

# Ruslan Provodnikov vs. John Molina Jr. PLUS Demetrius Andrade takes on Willie Nelson on Classic Fights on fubo Sports Network

January 13, 2021–TONIGHT!!! A terrific doubleheader featuring some of the biggest names in boxing will be streamed on fubo Sports Network.

In the main event, two of the sport's most exciting fighters squared off in a junior welterweight thriller, as former world champion Ruslan Provodnikov (25-4, 18 KOs) battled John Molina Jr. (28-6, 23 KOs) in a 12-round clash.

It was the final bout of Provodnikov's electrifying career, made more memorable by the fantastic show he and Molina put on for the nearly sold-out crowd at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, New York.

The card, which took place on June 11, 2016, also featured former WBO junior middleweight world champion Demetrius Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs) against the capable Willie Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) in what was a very entertaining bout with a spectacular ending.

The action begins at 8 PM ET.

About fubo Sports Network

Available on 75 million devices, fubo Sports Network is the live, free-to-consumer TV network featuring sports stories on and off the field. Launched by live TV streaming platform fuboTV (NYSE: FUBO) in September 2019, fubo Sports Network airs live sports, award-winning original programming and

partner content from CampusLore, FanDuel, Stadium, The Players Tribune, USA TODAY and VSiN, among others. Stream for free on LG Channels, News on Tubi, Plex, Samsung TV Plus, The Roku Channel, Vizio Channels and XUMO or as part of fuboTV's base subscription package of 100+ sports, news and entertainment channels.

For regular updates on our fighters, events, and promotions, please like the Banner Promotions Facebook Page, and follow us on Instagram and Twitter @BannerBoxing

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## **Video: Provodnikov – Molina post fight press conference**

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**JOHN MOLINA OUTPOINTS RUSLAN  
PROVODNIKOV; DEMETRIUS  
ANDRADE DELIVERS STATEMENT KO  
VICTORY AND DEJAN ZLATICANIN  
WINS 135-POUND TITLE SATURDAY  
ON SHOWTIME®**

VERONA, N.Y. (June 11, 2016) – John Molina outpunched Ruslan Provodnikov in an all-action fight by revealing a new weapon

in his arsenal, a sharp and steady jab. Molina captured a surprising unanimous decision in a 12-round junior welterweight bout that featured fierce exchanges throughout Saturday on SHOWTIME from Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, N.Y.

In the co-feature on SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING, Demetrius Andrade delivered a statement, knockout victory over Willie Nelson, staking his claim as one of the world's best in the stacked 154-pound division. In the opening bout, Dejan Zlaticanin knocked out Franklin Mamani to earn the vacant 135-pound world title and make history as the first native of Montenegro to win a world championship.

Molina and Provodnikov promised a war, and they delivered. But what surprised many was the volume of punches and effective jabbing from Molina (29-6, 23 KOs), a veteran more known for engaging in brawls than his boxing prowess. Molina threw nearly 1,110 total punches, including 643 jabs compared to just 265 for Provodnikov, who failed to close the range on his naturally bigger opponent.

"We knew we had to outwork Provodnikov," said the 33-year-old Covina, Calif., native. "It was a fight that we needed. Ruslan Provodnikov is a very notable name. He's a tough, tough guy. He kept moving forward.

"People don't realize I had my amateur career in the pros, and now it's my time to step out and shine. I have a new trainer. Shadeed (Suluki) showed me how to throw punches and use my power."

Molina vs. Provodnikov was scored 116-112, 117-111, 115-113.

"I think it (the scorecard) was self-explanatory. A fighter knows when they won a fight. I won that fight and it was going to be hard to take it away from me."

The judges agreed on nine of the 12 rounds, a relatively high

percentage according to SHOWTIME analyst Steve Farhood.

"Today the decision was the right one," Provnikov said. "Molina won the fight – he was better tonight. Everything was scored the way it should have been.

"We expected that he was going to box, he was going to move. We expected him to do that. It wasn't my night. Maybe I don't have the same hungriness as before. I'm not going to make excuses, but it was hard for me to find my groove tonight.

"I don't think it's that (the layoff). There are no excuses. I lost the fight tonight. I couldn't find the hungriness. I have to sit down and think of why that happened.

"I'm sorry if I disappointed."

Undefeated former world champion Demetrius Andrade put on a masterful performance against top-10 ranked Willie Nelson, flooring the former world title challenger four times including once in the opening round and emphatically in the final round to close the show (TKO 12, 1:38).

With the win, Nelson, who landed a staggering 57 percent of his power punches in just his second fight in two years, moved one step closer to earning another shot at a title fight. Andrade, who never lost his belt in the ring, is now the second mandatory challenger for the WBC Super Welterweight World Title, currently held by Jermell Charlo.

"I'm coming to get those belts," said the 28-year-old Andrade. "People can't run no more. The best have to fight the best. I'm coming for them.

"I came back, I'm stronger. Me and my team worked hard. We figured out what we need to do to take it to the next level. I'm ready for the Charlo brothers. I want them."

Andrade was on his way to pitching a shutout, delivering a statement performance after months of frustration from "boxing

politics.” The former WBO 154-pound champion targeted the head and the body of Nelson, relying on a steady diet of combos to floor the 6-foot-3 Nelson in the first, 11th and twice in the 12th.

“I’m young enough and my reaction time is still going,” Andrade said. “Willie Nelson is a true champion. He pushed me to the limit where I had to figure out what punches to throw. But I put the pieces of the puzzle together and got the knockout, baby.

Nelson, of Cleveland, dropped to 25-3-1 with 15 KOs.

“He was tough,” Nelson said. “I was forcing my shots too much. I felt like I was getting back into the fight, but he was crafty and mobile.

“I am ready for whatever is next and, despite what happened tonight, I am here to stay. My career won’t end like this.”

In the opening bout of the SHOWTIME telecast, Zlaticanin blasted late-replacement Mamani with a third round TKO (:54) to win the vacant WBC Lightweight World Championship.

The 32-year-old Zlaticanin (18-0, 10 KOs) became the first native of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro to capture a world championship.

“I’m very proud. I made Montenegro proud,” Zlaticanin said. “I want to thank my fans that came to support me. I think I made my country proud. I think they will be delighted. I don’t think they know what this means, but in a few days they will know.”

The southpaw Zlaticanin pounced with a powerful straight left that had Mamani in trouble just seconds into the fight. The Bolivian, who was also aiming to become the first native of his homeland to win a title, survived the round but he was in trouble again in the third. Zlaticanin staggered with an

overhand left and followed with a series of unanswered blows that forced referee Charlie Fitch to halt the contest with Mamani (21-3-1, 12 KOs) defenseless against the ropes.

"I knew that I would knock him out. He stood too close to me.

After the fight, Zlaticanin called out Jorge Linares, the WBC Lightweight "Champion in Recess", who pulled out of a tentatively scheduled match with Zlaticanin due to an injury.

"I want Linares next. He can't run from me anymore.

In undercard action on SHO EXTREME, Willie Monroe Jr. (20-2, 6 KOs) won a unanimous decision (96-92, 95-93, 99-89) over John Thompson (17-2, 6 KOs) in a 10-round middleweight matchup of former world title challengers. Monroe scored two knockdowns, one in the second and another with a straight right jab in the fifth.

In the opening bout on SHOWTIME BOXING on SHO EXTREME, Russian heavyweight Andrey Fedosov (29-3, 24 KOs) scored four knockdowns en route to a sixth round TKO (1:33) of Mario Heredia (11-2, 9 KOs, 1-2 in WSB).

Saturday's event from Turning Stone Resort Casino was promoted by Banner Promotions and DiBella Entertainment.

Saturday's SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING tripleheader replays Monday, June 13 at 10 p.m. ET/PT on SHOWTIME EXTREME. The SHOWTIME BOXING on SHO EXTREME telecast replays Tuesday, June 14 at 10 p.m. ET/PT on SHO EXTREME.

Brian Custer hosted the SHOWTIME telecast, with Mauro Ranallo calling the action, Hall of Fame analyst Al Bernstein and former two-time world champion Paulie Malignaggi commentating and Jim Gray reporting. Barry Tompkins and Steve Farhood called the SHOWTIME EXTREME action. In the Spanish simulcast, Alejandro Luna called the blow-by-blow and former world champion Raul Marquez served as color commentator. The

executive producer of SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING was David Dinkins Jr. with Bob Dunphy directing.

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For Turning Stone Resort Casino: [www.turningstone.com](http://www.turningstone.com) ;  
Twitter: @turningstone ; Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/TurningStoneResort/>

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## **Video: Provodnikov – Molina weigh in show**

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## **Weights from Verona, NY**

Ruslan Provodnikov 140 – John Molina Jr 140  
(WBO International Junior Welterweight Title)

Demetrius Andrade 154 – Willie Nelson 154

(WBC Super Welterweight Eliminator)

Dejan Zalticanin 134 – Franklin Mamani 133.5

(WBC Lightweight Title)

#### SHOWTIME EXTREME® BOUTS

Willie Monroe Jr. 160 – John Thompson 159

Andrey Fedosov 225.5 – Mario Heredia 286

Oscar Sarmiento 146 – Jose Miguel De La Rosa 144.5

Miguel Trejo 152.5 – La'Torrie Woodberry 148.5

Stivins Bujaj 200 – Sergio Ramirez 198.25

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions, Inc., are priced at \$85, \$60, \$45 and \$35 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Turning Stone Box Office, by calling 877.833.SHOW, or online at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com))

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

5 p.m. Doors Open

6 p.m. First Fight Begins

7 p.m. SHOWTIME EXTREME® Telecast Begins

9 p.m. SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® Telecast Begins

Media Credentials: Please pick up media credentials between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. in the Cypress Room. Valid ID required.

Post-Fight Press Conference will take place immediately after the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast concludes in the Cypress Room.

#### About Provodnikov – Molina

On Saturday, June 11, Ruslan Provodnikov (25-4, 18 KOs), a former WBO Junior Welterweight World Champion, and former world title challenger John Molina Jr. (28-6, 23 KOs), of West Covina, Calif., will face each other in the 12-round main



event. In the co-feature, undefeated former 154-pound world champion and 2008 U.S. Olympian Demetrius Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs), of Providence, R.I., will face Willie Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) of Cleveland, Ohio, in a 12-round WBC Super Welterweight Title Eliminator.

Opening the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® tripleheader is a battle for the vacant WBC Lightweight World Championship between No. 1 ranked Dejan Zlatikanin (17-0, 10 KOs), of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro, and WBC No.-ranked

Also on June 11, former world title challengers, Willie Monroe Jr, (19-2-0, 6 KOs), and John Thompson, (17-2-0, 6 KOs,) will meet in a 10-round middleweight bout in the main event on SHOWTIME EXTREME® (7 p.m. ET/PT). In the SHOWTIME BOXING on SH0 EXTREME® opener, heavyweight Andrey Fedosov (28-3, 23 KOs) takes on Mario Heredia (11-1, 9 KOs, 1-2 in WSB) in a 10-round heavyweight bout.

Turning Stone Resort Casino is no stranger to hosting high caliber nationally televised boxing events. Last year, Turning Stone hosted the epic battle between Provodnikov and Matthysee, selected over arenas in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Miami. When Provodnikov returns to Turning Stone on June 11th, it will mark Turning Stone's 18th nationally-televised boxing event, cementing the resort as a mecca for knockout fights. Located in Upstate New York, Turning Stone is an award-winning destination resort, offering world-class amenities including four hotels, 21 restaurants and dining options, two luxurious spas, five beautiful golf courses, and several bars, cocktail lounges and nightlife venues.

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Twitter: @turningstone ; Facebook:  
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## **RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV & JOHN MOLINA JR., DEMETRIUS ANDRADE & WILLIE NELSON, DEJAN ZLATICANIN & FRANKLIN MAMANI FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES & PHOTOS**

VERONA, N.Y. (June 9, 2016) – The six fighters, including main eventers Ruslan “The Siberian Rocky” Provodnikov and John “The Gladiator” Molina, who will compete on this Saturday’s SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® tripleheader live on SHOWTIME® (9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT), participated in the final press conference Thursday at Turning Stone Resort Casino here.

Russia’s Provodnikov (25-4, 18 KOs) and Molina (28-6, 23 KOs) of Covina, Calif., clash in an eagerly awaited matchup in the main event. Provodnikov, a former WBO Junior Welterweight World Champion, was involved in the Fight of the Year in 2013

with Tim Bradley; former world title challenger Molina was in the 2014 Fight of The Year with Lucas Matthyse.

A can't-miss co-feature at Turning Stone Casino will match unbeaten former 154-pound world champion and 2008 U.S. Olympian Demetrius Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs), of Providence, R.I., against Willie Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) of Cleveland, Ohio, in a 12-round WBC Super Welterweight Title Elimination bout. The telecast will begin with a 12-rounder for the vacant WBC lightweight world championship between undefeated No. 1 ranked Dejan Zlatikanin (17-0, 10 KOs), of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro, and Franklin Mamani (21-2-1, 12 KOs) of Bolivia.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions, Inc., are priced at \$85, \$60, \$45 and \$35 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Turning Stone Box Office, by calling 877.833.SHOW, or online at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)).

Also this Saturday, from Turning Stone, former world title challengers Willie Monroe Jr. (19-2, 6 KOs, of Rochester, N.Y. and John Thompson (17-2, 6 KOs), of Newark, N.J., clash in a 10-round middleweight bout in the main event on SHOWTIME EXTREME (7 p.m. ET/PT). In the SHO EXTREME opener, heavyweight Andrey Fedosov (28-3, 23 KOs), of Hollywood, Calif., meets Mexico's Mario Heredia (11-1, 9 KOs, 1-2 in WSB) in a 10-round heavyweight bout.

Below is what the fighters said Thursday:

RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

(On training camp) ...

"This camp went very well. Everything went great. Now I'm just waiting for Saturday."

(His thoughts on Molina) ...

"I have a lot of respect for Molina and his team. He's a great fighter. These are the types of opponents I like. Most of the fights I've had are fights like this, opponents like this. This actually motivates me. I don't have a problem with getting into a fight like this. This is what I'm looking for. This is the type of fight I expect."

(On his determination and will to win) ...

"Words are not so much associated with explaining this because anybody can talk and anybody can say words. I think the fans or the people have to see how my fights have been and the way that I've fought those fights. For me to say right now that I'm going to 'die in the ring', they're words right now. The fight will show, then the fans will have an understanding in their mind of was I just saying that or is that really the way it is. The actions show, not the words."

(On how he sees the fight playing out) ...

"It's very hard to predict and I usually don't make predictions. I never make predictions for my fights. Let's just wait on June 11 and see."

(Final thoughts) ...

"I want to take this moment to thank everybody that has to do with this fight. All the people that made this happen."

JOHN MOLINA JR.

(Thoughts and reflections on Muhammad Ali) ...

"The world lost a great human being, not only inside the ring but outside the ring. A champion is the best way to describe him. The greatest of all time. An innovator. Somebody that changes the world in and out. My heart goes out to his family."

(On whether he's the underdog or this is a 50-50 fight?) ...

"In the grand scheme of things, the boxer – experts if you

will – I don't know how many times they've been in the ring but for what they do in boxing, they seem to have him as the favorite but rightfully so. In a sense because of the personality and persona that he's portrayed in past times. I don't think too much about the hype. We've prepped for war on Saturday night. We would be doing ourselves a disservice if we didn't prepare right for someone like Ruslan. He's a hell of a fighter, a hell of a competitor and we were both in a Fight of the Year. What people don't realize is we were both in Fight of the Year on the losing side and now we're going to be in a Fight of the Year, but both of us going for the winning side. I think the fans are going to be pleasantly surprised. I'm ready. The stage is set to showcase my capabilities Saturday night."

(On how you prepare for a fighter like Provodnikov) ...

"Just like you prepare for a fighter like everybody I've faced. Whether it be someone like Matthysse. Whether it be other fighters, I don't want to go into names because right now my undivided attention is on Ruslan Provodnikov but the preparation is like that of any other man. I hate comparing the guy's style to other people because again, the whole disservice you'd be doing is to yourself. You can study their style and get used to their mannerisms and what they portray in the ring and you can prepare yourself. With that being said, June 11 will be the first time I ever face Ruslan Provodnikov so what I do to prepare myself is work on my strong points and make sure those are up to par and make sure my energy is set and ready to fire on all cylinders Saturday night and I can tell you that they are set right."

(On what fans should expect) ...

"Fireworks. Like I said, every word that we use in the thesaurus is an understatement. Boxing is a 'what have you done for me lately' sport and Saturday night is no different. I believe in my heart of hearts the fans are going to get a treat with Ruslan Provodnikov coming forward, not wanting to

take a backward step with myself coming forward not wanting to take a backward step. We're both going to try and go in there and pose our will on each other and you're not going to see a boring fight. It won't be Dancing With The Stars, it's going to be a fight."

DEMETRIUS ANDRADE

(On his opponent and his quality of opposition) ...

"Tony Harrison is definitely not Demetrius Andrade. Yes, he's probably a prospect and doing good things but everybody sounds good, everybody's a prospect until you get in there with somebody that knows how to fight. They can try to bring the will out of you and that's what Willie did is bring the will out of himself to beat somebody like Tony Harrison, but Tony Harrison's definitely not me.

"Willie Nelson, yeah he's tall, they say he's strong but I'm all that too. My IQ is greater, smarter and this is my time. This is it. This is something that either makes or breaks me. It's a good challenge so the people get to see that, due to the layoff and everything. I came back to fight a guy like this and I came back to win the 154 division.

"I came here, chewing bubble gum and kicking ass. I ran out of bubble gum so come June 11, I will be kicking some ass. I am happy that SHOWTIME gave me this opportunity and put me back on the network, put me back on prime TV.

"There's definitely going to be violence to open up the main event show with Provodnikov and John Molina, which is going to be a tremendous fight. Thanks for everybody coming out ... and I am the greatest alive."

(On the division and possible future opponents) ...

"I think that I'm going to make history by beating two twins that hold title belts and it's going to be a legendary thing

for me. So, I'm tuned in, I'm ready and I'm focused. This is my division, it's my war."

(On what he sees playing out on fight night) ...

"I'm just going in and do my thing, you know, I'm the type of person with character. I've been in the ring for many years through the amateur program and fought 300-400 times, against everybody in the whole world. So, there's not nothing I haven't seen or fought. A tall guy like Willie Nelson with no legs or upper body, I'm going to push him to the limit. That's pretty much the plan. I'm going in and its knockout season for me."

WILLIE NELSON

(On fans not expecting him to win) ...

"It's what happens all the time. I'm always the underdog. It's OK and I try not to worry about it much.

"I'm not one to predict the fights; about what can and can't happen, but it's going to be an interesting fight. We know each other's background and we have sparred before at the U.S. Training Camp."

(On Muhammad Ali)...

"It hasn't really affected my mindset in terms of this fight. With the passing of Muhammad Ali it's very sad for boxing, and for the world. Because he wasn't only a great fighter but also a great icon, a great man and a great leader."

DEJAN ZLATICANIN

(On what fighting for a world title means to him) ...

"I've prepared for this hard fight for a long time because they changed opponents and it's hard to be prepared for that. But I have waited for this opportunity for a long time. This

is the most important fight of my life, and I am going to win this fight.”

(His prediction) ...

“I don’t like to talk too much. I will talk in the ring and I promise I will knock out Franklin Mamani.”

FRANKLIN MAMANI

(On this opportunity)...

“This is the chance of a lifetime, I feel like I have the winning lotto ticket and I just need to cash it in Saturday night. I come from a boxing family of 9 brothers, I have been in boxing since I was 12 years old and I always dreamed of fighting for a world title in the United States. My country (Bolivia) and my family will be watching and I will not disappoint them.”

(On his opponent)...

Zlatikanin is an aggressive, strong and talented fighter. It will be an honor to trade leather with him inside the ring and be able to win the WBC lightweight championship of the world against the number one contender in my division.”

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

5 p.m. OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN

Location: Turning Stone Convention Center

Rooms: Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga and Tuscarora

5218 Patrick Rd, Verona, N.Y. 13478

4 p.m.- Fighter check-in

5 p.m.- Fighters On-scales

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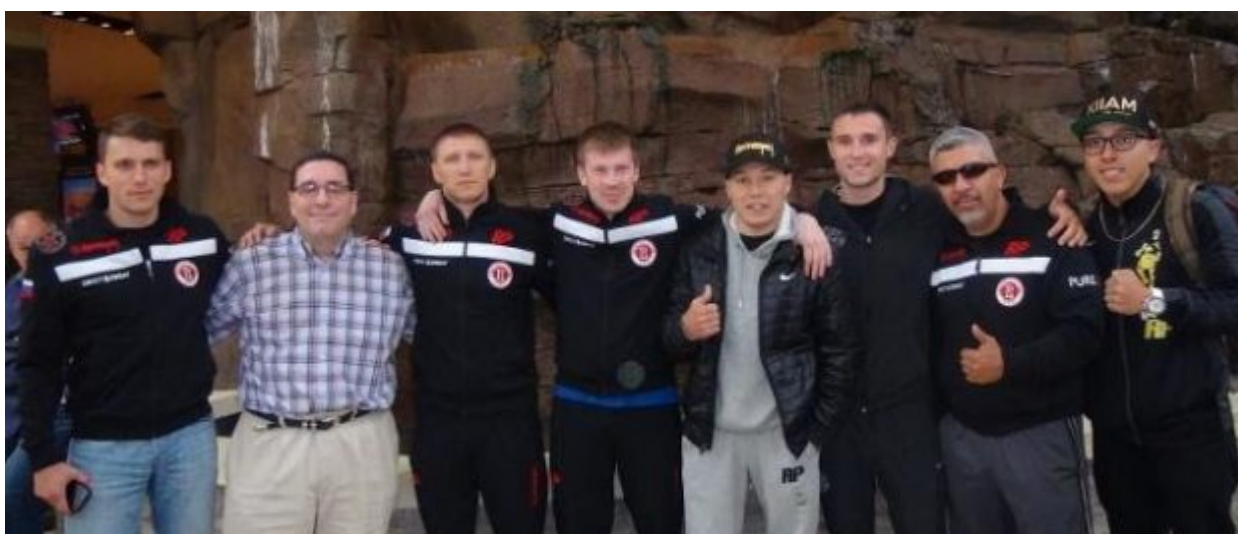
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## Provodnikov – Molina arrival photos

VERONA, N.Y. (June 9, 2016) – Yesterday, former WBO junior welterweight world champion Ruslan Provodnikov and John Molina Jr. arrived at the Turning Stone Resort Casino here for their SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® 12-round main event this Saturday, June 11, live on SHOWTIME® (9 pm. ET/6 p.m. PT).

Provodnikov and Molina arrived with their teams and both

looked in great shape for their much-anticipated bout





Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions, Inc., are priced at \$85, \$60, \$45 and \$35 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Turning Stone Box Office, by calling 877.833.SHOW, or online at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)).

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5218 Patrick Rd, Verona, N.Y. 13478

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5 p.m. Doors Open

6 p.m. First Fight Begins

7 p.m. SHOWTIME EXTREME® Telecast Begins

9 p.m. SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® Telecast Begins

Media Credentials: Please pick up media credentials between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. in the Cypress Room. Valid ID required.

Post-Fight Press Conference will take place immediately after the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast concludes in the Cypress Room.

About Provodnikov – Molina

On Saturday, June 11, Ruslan Provodnikov (25-4, 18 KOs), a former WBO Junior Welterweight World Champion, and former world title challenger John Molina Jr. (28-6, 23 KOs), of West Covina, Calif., will face each other in the 12-round main event. In the co-feature, undefeated former 154-pound world champion and 2008 U.S. Olympian Demetrius Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs), of Providence, R.I., will face Willie Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) of Cleveland, Ohio, in a 12-round WBC Super Welterweight Title Eliminator.

Opening the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® tripleheader is a battle for the vacant WBC Lightweight World Championship between No. 1 ranked Dejan Zlatikanin (17-0, 10 KOs), of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro, and WBC No.-ranked

Also on June 11, former world title challengers, Willie Monroe Jr, (19-2-0, 6 KOs), and John Thompson, (17-2-0, 6 KOs,) will meet in a 10-round middleweight bout in the main event on SHOWTIME EXTREME® (7 p.m. ET/PT). In the SHOWTIME BOXING on SH0 EXTREME® opener, heavyweight Andrey Fedosov (28-3, 23 KOs) takes on Mario Heredia (11-1, 9 KOs, 1-2 in WSB) in a 10-round heavyweight bout.

Turning Stone Resort Casino is no stranger to hosting high caliber nationally televised boxing events. Last year, Turning Stone hosted the epic battle between Provodnikov and

Matthysee, selected over arenas in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Miami. When Provodnikov returns to Turning Stone on June 11th, it will mark Turning Stone's 18th nationally-televised boxing event, cementing the resort as a mecca for knockout fights. Located in Upstate New York, Turning Stone is an award-winning destination resort, offering world-class amenities including four hotels, 21 restaurants and dining options, two luxurious spas, five beautiful golf courses, and several bars, cocktail lounges and nightlife venues.

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**RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV vs. JOHN  
MOLINA JR., DEMETRIUS ANDRADE  
vs. WILLIE NELSON MEDIA**

# CONFERENCE CALL HIGHLIGHTS

NEW YORK (June 2, 2016) – Ruslan “The Siberian Rocky” Provodnikov and John “The Gladiator” Molina Jr., along with Demetrius “Boo Boo” Andrade and Willie “The Great” Nelson, hosted an International Media Conference Call on Tuesday in advance of their highly anticipated battles as part of a SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® tripleheader live on SHOWTIME® (9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT) from the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, N.Y.

Also taking part was Arthur Pelullo, President of Banner Promotions, and SHOWTIME Sports Executive Vice President and General Manager Stephen Espinoza.

Provodnikov (25-4, 18 KOs), a former WBO Junior Welterweight World Champion, and former world title challenger Molina (28-6, 23 KOs), of West Covina, Calif., will face each other in the 12-round main event. In the co-feature, undefeated former 154-pound world champion and 2008 U.S. Olympian Demetrius Andrade (22-0, 15 KOs), of Providence, R.I., will face Willie Nelson (25-2-1, 15 KOs) of Cleveland, Ohio, in a 12-round WBC Super Welterweight Title Eliminator.

Opening the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING tripleheader is a battle for the vacant WBC Lightweight World Championship between No. 1 ranked Dejan Zlatikanin (17-0, 10 KOs), of the Southeastern European country of Montenegro, against WBC No. 5 ranked contender Franklin Mamani (21-2-1, 12 KOs) of La Paz, Bolivia.

Also on June 11, former world title challengers, Willie Monroe Jr, (19-2-0, 6 KOs), and John Thompson, (17-2-0, 6 KOs,) will meet in a 10-round middleweight bout in the main event on SHOWTIME EXTREME® (7 p.m. ET/PT). In the SHOWTIME BOXING on SHO EXTREME® opener, heavyweight Andrey Fedosov (28-3, 23 KOs) takes on Mario Heredia (11-1, 9 KOs, 1-2 in WSB) in a 10-round



heavyweight bout.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Banner Promotions, Inc., are priced at \$85, \$60, \$45 and \$35 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Turning Stone Box Office, by calling 877.833.SHOW, or online at Ticketmaster ([www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)).

Below is what the boxers said Tuesday on the conference call:

RUSLAN "THE SIBERIAN ROCKY" PROVODNIKOV

"I will try to not disappoint anyone and try to bring my best on June 11. I don't like to make any predictions. Boxing is very unpredictable; anything can happen on June 11. We've got a little bit to wait until fight night and for me it's just important to win the fight.

"I am very thankful for everyone who has made this fight happen. I am pleased with the opponent that I have because John Molina is a tough fighter. It's going to be a tough fight and I am looking for it to be a battle. So everybody be ready because on June 11 it will be a great fight."

JOHN "THE GLADIATOR" MOLINA JR.

(On how he feels fighting someone who is going to force the fight like himself)

"For me, in a perfect world, I would have a guy right there to exchange with me but Ruslan and his team have been around the game a long time. They know that I'm a puncher. I anticipate Ruslan to do what he does best, which is sit there and fight but I also anticipate him also utilizing his boxing ability given his amateur pedigree and his experience in the pro game. We're prepared for any Ruslan whether he tries to get up and box or whether he sits there and bangs. We know he's a strong fighter. We know he's a strong puncher and we're prepared for that. Ruslan is going to be Ruslan and he's going to sit down and fight with me."



(On how he mentally prepares for fights)

"I have no other way. You look at my fights and the outcome, we have that fighter spirit in us. If we're being cordial, it's because we're professional. It's what we do for a living. If we take it outside of the ring that's very ignorant and not very mature. Believe me, I understand and know, and Ruslan understands and knows, that come June 11 all of the kindness goes out the window. After the fight we could be best of friends. But during the fight, I always use the example that he's trying to take something away from my family. So, it's very serious business inside that ring. Outside the ring, I don't want to waste energy or negative feelings toward anybody. This is what I do for a living. I have a competitive spirit, I don't even like to lose in checkers.

"I have had a very successful career in boxing and I'm looking forward to making an even better one come June 11. Every fight is serious, and remember, I've been playing this game since I was 24 years old and I only had 22 amateur fights so essentially my amateur career was in the pro game. Whether the fights I've had are a loss or a win, I've always gained experience and I have become a better fighter because of it. I'm just getting warmed up and the fight on June 11 is going to catapult me in the right direction."

DEMETRIUS "BOO BOO" ANDRADE

"The champ is in. The champ is in. I feel good. I'm grateful. I want to thank SHOWTIME for giving me the opportunity to showcase my skill and talent on this June 11 card, especially with the Hall of Fame going on. It is a big main event between Provodnikov and John Molina; two guys that are going to back up and give some good entertainment. In my eyes, Willie Nelson and Demetrius Andrade is the number one 154 fight that you don't want to miss leading up to fighting for a title shot for the WBC against a Charlo brother (Jermell)."

(On how it felt to be inactive for so long)

"I've been staying busy, staying focused knowing that there's

a bigger picture at the end of the day. All great legends and all Hall of Fame fighters have their story lines. My time is coming around. The tables are turning and people are going to have to step up and fight each other in one way or another. Sometimes, where you are in life is more conducive than your bank account. So, I'm not upset, or mad or frustrated with a thing that is going on and how everything played out.

"At this point, there is a lesson in everything that you go through in life and I learned my lesson through that point in time. Me trying to be frustrated and take it out on people, no, I took it out in the ring."

(Thoughts on Willie Nelson)

"I've seen him in the amateur program. I've seen him fight tough guys that are top guys today. I know he's bringing that experience. He's fought previous fighters that I've fought. I know I'm going up against a giant but I consider myself a giant as well and it's going to be a great matchup, a great fight for the 154 (division). I feel that it is one of the best fights in the 154 division that has ever been made.

"Not looking past Willie Nelson but me, my character, my hard work and my ethics, I'm looking to be the best and fight the best out there. I want to put out there and say congratulations to the Charlo twins on making history for being twin brothers to win (titles). But I'm going to make history by taking both of those titles and beating both of them.

(On what it was like to be stripped of a title)

"A belt doesn't identify me. That doesn't change anything about me, my fight style, who I am or anything like that. Nowadays you don't have to have a title to be king of the ring but this is an opportunity for me to get back in the likes of fighting with the WBC. Fighting on the SHOWTIME June 11 card is going to be good movement for me. As far as boxing, the days are coming back where the champ is fighting the best."

## WILLIE "THE GREAT" NELSON

"This is Willie Nelson, one of the top contenders for the 154-pound division. I'm excited for this fight. I think that both of us feel like this fight right here is going to be the shot that both of us have been looking for. I feel like this is my time right now. With me and Boo Boo's past history, unfortunately we have to come to this fight. We're pretty cool as friends but it's our time so we have to get in there and show the world what we're made of."

(On the reasoning behind the lengthy layoff)

"One of the reasons was because of the death of Steve Smith but also because it is hard getting fights. Nobody wants to fight a 6-foot, 4-inch junior middleweight that's actually coming to fight and that has decent pop. Besides that, look at my career. My career has been nothing but fights and layoffs. I've been pro since I was 19 years old and I only have 27 pro fights. That's just been my career: fights and layoffs I guess."

"Regardless of who I fight and where I'm fighting, I'm going to give it my all, always. It doesn't matter what place, what promoter, network or venue. I just perform to the best of my ability and look forward to doing what I do."

STEPHEN ESPINOZA, Executive Vice President and General Manager, SHOWTIME Sports

(On taking a fighter like Ruslan and what it is about him that attracted SHOWTIME)

"One thing that has characterized Ruslan throughout his career is that he is a fan favorite and that is consistent regardless of what the scorecards are at the end of the fight. As a network executive what we're looking for is entertaining programming, and fights that people want to see, fights that people talk about, and that is consistently what Ruslan has delivered throughout his career. He is one of those types of fighters who, like John [Molina Jr.] as well, that even if they have a handful of losses on their record, it really

doesn't matter because they are as entertaining and enjoyable to watch as anyone in the sport.

"We try to have a variety of fights; some with really skilled guys, some guys who are really big punchers, a variety of weight classes, a variety of different types of fighters. This is one where it's not about titles, not about anything but two guys who fight really hard and who give it their all. [It's about two guys] meeting in the ring to figure out who's the better boxer on that night.

"This is one way to add a different type of variety to the sport. Once we had the fight at the top of the card we tried to be consistent for the whole card down. If you look at guys like Demetrius and Willie, Dejan and even down to Willie Monroe Jr. and John Thompson, I think that characterizes this as what should be and all-action night."

(On Demetrius and Willie)

"I give all the credit to Demetrius and Willie for this fight. For Willie on stepping up to this challenge. We have one of the most avoided guys in the division in Demetrius, who's taking such a tough fight after a relatively long layoff and period of inactivity. It just shows what kind of guys these are and how they are anxious to step up to the next level of their careers."

ARTHUR PELULLO, President of Banner Promotions

"One thing led to another where we felt that there were more opportunities on SHOWTIME with all of the different fighters...There's more of an opportunity for Ruslan Provodnikov to show his skills and we were able to go down this road.

"John Molina is the toughest fight right now. This is the fight he has to get by but there is a real opportunity, whether he wins or loses. Both guys have a real opportunity on SHOWTIME because of the pool of talent there."

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caliber nationally televised boxing events. Last year, Turning Stone hosted the epic battle between Provodnikov and Matthysee, selected over arenas in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Miami. When Provodnikov returns to Turning Stone on June 11th, it will mark Turning Stone's 18th nationally-televised boxing event, cementing the resort as a mecca for knockout fights. Located in Upstate New York, Turning Stone is an award-winning destination resort, offering world-class amenities including four hotels, 21 restaurants and dining options, two luxurious spas, five beautiful golf courses, and several bars, cocktail lounges and nightlife venues.

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**Video: Ruslan Provodnikov  
media day workout, May 24,**

**2016**

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**Video: Ruslan Provodnikov  
media day interview**