

Ruben Villa Returns to Action Aug. 24 from Omega Products in Corona, CA

Philadelphia, Penn.. Orange, Ca. (Aug. 14, 2018) – Ruben Villa (12-0, 5 KOs), one of the rising talents in the featherweight division, takes to the ring for the fourth time this year on Friday, Aug. 24 from Omega Products International in Corona, Calif.

The southpaw from Salinas, Calif. battles well tested veteran Jose Santos Gonzalez (23-6, 13 KOs) of Mexico in the “Locked n’ Loaded” 8-round main event.

Villa, 21, has fought veterans before, specifically Ernesto Guerrero and German Meraz. The seasoned Gonzalez poses a threat in the sense that he’s been in the ring against current bantamweight title holder Zolani Tete, and unbeaten contender Duke Micah.

“These are the types of fights that help you grow into a better fighter,” said Villa, who is managed by Danny Zamora. “We have a smart game plan in place. I’m naturally bigger than him so we’ll use that to our advantage.”

Villa, a two-time national Golden Gloves champion, is coming off an impressive sixth round knockout of Ricardo Lopez in June. The talented featherweight showed off his finishing ability by out boxing Lopez until the knockout moment presented itself.

“I was landing solid punches in every round,” remarked Villa after the fight. “I knew I would be able to take him out. I wore him down and in the sixth, I just let me hands go and I caught him with a lot of heavy punches.”

Villa is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing.

All fights will be live streamed on TB Presents: Locked n' Loaded via Thompson Boxing Facebook page and ThompsonBoxing.com.

The livestream starts at 8:00 p.m. PT / 11:00 p.m. ET with Beto Duran as the blow-by-blow announcer and Steve Kim providing expert, color commentary.

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Photo by Carlos Baeza / Thompson Boxing

Ruben Villa 125.5 lbs – Ricardo Lopez 125.6 lbs

PHILADELPHIA, Penn. / ORANGE, Calif. (June 30, 2018) – Unbeaten featherweight standout Ruben Villa (11-0, 4 KOs) of Salinas, Calif weighed in at 125.5 pounds as he takes on Mexico's Ricardo Lopez (7-2-2, 6 KOs), who checked in at 125.6 pounds for their 8-round fight that will take place tonight from Omega Products International in Sacramento, California.

Villa is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing.

Tickets for "New Blood" are priced at \$40, \$60, & \$100, 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 and ThompsonBoxing.com.

The livestream starts at 7:45 p.m. PT / 10:45 p.m. ET with Beto Duran as the blow-by-blow announcer and Steve Kim providing expert, color commentary.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. local time with the first bout at approximately 7:45 p.m. Omega Products is located at 8111 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95826, and can be reached at 916-635-3335.

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Photos by Carlos Baeza / Thompson Boxing

Ruben Villa Defends WB0 Youth Title Saturday from Sacramento, CA

PHILADELPHIA, Penn. / ORANGE, Calif. (June 26, 2018) – Unbeaten featherweight standout Ruben Villa (11-0, 4 KOs) of Salinas, Calif stars in the main event this Saturday when he takes on Mexico's Ricardo Lopez (7-2-2, 6 KOs) in an 8-round fight that will mark his third start of the year.

The bout will take place this Saturday, June 30, from Omega Products International in Sacramento.

The slick southpaw defends his WB0 Youth title that he won in April in his hometown. Villa thoroughly outpointed Marlon Olea for his first championship as a professional.

"I'm anxious to get back in the ring," said Villa, who is

managed by Danny Zamora. "I like being active. I'm defending my title for the first time. I'll have a lot of fans in attendance so I'm ready to put on a great show."

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Photos by Carlos Baeza / Thompson Boxing

Ruben Villa Speaks to Troubled Kids at Monterey

County Youth Center

PHILADELPHIA, Penn. / ORANGE, Calif. (April 25, 2018) – One week after winning his first professional title (WBO Youth) in his hometown of Salinas, Calif., prized featherweight prospect Ruben Villa paid a visit to the Monterey County Youth Center where he spoke to at risk adolescents.

“There were a lot of young kids, kids that are still in high school that never really got the guidance that you would want them to have,” said Villa, who sports an undefeated record of 11-0, 4 KOs. “My message was simple. You can still better your life, but you have to find the motivation that’s going to make you want to change.”

Villa, 21, was fortunate to have found the sweet science at an early age. He started boxing the same year he entered kindergarten. Many youth in Monterey County and the greater Salinas area get involved with gangs at a young age and enter a path of criminal behavior that almost always ends in incarceration.

“I just tried telling them my story how boxing kept me focus and out of trouble,” Villa said. “At the end of the day, you need to do right by your community. I think these kids want to change and make their family proud, but they need reinforcement and help.”

Although young himself, Villa has developed a reputation for caring deeply for the area he grew up in. The southpaw is always looking for ways to help.

“It’s just one of the qualities that I saw in Ruben when I signed him,” said manager Danny Zamora. “He is very humble and makes me very proud that he is such a positive role model to the community of Salinas. I am glad that he is giving back to the kids that need it the most.”

The Monterey County Youth Center is a residential facility and aftercare program offering educational and rehabilitation opportunities for juvenile court wards.

Villa is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing.

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

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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.

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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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Undefeated Ruben Villa Makes Homecoming Debut in Salinas, California on Saturday April 14th

PHILADELPHIA, PENN./ORANGE, Calif. (March 23, 2018)–Heralded featherweight prospect Ruben Villa returns home for the 1st time as a professional as he headlines in the Northern California city of Salinas on Saturday, April 14, from the popular Salinas Storm House.

The show is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing.

“Ruben has been coming along great, and on April 14th, he will thrill his hometown fans,” said Banner Promotions President, Arthur Pelullo. “We are looking forward to this special night for Ruben, for him not only to put on a great performance in his hometown, but to capture his first championship.”

"This show has been in the works for more than a year," said Alex Camponovo, who as Matchmaker and General Manager of Thompson Boxing. "It's an excellent show from top-to-bottom featuring talent from all over the Bay Area and surrounding parts. You have Ruben looking to win his first professional title [WBO Youth] in his hometown."

Villa, 20, will be locked in a battle with fellow prospect Marlon Olea (13-2, 12 KOs) of Colombia in the 8-round "New Blood" main event where the WBO Youth Featherweight Title is up for grabs. Villa, a southpaw, is currently in Riverside, Calif. with trainer Max Garcia preparing for his main event debut.

"I'm excited to headline my first event," said Villa, who is co-promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing. "I've been preparing for this my whole life. It came fast. There's a lot to be happy about. It's a title fight, and it will be in front of my hometown fans."

Villa will certainly receive a challenge from Olea. He holds a unanimous decision loss against WBA World Champion Danny Roman and is known as a pressure fighter with excellent instincts.

"He's a mover, and he's quick with his hands," Villa said. "I'll be ready for him. We are getting a little bit of everything in this training camp. I'm sparring guys that like to box and guys that are coming in and pressuring."

New to Villa for this fight has been the abundance of ticket requests from local boxing fans. The former two-time Golden Gloves Champion has already sold 400 tickets, yet the requests keep pouring in.

"To be honest, I'm not sure how it's going to feel to fight in my hometown," Villa said. "I tend to tune out all the white noise and just box. I'm sure there will be some moments when I recognize the crowd. I have to enjoy it, but keep my poise."

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Heralded Prospect Ruben Villa Remains Undefeated with Unanimous Decision this Past Friday Night in Ontario, California

PHILADELPHIA, PENN./ORANGE, Calif. (Feb. 19, 2017)- Heralded prospect Ruben Villa (10-0, 4 KOs) of Salinas, Calif. made it ten straight wins to start his career by outpointing veteran Juan Sandoval (15-18, 5 KOs) of Mexico. Scores: 59-55, 60-54 twice.

The bout was the co-feature this past Friday night at the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario, California.

Villa, 20, capitalized on his southpaw stance by landing a strong jab and countering with a right hook that routinely found its mark. Sandoval often looked confused and never managed to find any angles against the busier Villa.

"I just tried to keep the pressure on him from start to finish," said Villa, who is co-promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing. "I think he fought a cautious fight, but I was still able to land a lot of punches in every round."

Villa was most impressive in the fourth and fifth rounds when he delivered numerous sets of combinations that stunned the taller Sandoval. While Villa kept his unbeaten streak alive on Friday night, another, less recognizable streak ended. In his previous unanimous decision wins, Villa had won every round on every scorecard. On Friday night, one judge failed to give Villa all six rounds (59-55).

"That streak was bound to end sooner or later," Villa said. "I'll have to start another one."

"Once again Ruben had a terrific outing on Friday night," said Banner Promotions President, Artie Pelullo.

"Ruben continues his progression and development, and we are extremely pleased at where he is at. 2018 is going to be a big year for Ruben, as we will see him fight for some regional titles in the next 12-18 months."

"Ruben looked impressive yet again against a veteran opponent," said Ken Thompson, president of Thompson Boxing. "Ruben is developing and maturing quicker than we anticipated. He'll be back in the ring very soon."

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