

# VICTORY BOXING PROMOTIONS' KIANTE IRVING MAKES A SPLASH AT RIVERS CASINO

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA – Kiante Irving is ending 2019 on a high note with a fourth round stoppage over veteran fighter Carlos Garcia Hernandez last Saturday evening. Irving remained unbeaten, improving his record to seven wins, all by knockout.

The popular Reading middleweight, promoted by Chris Middendorf's Victory Boxing Promotions, saw the fourth round for the first time since his September 2018 professional debut.

The two met at Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh in a scheduled six round contest. Irving controlled the action throughout the fight, dropping the experienced Hernandez in the second round with a heavy right hand. The Puerto Rican fighter would finish the round, and survive until 2:32 into the fourth round, when a barrage of punches from Irving prompted Referee Ernest Sharif to wave off the bout.

It was the fourth fight for Irving in 2019, and the only one in his home state of Pennsylvania. He is expected to return in January 2020 in Washington DC.

For more information about Victory Boxing Promotions, visit [www.victoryboxingpromotions.com](http://www.victoryboxingpromotions.com)

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# JARON ENNIS vs. RAYMOND SERRANO FINAL WEIGHTS, QUOTES & PHOTOS FOR SHOBX: THE NEW GENERATION TOMORROW LIVE ON SHOWTIME®

PHILADELPHIA (November 15, 2018) – One of boxing's top prospects, undefeated welterweight Jaron Ennis and veteran Raymond Serrano made weight just a day before their ShoBox: The New Generation 10-round main event that headlines a tripleheader live on SHOWTIME (9:35 p.m. ET/PT) from 2300 Arena in Philadelphia. The 21-year-old Ennis (21-0, 19 KOs) returns for his second ShoBox challenge of 2018 against Serrano (24-5, 10 KOs) in a battle of Philadelphia fighters facing off in their hometown.

The three-fight telecast features five ShoBox veterans and three fighters who call Philadelphia home. In the co-feature, a pair of ShoBox veterans meet when Chicago's Kenneth Sims Jr. (13-1-1, 4 KOs) takes on Philadelphia's Samuel Teah (14-2-1, 7 KOs) in an eight-round super lightweight bout.

Also on the card, undefeated Ukrainian Arnold Khegai (13-0-1, 9 KOs) faces New Jersey's Jorge Diaz (19-5-1, 10 KOs) in an eight-round super bantamweight bout.

Tickets for the show, which is promoted by Victory Promotions in association with Hard Hitting Promotions, are priced \$50, \$75 and \$125 and can be purchased at [2300arena.com](http://2300arena.com) and [hardhittingpromotions.com](http://hardhittingpromotions.com).

## FINAL WEIGHTS

Jaron Ennis – 145 pounds – Ramond Serrano 146 3/4

Kennthe Sims Jr. 139 – Samuel Teah 130 3/4

Arnold Khegai 121 3/4 – Jorge Diaz 121 3.4

Undercard weights beginning at 6:30 PM ET

Branden Pizarro 137 1/2 lbs – Jerome Rodriguez 140 lbs

Gadwin Rosa 129 3/4 lbs – German Meraz 128 1/2

Kieran Hooks 149 1/4 lbs – Gledwin Ortiz 149 1/2

Christian Tapia 134 1/2 – Darnell Pettis 133 1/2

Benny Sinakin 171 3/4 lbs – Darren Gibbs 172 1/2

David Stevens 193 1/4 – Judd Brown 188 3/4

**\*\* NOTE:** Referees and judges for the three televised fights have yet to be determined.

FINAL QUOTES:

JARON ENNIS

“I’m really looking forward to fighting in front of my hometown fans. There is going to be a packed-house and I’m so excited for this fight. Some fighters don’t like the pressure of fighting in front of their own people, but I can’t wait to show out. I will definitely have no trouble getting up for this fight.

“A Philly fighter is a different kind of fighter. A Philly fighter is going to bring it to you and show off their abilities. I feel like we are the best fighters. There’s a lot of pride in being from here. I get to put on for Philly and show SHOWTIME and the world my talents. Philly fighters always come to fight.

“I don’t know too much about Serrano. I never worry about my opponent or watch tape or anything. We don’t prepare for one guy, we mix it up in the gym because you never know how the guy is going to fight on fight night. We prepare for everything.

“He thinks he has more experience than me. No, he doesn’t. I

grew up in this sport. I've been in the gym since I was in a jumper. I've seen it all. I got to see my brothers fight growing up. I've sparred pros since I was 12-years-old. They always say I don't have the experience and I've never fought anybody. We'll see. There's nothing this guy can do.

"I'm just going to keep winning and knocking guys out until I get to the point where I can fight a contender. I'm ready right now, but I know I have to be patient. I'm only 21-years-old, so I have time but we're ready right now.

"This fight is definitely going to be something different, I promise you that it's not lasting long. I'm so focused, I'm ready to rock and roll. I can't wait."

RAYMOND SERRANO:

"Right now, I feel like I'm in a position where I can compete against any of the top guys. I fought Alex Saucedo, and honestly, I thought I won that fight. I believe after that fight, it took me to another level. My confidence grew and I knew that I could compete with anybody.

"I feel comfortable going forward and putting pressure on. If I have to box, I can box too. I feel comfortable being on the inside now, and it hasn't always been that way.

"I've been in the position where I've been fighting undefeated guys. Everybody is against me but I love that. He's the one with all the pressure, he has to prove that he's as good as everybody says he is. He's never seen anybody like me. Everybody he's fought recently, I beat them years ago.

"Ennis looks good. He's a strong fighter that's coming to fight but so will I. I think this will be a good fight. My last fight, I was fighting the best fight of my career before it had to be stopped. I went into [Gerome] Quigley's hometown and I was winning that fight.

"There's going to be a lot of people in the crowd that want to see me lose. Ennis is the hot prospect with all the fans, but I think I may switch some people's opinion. Beating Ennis will put me in the position to fight anybody.

"His chin has never been tested. I've never seen him uncomfortable in any fight, it's all been pretty easy for him. I will test him."

KENNETH SIMS JR.:

"I'm really disappointed to be 1-1-1- on ShoBox. I feel like I should be 2-1, I should have won the fight I drew. But I do think the loss was a really good learning experience, and I needed it. It really helped me learn more about myself and what I need to do better. There's always more to learn.

"I need to get physically stronger. I'm working on my strength and conditioning right now. When I fought Montana [Love], I only had been training with my new strength and conditioning coach for three weeks. Now, I've had the full camp with him. I'm learning more about my body and how important rest is and not to just always push myself too hard.

"When I transitioned to being a pro, I really needed to learn how to relax. When I first fought on TV, I put so much pressure on myself to perform and there was a lot of expectations.

"Every fight is a fight that I need to impress in. Every fight, I want to show something different. I'm known for my speed, but I feel like I haven't shown all of my skills on ShoBox yet.

"I feel like Teah is going to try to press me. I don't think he's going to realize how strong I really am. I just want to make him work, and I don't want to give him any down time. I don't want to let him rest.

"I just really like fighting. When I was younger, my dad had to remind me that I'm a boxer, and I'm good at boxing. But I couldn't help it, I just wanted to fight. Now, I've realized that I need to be a boxer.

"I'm always active. Even when I'm not training, I stay in the gym and I spar once a week. Training in Houston has been great, being around other professionals that are trying to do the same thing as me is great for my development. I train with O'Shaquie Foster, we've known each other since we were little and we really push each other in the gym.

"I watched him fight Montana [Love], and I watched him fight O'Shaquie. I think he's a good fighter, but I want to make him doubt himself right from the beginning."

SAM TEAH:

"I was under the weather my last fight. I don't want to make excuses, but my inactivity lost that fight not what he did. I was fighting very conservatively, instead of just putting everything on the line. I was too worried about tiring myself out and that was one of the key factors in deciding that fight. I'm one hundred percent for this fight and it will be a different story.

"I feel like this is my biggest stage yet. I've fought in Vegas, but this is as big as it gets for me. Everybody that knows me and has followed my career will either be here at the arena or watching on TV.

"I watched him fight live once here in Philadelphia. I've seen him box and I've seen him brawl and try to be the matador. He's a great fighter, he's very versatile. I don't think he has great power, but he can box. I think his stamina might be an issue. He works at a very high rate, but I know he can't keep that pace for the entire fight. The pace will drop after a couple rounds, and then it will become a more technical fight.

"He can watch all the tape on me that he wants, he's never seen the type of performance he's going to get tomorrow night. You guys will see the real Tsunami."

ARNOLD KHEGAI:

"I was nervous my first fight on ShoBox, but all the nerves are gone, this time I'm going to show what I'm really about."

"In my last fight, I just wanted to show that I could outbox somebody in America. That's what I did, and now I'm really going to show what I'm all about."

"It's a totally different level in the U.S. The fighters are much stronger than in Moscow. It's also much more professional with all of the medical treatment and the facilities. I think it will help me that I've already fought here in the U.S., I know exactly what to expect and I know what the atmosphere will be like."

"I only know that Diaz fought Adam Lopez, the same opponent that I had. I've watched him a little bit, and I see this as a war. I think we're going to brawl with each other, and it will be a really interesting fight."

"If I win this fight in style, then either the next fight or the one after I think I'll be in position to fight a real contender."

JORGE DIAZ:

"I haven't fought in a year, but I'll be as sharp as I've ever been tomorrow night. I've been in the gym training non-stop, and I've gotten my nutrition and my training right. We've been very rigorous with our nutrition, in terms of what we put in our body. I'm ready to go."

"I used to be just a fighter. I didn't know about the Sweet Science of boxing and about what separates the good boxers from the great ones: rhythm, distance and timing. It's not

about who runs the fastest, otherwise lions and tigers would be running the world. It's about your intelligence. And that's what I needed to learn and what I have finally figured out.

"Arnold [Khegai] is in over his head. I've watched tape. He's a basic fighter. He comes forward. He doesn't know how to box moving backwards. He doesn't know anything about rhythm, distance and timing. We're going to outbox him, but it's going to look aggressive.

"This is the most important fight of my life. This guy is standing between me and everything that I want. He's standing between me and the well-being of my family and all of my dreams."

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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 78 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.



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# **VIDEO: DAY IN CAMP: Jaron Ennis | Nov. 16 on SHOWTIME | SHOBX: THE NEW GENERATION**

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## **UNDEFEATED WELTERWEIGHT PROSPECT JARON ENNIS TO FACE RAYMOND SERRANO IN AN ALL PHILADELPHIA MAIN EVENT OF NOVEMBER 16 SHOBX: THE NEW GENERATION TRIPLEHEADER**

NEW YORK – October 24, 2018 – Highly touted unbeaten welterweight prospect Jaron Ennis will square off against 11-year professional Raymond Serrano in a Philadelphia vs. Philadelphia 10-round bout in the main event of ShoBox: The New Generation, Friday, November 16 live on SHOWTIME® at 9:35 p.m. ET/PT from 2300 Arena in Philadelphia.

Ennis (21-0, 19 KOs) has knocked out 11 consecutive opponents including a third-round stoppage of Armando Alvarez in his ShoBox debut in July ([Click HERE](#) for video). The 21-year-old Ennis, who compiled an amateur record of 58-3 and was the 2015

National Golden Gloves Champion before turning professional in 2016, faces a stern test in fellow Philadelphia native Raymond Serrano (24-5, 10 KOs), a 29-fight veteran who's five losses have come against opponents with a combined record of 89-1-1 at the time of their meeting.

The three-fight telecast features five ShoBox veterans and three fighters who call Philadelphia home. In the co-feature, a pair of ShoBox veterans meet when Chicago's Kenneth Sims Jr. (13-1-1, 4 KOs) takes on Philadelphia's Samuel Teah (14-2-1, 7 KOs) in an eight-round super lightweight bout.

Also on the card, undefeated Ukrainian Arnold Khegai (13-0-1, 9 KOs) faces New Jersey's Jorge Diaz (19-5-1, 10 KOs) in an eight-round super bantamweight bout.

Tickets for the show, which is promoted by Victory Promotions in association with Hard Hitting Promotions are priced \$50, \$75 and \$125 and can be purchased at [2300arena.com](http://2300arena.com) and [hardhittingpromotions.com](http://hardhittingpromotions.com).

Ennis returns to ShoBox for his second consecutive fight following a statement third-round knockout of then-unbeaten welterweight prospect Armando Alvarez in July. Making a name for himself in Philadelphia with his power and come-forward mentality, Ennis has scored 11 consecutive K0 victories including two at 2300 Arena. A standout amateur who was ranked No. 1 at 141 pounds and won the 2015 National Golden Gloves tournament, Ennis narrowly missed the opportunity to represent the U.S. in the 2016 Olympics after losing a box-off to Gary Antuanne Russell at the Olympic Trials.

"Serrano is just another opponent on my way to my ultimate goal – a world championship," said Ennis. "I am focused and I'm just going to keep working hard until I am able to accomplish that main goal. I can't wait to display my talent once again on ShoBox."

The 21-year-old Ennis currently trains under his father Derek

“Bozy” Ennis Sr., who also trained his other sons Derek Jr. and Farah, both ShoBox veterans.

The 29-year-old Serrano turned professional in 2007 and rattled off 18 consecutive wins to start his career. Serrano, who will appear on ShoBox for the first time since his 2013 meeting with Emmanuel Taylor, will face his third consecutive unbeaten opponent after a No Contest against Gerome Quigley Jr. and a unanimous decision loss to 22-year-old welterweight prospect Malik Hawkins. Serrano, also from Philadelphia, had an impressive amateur career, winning the national and international Junior Olympic tournaments in 2005 and the Pennsylvania State Golden Gloves in 2006.

“I am excited – this is Philly vs. Philly,” said Serrano. “We are two of the best welterweights going at it. I believe my experience with my new trainer Shadeed Saluki will help me in this fight and I do not think he has been in the ring with anyone like me. I am excited to be on ShoBox because the world will see my talents. With a win, this will lead me to even bigger fights.”

Sims, a Chicago native, returns to ShoBox after his action-packed split-draw with unbeaten prospect Montana Love in July. Sims suffered the first and only loss of his career against Rolando Chinae via close majority decision on ShoBox a year prior but got back to his winning ways with a unanimous decision over Andrew Rodgers on October 13. The 24-year-old, who has sparred with Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao, was a 2013 U.S. National Amateur Champion and a 2012 Olympic Trials semifinalist.

“I am ready to fight,” said Sims. “I just fought on October 13 and got right back in the gym, so I am already in good shape. Teah is a good fighter but he is nothing special and certainly nothing that I haven’t seen before. I am happy to be back on ShoBox. I know they liked my last fight because it showed that I am only getting better and better every fight.”

Teah, born in Liberia and fighting out of Philadelphia, has had mixed luck on ShoBox. A two-fight veteran of the developmental series, Teah scored a unanimous decision over previously undefeated O'Shaquie Foster in 2015 but dropped a majority decision to Montana Love in February, an opponent who Sims Jr. drew with. Teah, who did not start boxing until the age of 19, scored an impressive first-round knockout of Zach Ramsey his last time out in August at 2300 Arena.

"I will be ready to fight come November 16," said Teah. "I have seen Kenneth Sims fight. He is fast and was a good amateur. He just fought a draw against the last fighter who beat me, Montana Love. I am excited about fighting him and I am also excited to be on ShoBox. I always face a higher level of opposition when I am on and ShoBox is always a great showcase."

The aggressive, come-forward Khegai made his U.S. debut at the 2300 Arena on ShoBox in May, registering the most impressive result of his career with a unanimous decision over Adam Lopez. The undefeated Khegai, who is a former Ukraine national amateur champion and two-time world champion in Thai boxing, made the switch to professional boxing in 2015 and has since compiled a near-perfect record while competing mostly in Russia. Born to Korean parents in Lymanske, Ukraine, the all-action Khegai will make his second ShoBox appearance in search of another statement win.

"I am excited to be fighting in the U.S. on SHOWTIME," said Khegai. "I look forward to putting on a memorable performance and cementing myself as a top name in the division. November 16 can't come soon enough!"

Jorge Diaz Jr., from New Brunswick, New Jersey, is coming off a significant victory over then once-beaten Adam Lopez, an opponent Khegai also beat via decision. The 31-year-old Diaz, who last fought in November 2017, also boasts impressive victories over Olympic gold-medalist Yan Barthelemy and former

title challengers Alejandro Lopez and Emmanuel Lucero. Diaz's five professional losses have come against opponents that hold a combined record of 88-1-4.

"I feel very confident," said Diaz. "My opponent is a good fighter, who is strong, aggressive, and throws sharp punches but I will be in tip-top shape. This is a very important fight for me. I have this great opportunity, so I will be dedicated and will give my best effort."

Hall of Famer Barry Tompkins will call the ShoBox 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 Chuck McKean producing and Rick Phillips directing.

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#### About ShoBox: The New Generation

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# **VICTORY BOXING PROMOTIONS INKS NATIONAL GOLDEN GLOVES CHAMPION KIANTE IRVING**

PITTSBURGH – August 29, 2018 – Chris Middendorf's Victory Boxing Promotions has signed under-the-radar amateur Kiante Irving to a promotional deal. The 24 year-old middleweight is set to make his professional debut this Sunday in West Virginia.

A 6'3" middleweight, Irving heads into Sunday's debut with a National Golden Gloves Championship under his belt, having topped the 165-pound division in the 2018 tournament. Despite a slew of state and national titles under his belt, Irving began boxing late, compared to his peers.

He was 16 when he walked into Tom Yankello's gym, having been drawn to the squared circle after being unable to find his niche in other sports. Raised by a single mom, boxing was an outlet for Irving, and served as an escape from the poverty and stress that ensconced his home life. It soon became clear that boxing would long be a part of his future.

A humble spirit, Irving kept his head down and his eye on the ball through various family traumas that included an eviction and his brother's near-fatal battle with Crohn's Disease. His younger brother, whom he credits as an inspiration and role model, survived the brush with death to become a firefighter. Irving hopes to use his time in the ring to boost awareness of the disease, and to seize the opportunity to live out his dreams, much like his brother has done in recent years.

After his Golden Gloves Victory, Irving's trainer Tom

Yankello, and his brother and co-manager Mark Yankello, along with Irving, came to the decision that it was time to join the professional ranks. The two managers, operating under the banner Tom Yankello Boxing, Inc., connected with boxing promoter Chris Middendorf and Victory Boxing Promotions. Middendorf, who has helped build the careers of many of today's world champions, seized the opportunity to work with Irving and the Yankellos.

"I am very excited to add Kiante to Victory Boxing's stable," said Middendorf. I had the pleasure of doing a series of shows in Pittsburgh with welterweight Sammy Vasquez, culminating in an ESPN and then a ShowBox show, and a series of events at Consol Energy Center [now the PPG Arena.] I can't wait to be back in Pittsburgh, promoting another top prospect. It really is a tremendous sports town, and they really come out to support their local athletes."

Middendorf was complimentary of the Yankello Brothers. "I have known his trainer and co-manager, Tom and Mark Yankello, respectively, by reputation for many years, and have enjoyed working with them. When Mark first spoke to me about Kiante, I knew immediately that I wanted to work with the Yankellos and promote Kiante Irving. With his stellar amateur career, he is ready to be a pro."

The future looks bright (and busy) for Irving. "I plan to build and move Kiante the same way that I moved Ed Brown and Jaron Ennis. I have promised him a minimum of eight fights in his first year, and I know we will do more. He is a gifted athlete and it is going to be something to watch him develop into one of the top middleweights."

For his part, Tom Yankello is excited about the young pugilist's future with Middendorf and Victory Boxing Promotions. "I am very pleased with Victory Boxing Promotions. I have known Chris for many years, and he has a great resume and has been involved with building the careers of elite

boxers such as Terence Crawford, Leo Santa Cruz, and Nonito Donaire. We know we're in good hands, and that Chris knows how to move and develop Kiante."

"I'm just excited to get my pro career moving," said Irving of the signing. "My managers are confident, and I'm confident that we're going to be successful under the Victory Boxing banner, and we will be getting right to work."

Irivng makes his professional debut this Sunday at Mountaineer Casino Racetrack & Resort, versus Philadelphia's Vincent Burkhalter. Tickets are available at [www.mademenboxing.com](http://www.mademenboxing.com).

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**Video: Jaron Ennis talks about Alvarez knockout win**

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**Video: Jaron Ennis – Armando Alavrez heated Faceoff**

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**VIDEO: PHILADELPHIA'S  
UNBEATEN WELTERWEIGHT  
PROSPECT JARON ENNIS LEANS ON  
FAMILY AHEAD OF SHOBOX DEBUT  
TONIGHT LIVE ON SHOWTIME®**

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**UNDEFEATED WELTERWEIGHT  
PROSPECTS JARON ENNIS &  
ARMANDO ALVAREZ FACE OFF IN  
MAIN EVENT OF JULY 20 SHOBOX:  
THE NEW GENERATION  
TRIPLEHEADER**

NEW YORK (June 25, 2018) – A battle of unbeaten welterweight prospects will headline a ShoBox: The New Generation tripleheader on Friday, July 20 live on SHOWTIME® at 10 p.m. ET/PT when Jaron Ennis squares off against Armando Alvarez in the 10-round main event from WinnaVegas Casino in Sloan, Iowa.

Philadelphia's Ennis (20-0, 18 KOs) has knocked out 10 consecutive opponents and was the 2015 National Golden Gloves Champion before turning professional in 2016. The 20-year-old former amateur standout will face his first undefeated

opponent in Alvarez (18-0, 12 KOs), a native of the Florida Keys who has knocked out six of his last seven opponents.

The three-fight telecast features six prospects with a combined record of 82-1, with all six fighters facing what is likely the toughest tests of their careers.

In the co-feature, undefeated lightweight Thomas Mattice (12-0, 10 KOs) returns to Iowa for his second ShoBox appearance of the year when he clashes with former Armenian amateur standout Zhora Hamazaryan (9-0, 6 KOs) in a 10-round bout.

Also on the card, undefeated super lightweight prospect Montana Love (11-0, 5 KOs) will take on former national amateur champion Kenneth Sims Jr. (12-1, 4 KOs) in an eight-round super lightweight bout.

Tickets for the show, which is promoted by GH3 Promotions, Victory Promotions, Ringside Ticket Inc., Banner Promotions & Thompson Boxing are priced from \$10-\$60 and can be purchased at [winnavegas.com](http://winnavegas.com).

**JARON ENNIS vs. ARMANDO ALVAREZ – 10-Round Welterweight Bout**  
Ennis will debut on ShoBox following a statement second round knockout of former junior welterweight contender Mike Arnaoutis earlier this month, his 10th consecutive KO victory. The Philadelphia native had a standout amateur career, notching an impressive record of 58-3 and winning the 2015 National Golden Gloves tournament. Ennis, who was ranked No. 1 as an amateur at 141 pounds, narrowly missed the opportunity to represent the U.S. in the 2016 Olympics after losing a box-off to Gary Antuanne Russell at the Olympic Trials.

“This is the opportunity I have been waiting for,” Ennis said. “I can’t wait to show the world my talent.”

Just 20 years old, Ennis currently trains under his father Derek “Bozy” Ennis Sr., who also trained his other sons Derek

Jr. and Farah. The 5-foot-10 Ennis will be the third brother to appear on ShoBox; Derek Jr. appeared on the series in 2007, and Farah faced Badou Jack on the series in 2013.

“A win on this platform would mean everything,” Ennis continued. “From here on out, I want to fight only the big names in the division. I feel grateful for this opportunity to show the world my talents and skills. It’s great to follow in my brother’s footsteps, and I am ready to take the Ennis last name to the next level.”

The 28-year-old Alvarez turned professional in 2014 and has gradually increased his level of opposition. Alvarez, who now lives in Key West, compiled a 26-4 amateur record and won the Florida State Championship in 2013. His headlining fight with Ennis will be his second fight of 2018 and by far his toughest test to date.

“This is the biggest opportunity I have ever received,” Alvarez said. “This is it. It’s on. Ennis is a great young fighter, but I think he has stepped out of his league. He is just a kid. The world will find out who Armando Alvarez is on July 20.”

THOMAS MATTICE vs. ZHORA HAMAZARYAN – Eight-Round Lightweight Bout

A 27-year-old from Cleveland, Mattice turned pro in 2014 and had an amateur record of 72-18. He was a three-time Ohio State Golden Gloves Champion and bronze medal winner in the USA National Tournament in 2014.

Mattice will be making his second ShoBox appearance following a strong debut Feb. 2, when the undefeated lightweight rallied from behind to score a seventh round TKO of ShoBox veteran Rolando Chinaea. Mattice has recorded five straight KOs and nine overall in 11 professional fights.

“I am excited for the opportunity to showcase my talent again on ShoBox,” Mattice said. “I’m going to go out there and do

what I did before. I'm going to get a win, hopefully in knockout fashion. This guy (Hamazaryan) doesn't know what he's getting himself into."

Undefeated lightweight prospect Hamazaryan, who signed with Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing in February, is originally from Armenia but fights out of Los Angeles. Part of a long line of Armenian fighters who have fought in the U.S., Hamazaryan won his U.S. debut on Feb. 16, when he scored a unanimous decision win over the previously unbeaten Sergio Ramirez. Prior to his win against Ramirez, all of Hamazaryan's victories were earned in Russia.

The 22-year-old was considered the No. 1 fighter in Armenia after an amateur career that spanned over 200 fights. Hamazaryan turned professional in 2015, turning down an opportunity to fight for the Armenian Olympic Team in 2016.

"This fight is very important for me, and I am very excited to be fighting on national television in America," Hamazaryan said. "I know [Mattice] is undefeated but I normally don't look at my opponent. I'm just looking to put on a great performance and make a statement for fans in the U.S."

#### MONTANA LOVE vs. KENNETH SIMS JR. – Eight-Round Super Lightweight Bout

Cleveland native Love was an accomplished amateur who compiled a 174-13 record and won a bronze medal at the 2012 National Golden Gloves Championships. The 22-year-old recently sparred with Adrien Broner, and served as head sparring partner for Robert Easter Jr. before his lightweight title defense against Javier Fortuna on Jan. 20.

Love has won two consecutive bouts against lesser opposition since defeating Samuel Teah in his ShoBox debut on Feb. 2.

"I am excited and happy to be back," Love said. "I want to put on another great performance. Sims and I grew up as amateurs together. He's a good fighter, but I am hungry and want to

keep rolling. I can't let anything get in my way."

Chicago native Sims makes his return to ShoBox just over a year after suffering the first loss of his career against Rolando China via close majority decision in what was his toughest test to date. The 24-year-old Sims, who has sparred with Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao, was a 2013 U.S. National Amateur Champion and a 2012 Olympic Trials semifinalist.

"I am happy to be back fighting after having surgery on my elbow that had been bothering me for the last year and a half," Sims said. "This is my chance to prove that I'm back and the loss on ShoBox was a fluke. I remember Love from the amateurs and I know I have what it takes to beat him."

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For more information visit [www.sho.com/sportsfollow](http://www.sho.com/sportsfollow) on Twitter @ShowtimeBoxing, @SHOSports, #ShoBox, or become a fan on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/SHOSports](http://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 76 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.

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**Video: Rolando Chinae talks  
fight with Thomas Mattice**