

ARDREAL HOLMES VS. VERNON BROWN OFFICIAL WEIGHTS, QUOTES AND PHOTOS FOR SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION® TOMORROW LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

DEADWOOD, S.D. – March 10, 2022 – Undefeated middleweight prospect Ardreal Holmes (11-0, 5 KOs) and once-beaten Vernon Brown (13-1-1, 9 KOs) both made weight Thursday, a day ahead of their 10-round main event on ShoBox: The New Generation tomorrow night, Friday, March 11 live on SHOWTIME at 9:35 p.m. ET/PT from Deadwood Mountain Grand Hotel in Deadwood, S.D.

The co-feature pits undefeated prospect Luis Acosta (12-0, 11 KOs) and the power-punching Edwin De Los Santos (13-1, 12 KOs) in an eight-round lightweight bout. Plus, 2021 National Golden Gloves Champion Giovanni Márquez, the son of former world champion and ShoBox commentator Raul Márquez, makes his professional debut against Dominican Nelson Morales (2-0) in a four-round welterweight bout that opens the three-fight telecast.

Raul Márquez will occupy dual roles during the broadcast, first as his son's trainer and cornerman and then later as an expert analyst alongside his colleagues ringside. He will be joined by Hall of Famer Barry Tompkins calling the action with veteran combat sports reporter Brian Campbell also serving as an expert analyst, and Hall of Famer Steve Farhood remotely performing unofficial scoring duties. The executive producer of ShoBox: The New Generation is Gordon Hall with Richard Gaughan producing and Rick Phillips directing.

The tripleheader is promoted by Holden Productions.

FINAL WEIGHTS

Middleweight 10-Round Bout

Ardreal Holmes – 156 pounds

Vernon Brown – 157 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds

Referee: Mark Nelson (Minnesota); Judges: Norm Hamling, Jr. (South Dakota), John Mariano (Minnesota), Ludy Webster (Minnesota)

Lightweight Eight-Round Bout

Luis Acosta – 133 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds

Edwin De Los Santos – 133 $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds

Referee: Mark Nelson (Minnesota); Judges: Norm Hamling, Jr. (South Dakota), John Mariano (Minnesota), Ludy Webster (Minnesota)

Welterweight Four-Round Bout

Giovanni Márquez – 143 pounds

Nelson Morales – 144 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds

Referee: Mark Nelson (Minnesota); Judges: Norm Hamling, Jr. (South Dakota), John Mariano (Minnesota), Ludy Webster (Minnesota)

FINAL QUOTES:

Ardreal Holmes

“The long layoff is due to the pandemic and just waiting for the right opportunity to come along. I was dealing with a lot of things at the time, deaths in the family, so part of it was getting myself mentally ready to take advantage of the opportunity when it came along.

“Flint Michigan is just a special place. Whenever you go out of town, people would say, ‘What is it about Flint?’ We’d say, ‘There’s something in the water.’ We’ve been saying that for years. And then all that stuff happened (with the water being contaminated). It’s just a beautiful, tough place, but it’s still beautiful.

"I feel good for this fight. There's nothing that I'm not expecting. I'm tall so everyone's plan is to come forward and put pressure on me, but I'm expecting him to come forward and I plan on catching him on the way in.

"After being off for this long, I'm super excited for this opportunity. I just kept my head on straight and stayed positive and here we are. My son was a big motivation for me for this fight. And a guy I fought (and lost to) in the U.S. Olympic Trials, Paul Kroll, who I heard was talking about fighting me. He also motivated me.

"Every fight there's pressure, but I believe in myself, and I believe in my training, and I'm going to go out and do my best."

Vernon Brown

"Accepting the fight late wasn't a big deal. I'd already been training. I'm excited for this opportunity and I feel good.

"I've gone up and down in weight, my last fight was at 140, but I'm used to fighting big guys, so this is not a problem. I've fought a couple guys who were 6'2", so I'm ready. It's been a year since February since my last fight and I'm ready to get my feet back wet again. I feel strong.

"My best weight is 147. I can do a lot at 147. I can do 154. Fighting bigger guys isn't a problem, but 147 is my weight class. The contracted weight for this fight is 156 plus two, and that's fine with me, so I don't have to kill myself making weight.

"I'm just an aggressive fighter. My trainers want me to be aggressive and more technical and more defensive, but it's like the bell rings and I turn into a real different animal. I don't care how big you are, but I'm going to be smart for this fight. I don't want to get caught by anything stupid.

"I consider myself a Hagler type. I love to brawl. I can really punch. Everyone in Chicago knows about my power. They brag on me, 'Oh, you punch so hard.' But I'm also learning it's about conditioning and moving my head, and I know there's more than just being able to punch.

"Everyone knows my right-hook is dangerous. But I knocked out a couple southpaws taller than me with overhand lefts because they were focused on my right. I can switch but I'm not like a Terence Crawford, but I will do it just to throw a guy off."

Luis Acosta

"We are excited and ready to do the work. I'm not surprised at the success we've had. When you put in the hard work it shows in the end. I think our record shows that. We train hard all the time.

"I haven't had a lot of rounds, but that doesn't bother me. When we are sparring we go lots of rounds and bring in new, fresher guys while I'm staying in there the whole time. Eight rounds, 12 rounds. The conditioning is there, and the stamina. Whenever we end up going those rounds, the conditioning will show.

"I'm never worried about how hard I'm hitting a guy or trying to impress myself. I don't deal with that pressure where I gotta knock this guy out. It just comes. You know, in the [Dare] Harris fight it didn't come but I got my knockdowns and we did our work still.

"I'm going to keep doing what I've been doing. What we've been doing has been working for us. If I feel like I have to pace myself then I didn't train hard enough to be able to put in the same amount of work for each round. If I'm fighting a 12-round fight I'm going to throw the same amount of punches as I would throw if I was fighting less rounds. I'm ready.

"[De Los Santos] has the best record so in my mind he is the

best I've ever faced so far. Just like all my other fights it doesn't matter who is in there across the ring from me I'm going to go in there and do my thing."

Edwin De Los Santos

"I know Luis Acosta is a tough opponent, just like all the other Mexicans that I have fought. I know he works hard in the ring, just like I do. I know he's also a very intelligent and skilled fighter.

"Physically I wasn't ready for my last fight [a loss on ShoBox]. The running on the treadmill instead of out in the streets and in nature affected me. The weather conditions were very cold at that time. The weight cut also affected me. I feel like now that I'm working out harder and smarter and not having to cut as much weight has helped me.

"I don't know which way this fight goes. It could be a knockout, or it could go the distance. It was a very bitter defeat I tasted in my last fight and so it's very important for my career that I can come back and get a win this time to take me to the next level."

Giovanni Márquez

"I ended up winning the National Golden Gloves which opened a lot of doors and opportunities. And here we are now. I never imagined I would make my debut on ShoBox. I'm looking forward to it and I'm just ready to go out there and perform.

"Some say there's a lot of pressure on me. Of course, there's pressure. Being my dad's son, there's always going to be pressure but I just use that pressure as motivation and it just gives me a feeling that I have to prove something. That's when I perform best.

"I always felt I had more of a pro-like style. In the amateurs, it's only three three-minute rounds. There's not too

much time. There's a lot of guys that move, hold, throw little pitty-pat punches. Whereas I like to sit on my punches and look for openings. I think I'll be able to show my style more in the pros than I was in the amateurs because there's a little bit more time.

"I know that Morales will be hungry. This is a good opportunity for him. I'm definitely not taking him lightly. I'm looking to go out there and have a great first impression on the boxing world. This is a great opportunity to do that. I definitely want to win in spectacular fashion."

Nelson Morales

"Every boxer's dream is to fight on TV and get these kinds of opportunities. I come from a town where there's always been a lot of guys doing big things, and I've been working quietly. Now I have this big opportunity and I really want to take full advantage of it. I'm super excited especially to be on a platform like SHOWTIME. I never thought this would come.

"Márquez has a lot of amateur experience. His father was a world champion. I know he's been around these types of platforms. I don't expect him to be completely nervous where he won't be on his game. So I'm just expecting the best of Giovanni Marquez and I just have to do my thing. I expect him to be very confident. He's been around SHOWTIME and this is my first time on SHOWTIME. I have to do something big too.

"Right now, I manage myself. I'm self-managed and I do my own thing. I look for my own fights. I just want to do my thing and look good to the point where somebody is going to reach out to me and say, 'I want to work with you.'

"I just turned 30. I have to do something and if I'm going to do it, I have to do it now. I don't have the opportunity that he does. This might be my one shot. He's only (21). He has a lot of years to bounce back. I don't."

#

For more information visit www.sho.com/sports follow on Twitter @ShowtimeBoxing, @SHOSports, #ShoBox, or become a fan on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SHOSports

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 86 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, Chad Dawson, Ricky Hatton, Kelly Pavlik, Paul Williams and more.