

UNBEATEN TARAS SHELESTYUK WINDING DOWN TRAINING FOR HIS SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION MAIN EVENT DEBUT AGAINST JIMMY HERRERA THIS FRIDAY LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

NEW YORK (Oct. 31, 2016) – Promising unbeaten 2012 Olympic Games Bronze Medalist Taras “Real Deal” Shelestyuk (14-0, 9 KOs) will make his main event debut when he faces upset-minded Jimmy Herrera in the 10-round featured attraction of a ShoBox: The New Generation tripleheader this Friday, Nov. 4, live on SHOWTIME at 10:30 p.m. ET/PT (delayed on the West Coast) from Omega Products International Event Center in Corona, Calif.

A 5-foot-10 up-and-coming rising star, Shelestyuk, of Los Angeles, is ranked No. 9 by the WBO and No. 13 in the WBA. Shelestyuk, who is making his second ShoBox start, averaged 85 punches a round en route to winning his ShoBoxdebut with a 10-round division over Aslanbek Kozaev on Nov. 6, 2015.

The dedicated, hard-working Shelestyuk, who is trained by Eric Brown and spars a few days a week with former world champion Shane Mosley, at Wild Card West in Santa Monica, Calif., possesses solid skills, movement and punching power.

Shelestyuk was a member of a vaunted 2012 Ukrainian Olympic team that included featherweight gold medalist Vasyl Lomachenko and heavyweight gold medalist Oleksandr Usyk. The 30-year-old feels he’s still about a year away from competing against the best at 147 pounds and that he first must get by Herrera. But Mosley claims Shelestyuk reminds him of a bigger Lomachencko and believes he’s already ready for the top names

in the welterweight division.

Herrera (15-3-1, 8 KOs), of Chicago, Ill., has defeated unbeaten prospects in four of last nine fights and is 8-1-1 overall since July 2012.

Shelestyuk, Brown and Mosley spoke to SHOWTIME after a recent workout. Here's what they said:

TARAS SHELESTYUK:

What are your thoughts going into the fight?

"I'm very excited. It's been six months since my last fight. It's my first headline fight and hopefully not my last one.

"I've been putting in a lot of work in my training camp with my trainer Eric Brown, and with my physical conditioning coach. My opponent is a tough fighter. He's had some good fights with guys like Mike Jones, Egidijus Kavaliauskas and a couple of other big guys. He likes to fight and I think it will be a good fight and a good matchup for our styles."

You're now a ranked fighter; are you happy with the pace of your progression?

"I'm happy with my progression but of course I want to fight bigger names in championship fights and all of that. I know it's coming soon. I enjoy my way of training and developing my skills, but if you see your dream you do anything to reach it and don't let anything get in your way."

What do you think of the welterweight division?

"It's a very good division because there are a lot of fighters, but some don't want to fight each other (very often). There are some very good championship fights to be made and hopefully I will be one of them."

Why did you chose to move to Southern California?

"Well, [laughs] mainly because of the great weather, but this is also a good area with a lot of good fighters and a lot of good trainers as well. When I first moved here my manager

invited me out and showed me around and I got in the gym right away. I was training with Ruslan Provodnikov and got some sparring in with him before a fight that he had and next thing you know, two weeks later I had my pro debut and now three-and-a-half years later here I am."

Is there pressure on you when you fight?

"I wouldn't say I feel pressure because everyone around me is supporting me, they believe in me and I believe in them. My team believes in me and I trust them. I just want to do what I do in the ring, better. I want to do better for me, for my family and for my friends."

Do you follow your Olympic teammates?

"I watch fights of the Ukrainian Olympic Team, and I enjoy when the other guys win. We support each other and we call each other. It is good for there to be more Ukraine fighters who are champions now. Next year, I hope to be one of them."

How did it feel going 10 rounds for the first time?

"Last year in November I had my first 10-round fight on ShoBox, I fought with a strong guy and he gave me a very good fight. I went the 10 rounds and I felt like I could still go two more. I am ready for 10, for 12, it doesn't matter. I feel much better, much more powerful. I have more speed than I had in my last fight, too."

How did you end up training with Eric?

"I trained with Freddie Roach for about two and a half years when I met Eric at Wild Card West Gym. I started sparring with some of his guys there. After my fight with Rodriguez on ESPN in 2015 I asked Eric to train me and we started working. Now that I've fought two fights with him as my trainer, I feel my boxing skills are better, I feel more powerful and I enjoy training in his gym."

"All of the trainers help us and they give us advice. On the days I spar with Shane Mosley he stops and gives me some

advice. I learn a lot from him, being the fighting legend that he is. I grew up watching him fight as a kid and respect what he's able to teach me. Then the next time I try what he has taught me and it works."

Boxing is in your blood; your dad and brother boxed. When you were younger, did you think you were going to become a fighter?

"No, but my father pushed me in a lot of sports. I did gymnastics, soccer for five years, and played chess. I fought as a kid but it was always friendly. I always enjoyed the training aspect. To train for soccer sometimes my father and I would run barefoot in the snow and I enjoyed it. So, as a kid, when I first stepped into the boxing gym, it was just so much fun."

Your ShoBox fight falls on your father's birthday; do you have a special present in mind for him?

"It makes me want to get the victory for him. On his day, he will be sitting and watching my fight so I want to get that victory for him, for my family and for the Ukraine."

ERIC BROWN, Shelestyuk's trainer

What kind of camp has Taras had and what do you see happening on Friday?

"I see a lot of progression in Taras. When we first started working together, one of the things was that Taras always had great boxing ability, but he wasn't a great finisher. I don't know if he was gun shy or what it was but he had a tendency of using his talent to get people in trouble but then he would stand back and let them get back in the fight. So, what we've been working on a lot more is getting him to become a better finisher and recognize when he has his man in trouble and how to seize the moment, without being reckless at the same time. He's improving at a fast pace.

"A lot of guys from Ukraine seem to have similar tendencies because they have long amateur careers and they start picking

up bad habits that we need to correct. Taras had a little bit of that in him but he seems to be making the adjustments very well. He's an extremely hard worker and you often have to tell him to slow down, you never have to tell him to do more."

Where do you see him in his career as a welterweight?

"It's a great division. I'd say that Keith Thurman tops it without a doubt now but there are good fighters like Shawn Porter too. If Mayweather decided to come back, I think he would be all over this division again. Canelo is a good super welterweight, but he's too busy worrying about catch-weights. Undoubtedly in another year, I think Taras will be right there with the best of them. He's got a lot of talent, great versatility, great hand speed and foot speed and he's a good puncher. Not a devastating knockout puncher but a great puncher nonetheless with both hands."

SHANE MOSLEY, Former World Champion

How has it been working with Taras and how did you become involved in his training?

"I have been sparring with Taras and he's looking really sharp. I've been sparring with him for about four or five months now pretty consistently because a lot of guys won't spar with him. Guys are worried that he will make them look bad; he's so technical and sharp that they don't want to spar with him. So, I go in there with him a lot. It's hard to get people to spar with him."

Where do you see him in the welterweight division?

"He's on that championship path, that level, but I think once he gets there, he'll get more sparring partners and will get even better. He really is a world champion, a world-class fighter. He reminds me of a bigger Lomachenko, sparring with him is just like that. I see him as a top welterweight champion. The way he throws his combinations, he's a smart boxer who works out very hard. He's at the gym every single day, whether he's sparring or not, whether he has some training to do or not. He'll even be here by himself just

moving around and staying sharp. His work ethic is really, really strong.

How do you like working with Taras?

"I like Taras and I enjoy working with him. He's extremely dedicated and that's hard to find. I like Taras' work ethic, his personality, how he takes to boxing. He loves this sport and he wants to be the best. He doesn't like to lose, even in sparring. I'm impressed with him. When I sparred with him for the first time I was very impressed at his swing, his power, his ring accuracy, his IQ of boxing. I was impressed with how hard he worked and his willingness to learn."

Do you find it unusual for guys to be as dedicated as Taras at this point in their careers?

"It's unusual in the sense that a lot of fighters want to learn from the top guys but it seems to me with Taras that it's not fake. He truly does want to learn about boxing so that he can be the best. He wants to become a world champion and is working to become one of the best. If you put Taras in the ring with any big name today and I'd say he would take the victory. He has a sound mind. He has the mentality to be at the top. He's serious about being the world champion, about being the top fighter. He's serious about winning and he's going to take it all the way to the end. If you put this guy against Thurman, I'd go with him. I think he beats Thurman right now."

Tickets for the event promoted by Banner Promotions, Thompson Boxing, Hitz Boxing and Joe DeGuardia's Star Boxing are priced at \$100 (ringside), \$70 (reserved) and \$50 (general admission) and can be purchased by calling (714) 935-0900.

In the ShoBox co-feature, undefeated cruiserweights Constantin Bejenaru (11-0, 4 KOs, 0-1-1 in World Series of Boxing), of Catskill, N.Y. by way of Moldova, and Steve "Superman" Bujaj (16-0-1, 11 KOs), of New York, will collide in a 10-rounder for the vacant WBC International and WBC Continental Americas

titles. Unbeaten lightweight Vitor Jones Freitas (12-0, 1 ND, 6 KOs), of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, will be opposed by local fan favorite Manuel Mendez (12-1-2, 8 KOs), of Indio, Calif., in an eight-round bout in the opening bout of the telecast. Freitas, 23, is the nephew of popular former two-time lightweight world champion Acelino "Popo" Freitas.

Barry Tompkins will call the ShoBox action from ringside with Steve Farhood and former world champion Raul Marquez serving as expert analysts. The executive producer is Gordon Hall with Rich 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 67 fighters who have appeared on ShoBox and advanced to garner world titles includes: Andre Ward, Deontay Wilder, Erislandy Lara, Shawn Porter, Gary Russell Jr., Lamont Peterson, Guillermo Rigondeaux, Omar Figueroa, 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.

World ranked lightweight

Xolisani Ndongeni & featherweight super prospect Ruben Villa headline undercard on Friday, November 4

Philadelphia, PA./Corona CA. (Oct. 25, 2016) – World ranked lightweight contender Xolisani Ndongeni and highly regarded featherweight prospect Ruben Villa will headline a terrific undercard on Friday night, November 4th at the Omega Products International Events Center in Corona, California.

Ndongeni of East Cape, South Africa has a record of 21-0 with 11 knockouts and is ranked number-2 by the WBA.

The 26 year-old will be making his American debut against Juan Garcia Mendez (19-1-1, 12 K0's) of Mexicali, Mexico in a bout scheduled for ten-rounds.

Ndongeni turned professional in 2010 and is the IBF Lightweight champion and former South African Super Featherweight & Lightweight champion. Among his 21 wins is a win over former world champion Mzonke Fana. In his last bout, Ndongeni scored a 1st round stoppage over Emilio Norfat on April 22nd in East London, South Africa.

Ndongeni is promoted by Rodney Berman's Golden Gloves Promotions.

Mendez, 24 years-old, is a 7 year professional, and is on a five-fight winning streak. In his last bout, Mendez stopped Roman Mendez in 1 round on May 29, 2015 in Mexicali, Mexico.

Villa of Salinas, California has a record of 2-0 with 2 1st-

round knockouts.

The 19 year-old was a two-time National Golden Glove Champion, 2-time Jr. Olympics Champion, and 2015 Olympic Trials runner-up, and he holds two victories over 2016 Olympic silver medal winner Shakur Stevenson.

He turned professional on July 29th with a 1st round stoppage over Gerardo Molina. Villa followed that up with a first round stoppage over Jose Mora on September 23rd in Ontario, California.

Villa's opponent in the scheduled four-round bout will be announced shortly.

In a 4-round super flyweight bout, Danny Andujo (2-0, 1 K0) of Temcula, California will battle Joel Cano (0-3) of Ciudad, Mexico.

Jonathan Esquivel of Anaheim, California will make his pro debut against an opponent to be named in a middleweight bout.

Tickets for the event promoted by Banner Promotions & Thompson, are priced at \$100 (ringside), \$70 (reserved) and \$50 (general admission) and can be purchased by calling (714) 935-0900.

Undefeated 2012 Olympic Bronze Medalist Taras "Real Deal" Shelestyuk (14-0, 9 K0s) will face upset-minded Jaime Herrera in the 10-round welterweight main event of a ShoBox: The New Generation tripleheader on, live on SHOWTIME at 10:30 p.m. ET/PT (delayed on the West Coast).

In the co-feature, undefeated cruiserweights Constantin Bejenaru (11-0, 4 K0s, 0-1-1 in World Series of Boxing), of Catskill, NY by way of Moldova, and Stivens "Superman" Bujaj (16-0-1, 11 K0s), of New York, will collide in a 10-rounder for the vacant WBC International and WBC Continental Americas titles.

In the opening bout of the telecast, undefeated lightweight Vitor Jones Freitas (12-0, 1 ND, 6 KOs), of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, will be opposed by local fan favorite Manuel Mendez (12-1-2, 8 KOs), of Indio, CA, in an 8-round bout. The 23-year-old Freitas is the nephew of popular former four-time world champion Acelino "Popo" Freitas.

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UNDEFEATED

UKRAINIAN

WELTERWEIGHT TARAS SHELESTYUK FACES UPSET-MINDED JAIME HERRERA IN MAIN EVENT OF SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION TRIPLEHEADER FRIDAY, NOV. 4, LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

NEW YORK (Oct. 13, 2016) – Undefeated 2012 Olympic Bronze Medalist Taras “Real Deal” Shelestyuk (14-0, 9 KOs) will face upset-minded Jaime Herrera in the 10-round welterweight main event of a ShoBox: The New Generation tripleheader on Friday, Nov. 4, live on SHOWTIME at 10:30 p.m. ET/PT (delayed on the West Coast) from Omega Products International Event Center in Corona, Calif.

Shelestyuk (14-0, 9 KOs), of Los Angeles by way of the Ukraine, was a member of a 2012 Ukrainian Olympic team that included featherweight gold medalist Vasyl Lomachenko and heavyweight gold medalist Oleksandr Usyk. Jaime Herrera (15-3-1, 8 KOs), of Chicago, Ill., has defeated unbeaten prospects in four of last nine fights and is 8-1-1 overall since July 2012.

In the co-feature, undefeated cruiserweights Constantin Bejenaru (11-0, 4 KOs, 0-1-1 in World Series of Boxing), of Catskill, N.Y. by way of Moldova, and Stivens “Superman” Bujaj (16-0-1, 11 KOs), of New York, will collide in a 10-rounder for the vacant WBC International and WBC Continental Americas titles.

In the opening bout of the telecast, undefeated lightweight Vitor Jones Freitas (12-0, 1 ND, 6 KOs), of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, will be opposed by local fan favorite Manuel Mendez

(12-1-2, 8 KOs), of Indio, Calif., in an eight-round bout. The 23-year-old Freitas is the nephew of popular former two-time lightweight world champion Acelino "Popo" Freitas.

Four of the six fighters on the distinctly international tripleheader will risk their unbeaten records against what likely will be their toughest assignments to date. Shelestyuk and Bejanaru will be making their second ShoBox starts. It's also the second time ShoBox has aired from Omega. The first took place Oct. 5, 2007, and featured victories by Yonhhy Perez and Mickey Bey Jr., who would both go on to become world champions, two of the 67 boxers on ShoBox to do so.

Tickets for the event promoted by Banner Promotions are priced at \$100 (ringside), \$70 (reserved) and \$50 (general admission) and can be purchased by calling (714) 935-0900.

Taras Shelestyuk VS. Jaime Herrera – 10-Round Welterweight Main Event

Taras Shelestyuk (pronounced "TARE-as SHELL-es-took) averaged 85 punches per round in his ShoBox debut last November, winning an impressive 10-round unanimous decision over Aslanbek Kozaev. In his most recent start and lone outing this year last May 20, the 5-foot-10, 30-year-old Shelestyuk knocked out Erick Martinez in the third round at Ontario, Calif.

"My training is going great, I am more powerful and my speed is better," said the former international standout. "Herrera is a rough fighter, but it doesn't matter to me because I am looking to step up and get into championship level fights."

Shelestyuk, who is trained by Eric Brown at Wild Card West, possesses solid skills, movement and punching power. Since turning pro in March 2013 he has exclusively campaigned in the United States. Many from the outstanding 2012 Ukrainian Olympic team became immediate prospects as professionals, including Lomachenko, who won a featherweight world

championship in just his third fight on SHOWTIME. Now, it's Shelestyuk's turn to step up to the plate.

"I follow the 2012 Ukrainian Olympic team, and all the guys are doing very well and I'm happy for them," said Shelestyuk, who went 300-15 in the amateurs. "But I do not compare my results with anybody else because I have my own career and my own path to a championship belt, and I am enjoying this journey."

Herrera, a pro since December 2009, seems to be a legitimate test for Shelestyuk. Herrera has won three straight, defeated undefeated prospects in four of last nine fights, and is 8-1-1 overall since dropping a decision to Adrian Granados in 2012. One of those wins was an upset knockout of one-time highly ranked welterweight and world title challenger Mike "Machine Gun" Jones on Aug. 23, 2014.

"Taras is a great fighter and I know I'm the underdog, but I've surprised some fighters before and I'm confident and ready to give it my best and win again," said Herrera. "I'm coming into this fight with the same mentality I had in those fights against the other unbeaten guys. The way I see it, Taras has everything to lose and I fight as I have nothing to lose."

"I've been training very seriously and I'm excited to be able to showcase my skills on television. I grew up watching ShoBox. There will be more eyes on me and they will see my ability to fight. Getting a win will increase my ranking and open up more doors for my career."

Constantin Bejenaru vs. Stivens Bujaj – 10-Round Cruiserweight Bout

Bejenaru (pronounced "bay-zhin-nah-R00") was an accomplished amateur. The southpaw boxed on the Romanian national team for 10 years and was a nine-time national champion.

In his ShoBox premiere last April 15, the active and athletic

native of Ungheni, Moldova, scored a unanimous eight-round decision over previously unbeaten Alexey Zubov (10-0), a former Russian amateur champion and seven-time European amateur champion.

Bejenaru is anxious to return to ShoBox and continue his winning ways. "Bujaj is a great boxer, we are both undefeated but there can only be one victor, and I do not plan on losing this fight," he said. "I entered this fight with the intention of winning. That is what I train to do, that is what I am going to do.

"As a man who has been boxing for over 22 years, I feel extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity. In my previous ShoBox fight, I was labeled as the underdog. Those who doubted me quickly changed their opinions once they saw me fight, and even more so once the referee raised my hand in victory."

Bujaj (pronounced "Boo-ha") was born in Kelmend, Albania, but relocated to the Bronx, New York at an early age. The unbeaten prospect was a two-time New York Golden Gloves Champion at heavyweight who's made for good fights every time out and mostly made it look easy. This is Bujaj's third scheduled 10-round start, while Bejenaru will be making his 10-round debut.

The 26-year-old has won his last four in a row, including his last two by knockout, since boxing a split 10-round draw in a slugfest with then-undefeated three-time Chicago Golden Gloves champion Junior Wright (10-0) in May 2014.

"I'm getting prepared," said Bujah who's coming off a first-round TKO over previously undefeated beaten Sergio Ramirez (11-0) on June 11. "I'm training like this is a world title fight, and I'm totally ready to win. I know my opponent is undefeated and I can't overlook him. The way I feel, I'm on my 'A' Game. I was training in Las Vegas and now I am back in New York with Sharif Younan and I am ready to do everything I can

to win this fight.

“This is the exposure and opportunity I’ve been waiting for. I just want to pick up these WBC titles that we are fighting for and be bumped up the rankings. Once I pick up these belts, I will be in the top 10 and anything is possible.”

Vitor Jones Freitas vs. Manuel Mendez – Eight-Round Lightweight Bout

The nephew of popular former two-time lightweight world champion Acelino “Popo” Freitas has been victorious in 12 consecutive bouts since fighting a No-Contest in his pro debut in July 2012. He’s coming off a fifth-round TKO over Rodolfo Franz last May 21.

Two outings ago, Freitas captured the Brazilian lightweight crown with a 10-round decision over Sidney Siquiera. This will be Freitas’ sixth U.S. start; his last five fights were in Brazil.

“My uncle had many great fights on SHOWTIME and on Nov. 4, I am looking to carry on his legacy,” Freitas said. “This will be another step in following in his footsteps to become a world champion.”

Mendez, who is trained by the respected Joel Diaz, is coming off a fourth-round knockout over Erick Martinez this past Sept. 23 in Ontario. Mendez used a strong, bruising style in which he mixed his punches well to punish Martinez. The 5-foot-8, 26-year-old Mendez has gone 12-0-2 since getting stopped in his pro debut in October 2010.

“I am excited about this opportunity to fight on ShoBox,” said Mendez who is a sparring partner for Ruslan Provodnikov and Timothy Bradley. “I know with a win, my career will escalate to a new level. I am looking to knock out Vitor.”

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