer and my team has. They say he reminds them of my last few opponents and comes forward.

"I've fought on short notice before so it's nothing new. I'm 100 percent ready, and not just physically, but mentally. And sometimes that's even more important.

"I moved from Uganda to Maryland two years ago and I've come

to realize that boxing in the U.S. is war. You are under a lot of pressure to win here. They hit to kill. You have to be ready for everything.”

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About ShoBox: The New Generation

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World-Ranked Featherweight Contender Headlines against

Alexei Collado on January 31st on ShoBox: The New Generation and Live on SHOWTIME® (10 PM ET/PT)

Philadelphia / Orange, Ca. – January 28, 2020 – Undefeated featherweight and world-ranked Ruben Villa (17-0, 5 KOs) is winding down his training for his 10-round showdown with Cuban knockout artist Alexei Collado (26-2, 23 KOs), this Friday night at the Hirsch Memorial Coliseum in Shreveport, Louisiana. The bout will headline a three-fight telecast on ShoBox: The New Generation and live on SHOWTIME (10 PM ET/PT). Villa has been working hard just outside of his native Salinas, California.

“Training camp has been good. I have been training in Prunedale which is a little bit outside of Salinas, but its close enough, so in a way I am home, but I am not at home.”

In Collado, he is facing a tough veteran, who has an impressive knockout ratio.

“Collado is a real strong aggressive guy. He is a veteran. I have to be cautious because of his power and play it very smart on our end.”

With a winning performance on January 31st, Villa can see himself in the middle of the featherweight title chase as he looks to improve on his number-five ranking by the WBO.

“I feel like I’ve proven myself with the last couple of fights. I feel like I belong in the top-five if not higher. I feel that a win will set me up for bigger and better things. ” Villa has been more then grateful to accelerate from prospect to contender on the series that has showcased more than 75

world champions.

“Another main event on ShoBox. I am excited to showcase my talents in Louisiana again. It’s motivation to prove myself to people that I should be the main event.”

“I am usually just real focused. I know the featherweight division is stacked, but I am really just focused on what is in front of me and focused for the fight. After we are finished on January 31st, my team and I can figure out what is next; however, I feel that I am close to competing for a world title.”

Villa is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing.

Undefeated Ukrainian and 2012 Olympic Bronze medalist Taras Shelestyuk (17-0, 10 KOs) meets Argentina’s Luis Alberto Veron (18-1-2, 9 KOs) in a 10-round welterweight matchup in the co-featured bout. The televised opener features an eight-round lightweight bout pitting ShoBox veteran Zhora Hamazaryan (9-1-1, 6 KOs) of Armenia against Sulaiman Segawa (13-2, 4 KOs) of Uganda.

The event is promoted by Banner Promotions, Thompson Boxing and Bishop Promotions LLC. Tickets can be purchased at www.Bishoppromotions.com and prices are \$20-\$100.

**TOP PROSPECT RUBEN VILLA TO
FACE CUBAN KO ARTIST ALEXEI
COLLADO ON SHOBBOX: THE NEW**

GENERATION FRIDAY, JANUARY 31 LIVE ON SHOWTIME® FROM SHREVEPORT, LA.

NEW YORK – January 10, 2020 – Undefeated featherweight prospect Ruben Villa will make his fourth ShoBox: The New Generation appearance in just over a year as the former two-time Junior Olympic National Champion takes on hard-hitting Alexei Collado in a 10-round main event of a three-fight telecast on Friday, January 31 live on SHOWTIME (10 p.m. ET/PT) from Hirsch Memorial Coliseum in Shreveport, La.

Undefeated Ukrainian and 2012 Olympic Bronze medalist Taras Shelestyuk (17-0, 10 KOs) meets Mexico's Alejandro Davila (19-1-2, 7 KOs) in a 10-round welterweight matchup in the co-featured bout. The televised opener features an eight-round lightweight bout pitting Southern California native Jerry Pérez (12-0, 9 KOs) against ShoBox veteran Zhora Hamazaryan (9-1-1, 6 KOs) from Armenia.

The event is promoted by Banner Promotions, Thompson Boxing and Bishop Promotions LLC. Tickets can be purchased at www.Bishoppromotions.com and prices are \$20-\$100.

"On January 31 we have three prospects at different points in their careers with Ruben Villa developing into a must-see prospect with high expectations," said Gordon Hall, Executive Producer of ShoBox: The New Generation. "Taras Shelestuyk is still undefeated and working on rebuilding a once-promising career in a must-win fight and Jerry Pérez is young and relatively unknown, but in a big step-up fight looking to be noticed. Each of these three are in meaningful fights that should be action-packed."

The 22-year-old Salinas, Calif., native Villa (17-0, 5 KOs) was also the 2014 and 2016 National Golden Gloves Champion and

is currently ranked No. 5 at 126 pounds by the WBO and No. 13 by the WBC. Villa was a 2016 U.S. Olympic Team alternate, and had an impressive amateur record of 166-17 with wins against Devin Haney, Shakur Stevenson, and Gary Antonio Russell.

The southpaw Villa has looked impressive in each of his three previous ShoBox appearances, including his debut last January when he outclassed then-unbeaten Ruben Cervera. In May, Villa stepped up to 10-round status for the first time and won a unanimous decision against Luis Alberto Lopez and in September, Villa scored a second-round knockdown against Enrique Vivas en route to a comfortable shutout unanimous decision.

"I know my opponent has a good record at 26-2 and he has heavy hands, but he is wild," Villa said. "I feel that I am close to a title eliminator, but the middle or at the very latest at the end of 2020. ShoBox has helped me with my recognition and showcasing my talent. I am just thankful to be headlining once again on ShoBox. I know I'm close to making that next step up to contender so I have to look impressive on January 31."

In Collado (26-2, 23 KOs), Villa will face a tough, 31-year-old Cuban currently living and training in Miami. Collado is on a seven-bout winning streak with six KOs and was active in 2019 winning four times, including his last victory via first-round K0 against Facundo Eduardo Ased four days before Christmas. Collado won the 2006 Junior World Title in the flyweight division.

"I participated on a ShoBox event in the past and I couldn't close the show," said Collado, who made his ShoBox debut in April of 2014 in a 10-round lightweight unanimous decision loss to Rod Salka. "This time the story will be different and I am more than ready for Ruben Villa. Ruben is a young talented boxer but he will not be able to do with me what he was able to do to other guys. I'm far more experienced, much stronger and way smarter than all the guys put together that

he has faced so far. This is an opportunity that I will not take for granted, Villa better be ready to get shocked.”

Management issues have kept the 34-year-old Shelestyuk mostly inactive and he has fought just once in two and a half years. Currently living and training in Southern California, Shelestyuk has trained with Freddie Roach and his stable of fighters at the famed Wild Card Gym in Hollywood. Shelestyuk’s last fight came in March, a unanimous decision against Martin Angel Martinez in Southern California. His best win came in 2015 on ShoBox over once-beaten Aslanbek Kozaev.

“Training camp is going great and a lot of the hard work is already done, but we have three more weeks to rock it and finish strong,” said Shelestyuk, who has previously fought twice on ShoBox, recording unanimous decisions in November of 2015 and 2016. “We always have a great atmosphere with the team during the training camp. It’s exciting to be back on SHOWTIME. The fans like my style and I’m ready to give them a show. My opponent is tough and a big guy, He has more fights than me in the professional ring, and it will be clash of different styles.”

Davila has campaigned almost exclusively in Mexico since turning professional in 2014. He was undefeated over his first 20 bouts, including two draws, before suffering his first loss in his last fight in November against once-beaten Mikael Zewski in Canada. Davila notched his last victory via unanimous decision over Luciano Chaparro Araujo in July in Mexico.

“I know Taras has a tremendous amateur and professional career but I also got what it takes to beat anybody at this level,” Davila said. “I am coming to win this fight and hand Taras his first defeat. I will do my best to win this fight.”

The 26-year-old Pérez had 45 amateur fights with some international experience and currently trains with four-

division world champion Leo Santa Cruz, whom he met through a family friend in 2016. Perez made his pro debut on the Santa Cruz-Carl Frampton undercard at MGM Grand in Las Vegas as Perez recorded a knockout against Javier Cepeda in January 2017. In his young career, Perez has also fought at Staples Center in Los Angeles on the Mikey Garcia-Robert Easter undercard scoring a second-round K0 against Aaron Jamel Hollis. Perez started boxing at age 9 learning his craft at the High Desert Boxing Club in Victorville, Calif., in San Bernardino County.

"We have been knocking on doors for a while and finally that door has opened up to us," Perez said. "It's now time to show I belong in the ring with a guy like Zhora whom I respect but have the certainty I can beat. I'm coming to make a statement in my TV debut and show that I'm a force at lightweight."

The 23-year-old Hamazaryan resides in Los Angeles and has fought on ShoBox twice, both memorable and exciting bouts against lightweight prospect Thomas Mattice. Hamazaryan lost the first matchup by split decision in July of 2018 after out-landing and out-powering Mattice in a fight many observers thought Hamazaryan clearly won. Hamazaryan earned a draw against Mattice in an immediate rematch two months later.

"I have had a tremendous camp and am excited to get back on ShoBox," Hamazaryan said. "I feel I am still undefeated and the fans now know what I bring and that is a fighter who fights hard for the whole fight. I do not know much about my opponent except his record. I just fight my fight and I will bring home the victory."

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.

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Banner Promotions Fighters Turn in Solid Performances

Over the Weekend

PHILADELPHIA – September 23, 2019 – This past Friday night, three members of the Banner Promotions stable were in action and had impressive performances.

In Midland, Texas lightweight Michael Dutchover (13-1, 10 KOs) took on Thomas Mattice in the main event of ShoBox: The New Generation that was televised Live on SHOWTIME.

Dutchover took the fight to Mattice and was up on two of the three judges scorecards as the bout entered the eighth round.

In that round, Dutchover was cut over the left eye. The cut was ruled from a punch, but instant replays were inconclusive on how the cut occurred, and Mattice was ruled the winner of the bout.

Dutchover was ahead 69-64, 68-65 while Mattice was ahead on one card 67-66.

“It was a great fight. Mattice is a warrior, but the fight was going my way,” said Dutchover. “My body punches and uppercuts were working well, and I stunned him in the 6th round. It was a good performance and I had the fight won.”

On the punch the allegedly stopped the fight, Dutchover did not know how the cut was opened. “They said I got with a punch, and I guess that’s boxing. I don’t know if it was a punch and I don’t know if it was a headbutt. I just know that I started bleeding. I was good, but the doctor stopped the fight. The thing that disappointed me was that they did not let my cutman Andrew Rodriguez work on it between rounds. In fact, after the fight was over, he worked on it for about 20 seconds, and the cut was under control.”

Dutchover showed great sportsmanship in defeat.

“I take my losses the same way I take my wins, but now I just

can't wait to get back in there. It says that I have a loss on paper, but with my performance, I feel that I won. I would take a rematch with him without hesitation. But as soon as I heal up, I would take that as the 1st fight back."

The fight took place in front of a sold out crowd in Dutchover's hometown for which SHOWTIME analyst's said it was the loudest they heard a venue in many years.

"Midland supported this event, and I helped bring a major event here. It exceeded all expectations, the fans loved the fight, and they are already talking about bringing another event here."

In the co-feature, world-ranked featherweight, Ruben Villa (17-0, 5 KOs) was very impressive in shutting out previously undefeated Enrique Vivas to retain the WBO International title.

Villa used a variety of punches throughout the fight which included a perfect two punch combination that dropped Vivas in round two, and Villa cruised to the victory by matching 100-89 scores on all cards.

"It was a pretty good performance. He was confident, but we had a good game-plan which we stuck to the whole fight, and I was smart about it what I wanted to do in there," said Villa.

"We planned that he would be more aggressive. We know that feints and jabs would be key and they worked great. Once I landed the jab that was followed by a left hand in round that that dropped him, I saw him begin to lose his confidence."

Villa was very satisfied with his performance in his 3rd appearance on ShoBox.

"If you consider the tough opponent, who came in undefeated and combine it that I scored a knockdown and won all the rounds, I would say it was my best performance to date."

Villa is very confident that major opportunities are on the horizon.

"I am going to take a couple of weeks off, and then get right back in the gym. I am hopeful that by middle of next year I will get my world title opportunity."

In Ontario, California, two-time world title challenger Petr Petrov registered his 3rd stoppage victory of the year as he stopped Dedrick Bell in the 2nd round of their main event at The Doubletree Hotel.

Petrov dominated the action, and stopped Bell with a body shot at 2:48.

With the win, Petrov (41-6-2, 22 KOs) will look for a major opportunity, which could include a world title shot with a particular interest in fighting newly crowned WBC Interim lightweight champion Devin Haney.

"I am very proud of Michael, Ruben and Petr," said Artie Pelullo, President of Banner Promotions. "Michael was ahead in the fight that ended because of a situation where no one has clearly seen a punch. If the referee would have declared it a headbutt, Michael would have won the fight as he was ahead on two the cards. It's just bad luck. Michael is 21 years-old and he is terrific young fighter. It is just a bump in the road. Ruben was outstanding, and he keeps showing us he is on his way to a world title. He took on an undefeated fighter who was promoted by Mikey Garcia's company. Mikey knows talent. Ruben won every round, and he is proving why he is one of the best at 126 pounds in the world. Once again Petr showed that he is a true professional as he has been active, and has three straight knockouts. A big fight is in his near future."

Dutchover and Villa are co-promoted by Thompson Boxing.

MICHAEL DUTCHOVER vs. THOMAS MATTICE FINAL WEIGHTS, QUOTES & PHOTOS FOR SHOBOX TRIPLEHEADER TOMORROW LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

MIDLAND, Texas – September 19, 2019 – Midland native and undefeated Michael Dutchover and highly regarded lightweight prospect Thomas Mattice both made weight a day before their main event showdown on ShoBox: The New Generation Friday, September 20 live on SHOWTIME (10:30 p.m. ET/PT).

Dutchover (13-0, 10 KOs) is making his second appearance on ShoBox and is fighting in his hometown for the first time as a professional. Dutchover said he would enter the ring wearing the high school football jersey of Midland legend and former NFL star Cedric Benson, who was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident on August 17 in Austin. Cleveland's Mattice (14-1-1, 10 KOs) will be fighting on ShoBox for a fifth time.

In the co-feature, undefeated featherweight prospects Ruben Villa (16-0, 5 KOs) of Salinas, Calif., and Garcia Promotions' talent Enrique Vivas (17-0, 9 KOs) of Mexico City clash in a 10-round matchup. In the telecast opener, super lightweight prospect Brandun Lee (15-0, 13 KOs), of La Quinta, Calif., will face Milton Arauz (10-1-1, 5 KOs), of Jinotega, Nicaragua in an eight-round bout.

Tickets for the event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing in association with GH3 Promotions, Garcia

Promotions and Now Boxing Promotions, are priced at \$120, \$100 and \$80 and can be purchased online at www.haciendamidland.com or by calling 432-563-3737.

FINAL WEIGHTS, REFEREES AND JUDGES

Lightweight 10-Round Bout

Michael Dutchover – 134 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Thomas Mattice – 134 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Referee: Robert Velez

Judges: Jesse Reyes (Dallas), Ursaio Perez (San Antonio),
Ruben Carrion (San Antonio)

Featherweight 10-Round Bout

Ruben Villa – 125 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Enrique Vivas – 126 lbs.

Referee: Robert Velez (El Paso, Texas)

Judges: Jesse Reyes (Dallas), Ursaio Perez (San Antonio),
Ruben Carrion (San Antonio)

Welterweight 8-Round Bout

Brandun Lee – 142 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Milton Arauz – 142 lbs.

Referee: Daniel Sandoval (El Paso, Texas)

Judges: TBA

In Non-Televised action, Mattheus Avrella Lamarque and Marquese Steward each weighed 135 lbs. Lamaque is promoted by Banner Promotions.

Here's what the fighters had to say before they weighed in at the Doubletree by Hilton.

FINAL QUOTES:

MICHAEL DUTCHOVER

"This is just like another fight. My family lives here, but I'm staying at the fight hotel and treating it like any other fight. The location doesn't matter but I'm glad it's here

though. The ring is my home, so I fight at home every fight.

"Everyone knows football is king here, but my dream has come true and it is time for Friday Night Lights, boxing-style.

"Training camp at the Santa Fe Springs Boxing Club went great with my trainer Danny Zamora. We peaked at the right time. We're just ready to go.

"Cedric Benson is a Midland legend and went to my arch-rival high school Midland Lee High. I grew up seeing him star here locally and then play in the NFL. He was a true inspiration for me and all aspiring athletes from Midland.

"August 31 is a tragic day for all of Midland and West Texas as five people were gunned down here. For the past few weeks everyone has been sad, but I feel this is a perfect time to bring some happiness and positivity to the area.

"My last fight was quick, but you can never be a perfect boxer and you can always get better. So we worked on some things and Friday night I'm going to show how I've improved.

"My ring generalship and just being calm in the ring is what I've focused on. The fight is won in training camp and I'm in the best shape I've been in."

THOMAS MATTICE:

"This will be a tough test, but we're ready. The crowd might 'ooh' and 'ahh', but I won't hear it. The crowd means nothing because what it boils down to is two men in a square.

"People expect me to start slow and that's what I've shown, but you'll see something different from me right from the start.

"There is a regional WBO belt on the line so it's a big fight. Whoever wins will be ranked after this fight.

"I'm going to be on point tomorrow night. When I get hit, it's

because I do something stupid. That's not going to happen this time."

RUBEN VILLA:

"I feel like I adjusted OK in my last fight on ShoBox against an awkward fighter. It was a good learning experience. I can keep my composure and I know that if I'm in a dog fight, I can adjust and go into deep waters. My opponent will start to fade around round six and I can drown him.

"I feel like quiet and soft-spoken doesn't get you very far, so I plan to be a little more aggressive.

"There aren't many people as fast as me. I feel like my confidence is pretty high right now, but anything can happen.

"I'm a fast fighter and my quick feet are my biggest attribute. We all know, 'slow feet, don't eat.'

"Going to Robert [Garcia]'s gym in Riverside really helped me because he has a lot of young and hungry guys.

"Shakur Stevenson was my amateur rival and I know he's fighting next for a world title. But my time will come. I predict that within 12 months I will be doing the same."

ENRIQUE VIVAS

"I know I'm fighting a tough and skilled opponent, but I just feel like this is my time. We're both Olympians and have had success. We know each other and have sparred together. This is a once in a lifetime chance for us and we jumped on it. It's too big an opportunity to pass up.

"For this fight we decided to train in Otomi, Mexico. My trainers are Mario and Ramon Morales and they have many years of experience as they were trainers for Marco Antonio Barrera and they also helped me train when I won the regional WBF North America belt and the Latin American WBC belt.

“Villa is a very intelligent fighter with good technique. He’s not an easy fighter but we are prepared and look forward to getting the victory.

“I’m excited to fight on SHOWTIME. I fought on television once before against Edixon Perez, who was supposed to fight Diego De La Hoya in Mexicali, and I got the victory; I’m looking for the same result on my second televised fight.

“He is a good technical puncher and I know his style and that he won’t be too aggressive. So we’ve worked on how to close the ring. It’s a great style matchup and we expect an exciting fight.

“[His promoter] Mikey Garcia always watches my fights and gives me advice. He has taught me to fight more intelligently and always tells me to be patient. He’s my idol. I appreciate his guidance.”

BRANDUN LEE

“I’m excited to gain some new fight fans and I’m excited for my TV debut. I’ve worked for this my entire life.

“My defense, my speed and my offense are my biggest attributes. You’ll see great boxers who run around and around. I don’t do that. I always have a game plan and can do it all.

“Jaron [Ennis] and I are both managed by Cameron Dunkin and we were in the amateurs together. He has a bright future and we’ve become pretty close friends.

“I’ve gained so much confidence with who I’ve sparred and trained with in the past. I feel like this is just my moment to shine. I’m only 20 years old and still have so much to learn.

“It took me six fights to realize you can’t knock everyone out in the first round. After about 10 professional fights I think I finally started to feel comfortable in there.

“Boxing isn’t a tough-man competition. I don’t have to show that I’m the toughest, I just have to show I’m the most skilled.”

MILTON ARAUZ

“I’ve been here for more than a week and we worked out in California and did some sparring and completed our medicals and paperwork.

“I’m very happy for this opportunity and I’m well prepared. Tomorrow night I’m going to take away an undefeated record. I can’t wait.

“Being on TV for the first time doesn’t affect me. I won’t be nervous. I’m just excited.

“No one knows who I am, but I know I can win this fight. That’s how confident I am. I have to be smart and attack him from the start.

Nicaragua has had a strong history of former boxing champion, guys like Roman “Chocolatito” Gonzalez and Ricardo Mayorga. But Alexis Arguello is my favorite.

“I have a solid team behind me, including Marcos Caballero who is the father of former IBF bantamweight world champion Randy Caballero.”

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 Chuck McKean producing and Rick Phillips directing.

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MICHAEL DUTCHOVER AND RUBEN VILLA TRAINING CAMP NOTES

MIDLAND, Texas – September 18, 2019 – Undefeated prospects Michael Dutchover and Ruben Villa talked training camp and upcoming matchups in advance of this Friday's ShoBox: The New Generation tripleheader live on SHOWTIME (10:30 ET / PT) from La Hacienda Event Center in Midland, Texas.

Fighting in front of his hometown fans for the first time as a professional, the fast-rising Texan Dutchover (13-0, 10 KOs) returns for his second consecutive test on ShoBox after making an impressive debut in May with a first-round knockout. The 21-year-old prospect will face his toughest test to date in ShoBox veteran Thomas Mattice (14-1-1, 10 KOs), a fearless five-year pro that has displayed promising boxing skills in

previous appearances on the developmental prospect series.

In a battle of undefeated featherweight prospects, two-time Junior Olympic National Champion and two-time Golden Gloves Champion Ruben Villa (16-0, 5 KOs) will face Garcia Promotions' most coveted prospect, Mexico's Enrique Vivas (17-0, 9 KOs) in a 10-round matchup. In the opening bout, undefeated welterweight prospect Brandun Lee (14-0, 12 KOs) will face Nicaragua's Milton Arauz (10-1, 5 KOs) in an eight-round bout.

Here is what Dutchover and Villa, who are promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing, had to say at the conclusion of training camp as they prepare for their fights on Friday night:

MICHAEL DUTCHOVER:

"This was my best camp. I feel very confident. We stepped it up a notch. Everything went smooth. It was pure hard work and dedication throughout this camp.

"I know that my fights are getting tougher and opponents are getting better. Thomas Mattice is going to bring out the best in me. A lot of my fights have been quick knockouts, and hopefully now with this fight, people will see that I bring a high skill level.

"I have been very focused on the fight, and not focusing on where the fight is taking place. My family, friends, coaches and teachers will all be there, but It doesn't matter where the ring is, I am at home.

"Every fight, I am looking to make a big statement being that it is a main event on ShoBox against a durable guy. I feel this win will catapult me into the rankings in the 135 lb. division."

RUBEN VILLA:

“It was a good training camp. We trained in Riverside, Calif., for the last four weeks of camp.”

“I have sparred with Vivas in the past and from what I remember it was my first day back in the gym after a fight. He was an aggressive fighter, and I know I just have to be smart and execute to be successful on fight night.

“I am excited to be back on ShoBox. I know that I must be winning and doing my job for me to keep getting on ShoBox and getting this great exposure.

“I feel that a title shot is in reach. I see by mid-2020 that I will be fighting for a title.”

Tickets for the event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing in association with GH3 Promotions, Garcia Promotions and Now Boxing Promotions, are priced at \$120, \$100 and \$80 and can be purchased online at www.haciendamidland.com or by calling 432-563-3737.

TOP PROSPECT MICHAEL DUTCHOVER TO FACE THOMAS MATTICE IN HOMECOMING BOUT ON SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 LIVE FROM MIDLAND, TEXAS

NEW YORK – August 22, 2019 – Undefeated lightweight prospect Michael Dutchover returns to ShoBox: The New Generation

seeking to make a statement win in his homecoming fight against Thomas Mattice in the 10-round main event of a three-fight telecast on Friday, September 20 live on SHOWTIME (10:30 p.m. ET/PT) from La Hacienda Event Center in Midland, Texas.

The fast-rising Texan prospect Dutchover (13-0, 10 KOs) returns for his second consecutive test on ShoBox after making an impressive debut in May with a first-round knockout. The 21-year-old prospect will face his toughest test to date in ShoBox veteran Mattice (14-1-1, 10 KOs), a fearless five-year pro that has displayed promising boxing skills in previous appearances on the developmental prospect series.

In a battle of undefeated featherweight prospects, two-time Junior Olympic National Champion and two-time Golden Gloves Champion Ruben Villa (16-0, 5 KOs) will face Garcia Promotions' most coveted prospect, Mexico's Enrique Vivas (17-0, 9 KOs) in a 10-round matchup. In the opening bout, undefeated welterweight prospect Brandun Lee (14-0, 12 KOs) will face an opponent yet to be named.

Tickets for the event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing in association with GH3 Promotions, Garcia Promotions and Now Boxing Promotions, are priced at \$120, \$100 and \$80 and can be purchased online at www.haciendamidland.com or by calling 432-563-3737.

"We were able to put together one of the best ShoBox cards we've seen so far this year thanks to the collective efforts of five promoters that didn't shy away from matching their prospects tough," said Gordon Hall, Executive Producer of ShoBox: The New Generation. "We get to see unbeaten Michael Dutchover making his hometown debut in a step-up fight against the talented Thomas Mattice, a match of unbeaten prospects in Villa vs. Vivas and the series debut of a top prospect and former amateur standout Brandun Lee. September 20, is without any doubt, the classic example of what ShoBox is all about."

"We are excited to once again be able to showcase Michael Dutchover and Ruben Villa on ShoBox," said Artie Pelullo, President and CEO, Banner Promotions. "It will be a great experience for Michael to fight at home and continue his ascension up the ranks. Ruben is ranked very high, so we expect a great performance as he continues to position himself for a world title."

"In a lot of ways this is a coming out party for Michael, but anyone that has followed his career knows he boasts world championship talent and has the dedication to get to the top," said Ken Thompson, President of Thompson Boxing. "Also on the card is Ruben, another supremely talented youngster that will also be in the mix for a world title shot in the near term. Boxing fans who tune in on SHOWTIME are going to see two incredible talents."

Dutchover, of Santa Fe Springs, Calif. by way of Midland, Texas, started boxing at the age of eight, compiling a notable amateur record of 130-17. He was a runner-up at the 2016 National Golden Gloves and a Bronze Medalist in the 2016 Olympic qualifiers, turning pro shortly afterwards. Dutchover, who boasts a 77 percent K0 ratio, has knocked out his last five opponents including durable prospect Rosekie Cristobal in his last outing in just 109 seconds.

Dutchover will wear former NFL running back and legendary Texas Longhorn player Cedric Benson's jersey to the ring on fight night. Benson, who also played football for the renowned Robert E. Lee High School in Midland, was fatally injured in a motorcycle accident on August 17.

"Mattice is a talented fighter, he will bring out the best in me," said Dutchover, who is excited to headline in his hometown. "Fighting at home means everything to me. I have fought mostly in California and on the East Coast. This homecoming is overdue. Like Friday Night Lights, I will be the next big thing from Midland, Texas. I will have my teachers,

coaches and classmates there on fight night. I am ready for a big outing.”

Mattice, who is making his fifth start on the series, is looking to rebound after last minute opponent, Will Madera, handed him his first defeat in his last ShoBox appearance. Hailing from Cleveland, Ohio, the 28-year-old lightweight fought to a split-draw in an immediate rematch with Zhora Hamazaryan in September 2018 after winning a controversial split-decision in their first bout. Prior to his back-to-back fights with Hamazaryan, Mattice had won six consecutive bouts via knockout. He scored a decision over Angel Sarinana in his last start in May.

“I am focused and confident,” said Mattice. “I haven’t watched much on my opponent. I let my team watch and develop the best possible game plan. I know he is a durable guy but I’m coming to win. This is my fifth ShoBox appearance and I feel that shows people recognize my talent and hard work.”

“Since day one Thomas Mattice has put his character on the line letting everyone know he doesn’t duck anyone,” said Mattice’s promoter Vito Mielnicki, President of GH3 Promotions. “It’s a crossroads fight for both fighters; Mike [Dutchover] is young and hungry and has never been in a top-level fight but has the pedigree, and Thomas has been tested and proven he belongs. It’s going to be the fight of the night. I predict Thomas will win by KO.”

The 22-year-old Villa of Salinas, Calif., returns for his third consecutive test on ShoBox after scoring a unanimous decision over Luis Alberto Lopez in May and outclassing then-unbeaten Ruben Cervera in January. Villa, who started boxing at the age of five, owns victories over Shakur Stevenson, Devin Haney and Gary Antonio Russell as an amateur (166-17). He turned pro in 2016 and is considered by many a prospect to watch. He hopes to continue his rapid ascension in the featherweight ranks with an exceptional showing against the undefeated Vivas.

"I am looking forward to performing in front of the fans in Texas," said Villa, "I sparred with Enrique Vivas in the past, he's an aggressive fighter. My team and I put together a good game plan and I'm going to follow it. I think a win here will position me a step closer to a title shot. I hope to be in a title eliminator or championship fight within the next 12-to-18 months. I have my eye on the vacant WBO belt."

Vivas of Texcoco, Mexico, is coming off a unanimous decision victory over Jose Estrella in his United States debut in June. He started training in martial arts and kickboxing from an early age, turning to the sweet science at 17, after a motorcycle accident. As an amateur, he won national, regional and state championships, amassing a 93-7 record. He turned pro in late 2014 and has stayed very active, fighting three-to-five times per year. Nicknamed "El Ejecutor" (The Executioner) for his devastating combinations, the 25-year-old has built his undefeated record against limited opposition and a victory over a gifted prospect like Villa can catapult his rise through the ranks.

"I am very happy I got this opportunity," said Vivas, who is making his television debut on September 20. "Ruben Villa is a very strong southpaw with a lot of experience. He is one of the best featherweights out there. I'm up for the challenge. All of the struggles I have been through in my life have led me here, to this fight. When I fight, I let it all out. It will be a very exciting fight. Don't miss it."

"I'm very excited for Vivas' debut on ShoBox," said four-division champion Mikey Garcia, who is the President of Garcia Promotions. "This is a 50-50 fight. When we agreed to this matchup, we made the decision with a premise in mind that we firmly believe in: We fight the best to be the best. That is and will continue to be the foundation of Garcia Promotions."

Super lightweight prospect Lee, of Coachella, Calif., turned pro at 17 after a stellar amateur run (196-5). He has sparred

with Mikey Garcia, Devin Haney and Mauricio Herrera. Trained by his father Bobby, the 20-year-old has built up an 86-percent knockout ratio. A very active fighter, he has fought Pablo Martinez and Jorge Munguia. A definitive win on his TV debut would help put his name on the map.

"I am very excited and grateful for this opportunity to fight on national television," said Lee. "I am young and any good performance will boost my career in a positive way, whether it is a knockout or decision. I am a boxer-puncher and I can adapt to anything in the ring. I am looking forward to showcasing my skills on national television."

"I can't describe how excited I am about Brandun Lee," said Now Boxing Promotions' Cameron Dunkin, Lee's promoter. "He was 196-5 as an amateur and won 16 National Championships. He is truly gifted and very talented. He's of Korean heritage and his fan base is huge. They really support him. He has an amazing future."

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 Chuck McKean producing and Rick Phillips directing.

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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.

UNDEFEATED FEATHERWEIGHT PROSPECT RUBEN VILLA OUTPOINTS LUIS ALBERTO LOPEZ IN MAIN EVENT OF SHOBUX: THE NEW GENERATION FRIDAY ON SHOWTIME®

CORONA, Calif. – May 10, 2019 – Undefeated prospect Ruben Villa stayed true to his calm and consistent style, recording a unanimous decision over Luis Alberto Lopez in his first main-event appearance on ShoBox: The New Generation Friday from Omega Products Events Center in Corona, Calif.

The judges' scorecards read 98-92, 97-93 and 96-94 in the featherweight bout, although all three ShoBox commentators had Villa winning each round except the 10th round, giving the final round to Lopez (17-2, 8 KOs) in a fight that saw nearly 1,400 punches thrown.

"I give myself a 'C' grade," said Villa, making his second consecutive ShoBox appearance. "He was a tough opponent and

had a real awkward style and wasn't really a boxer. It took me awhile to adjust to him and it was hard not to get frustrated."

Taken the 10-round distance for the first time in his career, the 22-year-old Villa (16-0, 5 KOs) of Salinas, Calif., took the first two rounds to get used to the top-15 ranked contender Lopez's awkward style before he began landing heavy body shots to dominate the third round.

In the seventh round, Villa out-jabbed Lopez and continued the onslaught of body punches in the ninth round, but was not able to get the knockout against the game Lopez.

"I agreed with the judges' scorecards," the two-time National Golden Gloves Amateur Champion Villa said. "I still got the unanimous decision win so I have no problem with that. I can take a whole lot from this fight tonight."

Lopez was coming off an upset victory over Ray Ximenez in his U.S. debut in February but could not repeat the feat against the highly regarded Villa.

"I hit him with the better shots," Lopez said. "I was consistently throwing and landing the power shots while he was just jabbing. I felt good. It's a complicated to fight a lefty, but I thought I landed the punches that scored."

In the co-feature, undefeated 21-year-old rising prospect Michael Dutchover (13-0, 10 KOs) made quick work of late replacement Rosekie Cristobal (15-4, 11 KOs) of the Philippines, connecting on a right-left combination to Cristobal's liver that sent him to both knees before being counted out by referee Zachary Young at 1:46 of the first round of a scheduled eight-round super lightweight contest.

In his ShoBox debut, Dutchover of Santa Fe Springs, Calif., by way of Midland, Texas, recorded six body connects among his 11 landed power punches in the fight that lasted just 109

seconds.

"I have to be able to adjust," said Dutchover, a runner-up at the 2016 National Golden Gloves and a bronze medalist in the 2016 Olympic qualifiers. "I was given a tall lefty on short notice due to the original opponent dropping out. Part of being a professional is being able to adapt. It's nothing I haven't seen before. I've seen pretty much every style through the amateurs and now during sparring sessions as a pro."

Dutchover added: "I was patient and waited for the open shots. He wasn't covering up the body so that was my target. The plan from the beginning was to break him down. I'm just happy I was able to end it early and give the fans something to talk about."

In the opening bout of the tripleheader, undefeated bantamweight prospect Saul Sanchez (12-0, 7 KOs) recorded an eighth-round knockout against Brandon Benitez (14-2, 6 KOs) in an entertaining and all-action fight.

After an even first round, Sanchez and Benitez continued to trade shots over the first three rounds before Benitez's legs began to betray him and he tired midway through the fourth, slowing the pace of the fight considerably. Sanchez, of North Hollywood, Calif., landed three huge punches that staggered Benitez as the fourth round came to a close, stoking the undefeated prospect with confidence as the fight reached progressed to the later rounds.

In the seventh round, Mexico's Benitez suffered an injury over his right eye from a Sanchez punch, and referee Raul Caiz Jr. warned Benitez prior to the eight round to protect himself. At the start of the eighth round, a flush right hand by the 21-year-old Sanchez connected cleanly and Caiz Jr. stepped in and stopped the fight after just 18 seconds.

"I felt strong throughout the fight," Sanchez said. "Benitez was tough so I had to be careful and aggressive at the same

time. I know I hurt him a handful of times, but I know I can do better. My conditioning was great. I was ready to go the distance.”

Sanchez out-landed the 21-year-old Benitez 145-94 overall and 123-78 in power connects while landing 42 percent of his power shots to Benitez’s 29 percent.

“I was responding well in every round,” said Benitez from Queretaro, Mexico. “I don’t know why the referee stopped it. I had a lot more left. I’m just disappointed I wasn’t allowed to finish the fight.”

In Non-Televised Action

Former world title contender Petr Petrov (40-6-2, 20 KOs), who at 36 still campaigns as a lightweight, made easy work of former interim world title-challenger Ruben Tamayo (27-13-4, 18 KOs) by dropping him three times in the second round to win via knockout at the 2:59 mark.

Petrov, stalked Tamayo from the opening bell and split his guard numerous times with a stiff right. Tamayo looked overwhelmed from the start and was fortunate to exit the fight when he did.

Middleweight contender and 2018 champion of The Contender champion Brandon Adams was interviewed during Friday’s telecast to discuss his June 29 SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® showdown with undefeated Jermall Charlo, which was announced earlier on Friday.

“I’m a new face,” Adams told Hall of Famer Steve Farhood. “I’m in the top 10. I’m in the discussion and I think that’s enough to shake everything up. The guy that comes out to nowhere is a great story for boxing.

“I hope I get the best Charlo because I’m bringing the best ‘Cannon.’ I’m very fan friendly and I definitely go for the

kill. When I get in the ring I like to entertain myself. I'm very much looking forward to fighting Charlo. It's going to be exciting."

Friday's fights were promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing. The full telecast will replay on Monday, May 12 at 10 p.m. ET/PT on SHOWTIME EXTREME and will be available on SHOWTIME ANYTIME® and SHOWTIME on DEMAND®.

Barry Tompkins called the action from ringside with boxing historian Steve Farhood and former world champion Raul Marquez serving as expert analysts. The executive producer was Gordon Hall with Richard Gaughan producing and Chuck McKean directing.

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