

# Ruben Villa Receives Local Award for Community Building Efforts

ORANGE, Calif. (Aug. 10, 2017) – Ruben Villa (7-0, 4 KOs), one of boxing's brightest, young talents in the featherweight division, recently received an award for his community building presence in his hometown of Salinas, Calif.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors recognized Team Villa Boxing, a non-profit gym, for creating a safe space for low-income youths in East Salinas. Through grants, Team Villa Boxing offers free boxing and physical fitness lessons to select youths.

“I was really surprised that we were honored with the award because we only found out about it the day before,” Villa said. “We are obviously very happy about it, but we don't do it for the recognition. It's all about helping the community. There's not much opportunity out here so we have to give the kids additional chances to succeed.”

“Ruben cares about his community and wants to be a positive role model to the local kids,” said Danny Zamora, Villa's manager. “The gym offers a safe and productive outlet for young kids and keeps them from getting into trouble.”

For those that are unaware, Salinas has an ongoing struggle with drug related gang violence. The Villa family, in an effort to pull local kids away from a life of crime, formed the gym three years ago. When not conducting training camps in Riverside, Calif., Villa stays sharp at the gym that bears his name.

Villa received the honor as part of the “National Night Out” event hosted by the City of Salinas.

The public awareness event, which drew thousands to the Salinas Soccer Complex, aimed to strengthen community relations with law enforcement and other public safety personnel such as firefighters and first responders.

Villa marks his return to the ring on a Thompson Boxing card Friday, Sept. 22 from the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario, Calif. An opponent will be announced at a later date.

Villa is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing.

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**Video: Demetrius Andrade  
“David Lemieux will get me  
the GGG-Canelo winner”**

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**BILLY JOE SAUNDERS V WILLIE  
MONROE JR, SEPTEMBER 16TH IN  
LONDON**

LONDON (JULY 17, 2017)—WBO Middleweight World Champion Billy Joe Saunders will make the second defense of his crown against

New York's Willie Monroe Jr. on Saturday, September 16th at London's Copper Box Arena, live on BT Sport and BoxNation.

Hatfield's Saunders (24-0, 12 KOs) defeated Irish hero Andy Lee to take the WBO strap in a close and absorbing fight back in December 2015 that saw the undefeated star floor the former Champion twice in the third round and go on to claim a majority decision from the judges.

A series of injuries led to a frustrating 2016 for Saunders, but he eventually defended his belt last December against Artur Akavov in Glasgow. Saunders was not at his best, but outpointed the game Russian. He was due to take on Avtandil Khurtsidze before the Georgian's arrest in June.

Monroe Jr (21-2, 6 KOs) has a second chance at winning a World Title after a sixth round stoppage loss against IBF, WBA and WBC Middleweight World Champion Gennady "GGG" Golovkin back in 2015. Since then the 30-year-old has won two decisions over John Thompson and Gabriel Rosado and holds a number five World ranking with the WBO.

"I am happy for this World Title opportunity," said Monroe Jr. "I'm always in the gym and I'm ready to go now; I live the life. I can't wait to show up and show out in London. Saunders is a good fighter and a worthy World Champion but I'm coming for that belt."

"I gave a good account of myself against Golovkin, but I will admit that I got caught up in the moment. Billy Joe has had a lot of luxuries throughout his career that I haven't had. All of his fights have been here in his own backyard, he hasn't had to go into the Lion's Den to prove himself. He calls me mentally weak but we'll see on September 16th."

"Willie is a good fighter and a good boxer," said Saunders. "This is his big chance and he isn't coming over here just to make up the numbers. He has been in with some of the best fighters in the World including Golovkin where he came up

short.”

“I think it is going to be a very close fight but I already have the mental edge over him. He said he was done against Golovkin and that’s not what a warrior would do. I’d rather get knocked out cold than quit. I haven’t had the chance to show my true skill and talent as of yet as a pro. I can’t afford to overlook him and I’ll be in the best shape of my life on September 16th. I’m 100% going to get the win.”

Artie Pelullo of Banner Promotions said: “I am very happy for Willie; this is a great opportunity. A lot of things had to fall into place for Willie to get this fight. Saunders is a great fighter, and this should be a terrific event. I want to thank tthe WBO as well as Frank Warren and Billy Joe Saunders for this opportunity.”

Press Conference Video Highlights courtesy of BT Sports

Saunders’ promoter Frank Warren said: “Bill will have to be at the very top of his game to get the win on September 16th. The winner of this fight will have the missing piece on the Middleweight jigsaw, Canelo and Golovkin both want that WBO belt.”

“If Bill comes through this fight we are pushing hard for the winner of Canelo vs. Golovkin. If Golovkin wins I hope we can do that fight in December, if Canelo wins it could be in the New Year. Bill has to go out there and prove a point, there is a lot on the line.”

Ilford Light-Heavyweight knockout king Anthony Yarde and teenage Heavyweight sensation Daniel Dubois will feature on an action-packed undercard. Yarde picked up the WBO European strap with a first round KO win over Richard Baranyi last time out at the Copper Box Arena while 19 year-old Dubois claimed the WBC World Youth Heavyweight belt in only his fourth contest.

Full undercard details will be announced shortly.

Tickets for Saunders v Monroe Jr priced at £40, £50, £70, £100, £150, £200 and £300 (VIP/Hospitality) are available from:

[www.eventim.co.uk](http://www.eventim.co.uk)

[www.seetickets.com](http://www.seetickets.com)

[www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

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# **Taras Shelestyuk & Ruben Villa Successfully Defend Unbeaten Records on Saturday Night**

PHILADELPHIA, Penn. /ORANGE, Calif. (July 3, 2017) – In the “Locked n’ Loaded” main event, welterweight Taras “Real Deal” Shelestyuk (16-0, 10 KOs) made quick work of Jesus Alvarez Rodriguez (15-3, 11 KOs) by knocking him out in the third round Saturday night from Omega Products International in Sacramento, Calif.

Shelestyuk, who is ranked No. 5 by the WBO, predicted a knockout win in his prefight interview with the Olympic bronze medalist (London 2012) saying he planned to be aggressive from the start.

“I didn’t want this fight going the distance,” said Shelestyuk, who attributes the aggressiveness to new trainer Joel Diaz. “Joel and I worked on increasing our punch output

and it showed in this fight.”

Shelestyuk, who is from the Ukraine but now makes his home in Los Angeles, rocked Rodriguez in the first round. He connected on a two-punch combination that sent the Mexican to the canvas. In the third round, Shelestyuk struck early and often, earning the knockout win at the 2:05 mark.

Top featherweight prospect Ruben Villa (7-0, 4 KOs) of Salinas, Calif. delivered a beating to overmatched veteran Jonathan Alcantara (7-16-2, 1 KO) of El Salvador. Villa, who swept all three scorecards (40-36), looked equally comfortable fighting on the outside or in the pocket.

“I think this fight showed how versatile I am,” Villa said. “I boxed him well and mixed it up inside without taking any hits. It was a solid performance.”

Villa, indeed, looked the part of an elite prospect. He was aggressive the entire fight, yet was extremely disciplined on the defensive end.

“There’s no doubt I frustrated him,” Villa continued. “I could tell he was having a hard time. I never let him relax.”

Shelestyuk and Villa are co-promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing.

For more information, please visit [Banner-Promotions.com](http://Banner-Promotions.com).

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# Weights from Sacramento

ORANGE, Calif./Philadelphia, Penn. (July 1, 2017) – Weights for Saturday night's card at the Omega Products in Sacramento, California

Taras Shelestyuk 147.8 lbs – Jesus Alvarez Rodriguez 148 lbs

Ruben Villa 126 lbs – Jonathan Alcantara 127 lbs

Q & A with Taras Shelestyuk

How has training camp gone.

Taras :Training camp went very well, it was my first training camp with Joel Diaz, it took a couple weeks to get use to each other, but I felt great since day one with Joel. We did a lot of things I use to do when I was in national team. The things I was missing. I had great sparring sessions out there in Indio with Manuel Mendez, Omar Figueroa and many more.

What do you know about your opponent Jesus Alvarez Rodriguez

T: To be honest not much... I just know that he is a tough guy, and that he was stopped by my friend Ruslan Provodnikov who was prepared by Joel Diaz, so that's basically it. Joel knows him better, so he knows what I have to do.

What does a win do for you.

The win means everything to me. It will help me to get a good fight against some one from the top of the division

You are ranked high in the WBO, do you feel you are close to a fight with a big name.

T: Of course I feel that I'm very close to the top. I'm number 5 right now, so if everything goes well on July 1 I'm ready for anyone up there, I hope that promoters can get a winner of Pacquiao – Horn, and I would love that fight. If not, some one

from the top to fight for the mandatory for the winner of Pacquiao – Horn.

This fight will be shown on Facebook all over the world, are your family and friends in the Ukraine going to watch the fight?

T: I'm sure they will, and I hope that all the Ukrainian and Russian speaking people of Sacramento will come to support me on Omega Products International Arena.

Any final thoughts?

T : I want to thank my team ,my manager, my promoters and my coaches for all work that was done. My beautiful wife and my family and of course all my fans for the support!!! Thank you!

Shelestyuk vs. Rodriguez, Villa vs Alcantara and the entire 8-bout card will be streamed live on TB Presents: Locked n' Loaded. Watch the action on ThompsonBoxing.com and Facebook Live beginning at 6:30 p.m. PST / 10:30 p.m. EST.

Tickets for "Locked n' Loaded" are priced at \$40, \$60, & \$100 and are available for purchase online at ThompsonBoxing.com, or by calling 714-935-0900.

Shelestyuk and Villa are inked to promotional contracts with Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing last July.

TB Presents: Locked n' Loaded broadcast team consists of Beto Duran on play-by-play and Steve Kim provides expert, color commentary.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. local time with the first bout at approximately 6:30 p.m. Omega Products International is located at 8111 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95826 and can be reached at 916-635-3335.

"Locked n' Loaded" is presented by Thompson Boxing Promotions and sponsored by Lucas Oil, in association with Everlast.

For more information, please visit [Banner-Promotions.com](http://Banner-Promotions.com).

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Photo by Carlos Baeza / Thompson Boxing

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# **Taras Shelestyuk Enjoying Working with New Trainer Joel Diaz Ahead of Saturday's Fight**

ORANGE, Calif./Philadelphia, Penn. (June 27, 2017) – Undefeated, world ranked welterweight Taras “The Real Deal” Shelestyuk is banking on his new trainer, the highly regarded Joel Diaz, to take his game to the next level.

“I enjoy working with Joel Diaz,” said Shelstyuk, who brought home a bronze finish in the 2012 London Olympics to his native Ukraine. “He’s a great communicator. He knows how to bring out the best in boxers.”

Shelestyuk (15-0, 9 KOs), who on Saturday headlines Thompson Boxing’s “Locked n’ Loaded” 8-round main event from Omega Products in Sacramento, Calif., is currently ranked No. 5 by the WBO.

At 31, Shelestyuk can ill afford a slip up on his way up the official rankings. His opponent, Jesus Alvarez Rodriguez (15-2, 11 KOs), is all too eager to play the spoiler on Saturday night.

“I know I can’t sleep on Rodriguez,” said Shelestyuk, who is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing. “I have to make a statement early in the fight to let him know what I’m about.”

Shelestyuk vs. Rodriguez and the entire 8-bout card will be streamed live on TB Presents: Locked n’ Loaded. Watch the action on ThompsonBoxing.com and Facebook Live beginning at 6:30 p.m. PST / 10:30 p.m. EST.

Tickets for “Locked n’ Loaded” are priced at \$40, \$60, & \$100 and are available for purchase online at ThompsonBoxing.com, or by calling 714-935-0900.

Shelestyuk is coming off a unanimous decision win against Jaime Herrera in November. The fight, televised on SHOWTIME, had championship implications with Shelestyuk winning the WBO-NABO welterweight title.

Since teaming up with Diaz several months ago, Shelestyuk, who is a southpaw, has tightened his punching ability and plans to be assertive throughout the 8-round fight.

“I think most people know that I’m more of a boxer than a puncher,” said the Los Angeles-based Shelestyuk. “You can still have an aggressive style with a technical game plan and that’s what we’re working on. How to be aggressive in a methodical fashion.”

“This is a big fight for Taras. Should he win on Saturday, we feel he is ready for a major fight. He is hungry and has the incentive to put on a great performance on Saturday night,” said Banner Promotions President, Artie Pelullo.

In the co-feature, standout amateur Ruben Villa (5-0, 3 KOs) of Salinas, Calif. looks to stay undefeated against Jonathan Alcantara (7-15-2, 1 K0) in a fight set for 6-rounds.

Villa has all the tools to become the next world champion at

featherweight. He cleaned up the amateur ranks with back-to-back National Golden Gloves championships prior to turning professional last year.

He inked a promotional contract with Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing last July.

TB Presents: Locked n' Loaded broadcast team consists of Beto Duran on play-by-play and Steve Kim provides expert, color commentary.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. local time with the first bout at approximately 6:30 p.m. Omega Products International is located at 8111 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95826 and can be reached at 916-635-3335.

"Locked n' Loaded" is presented by Thompson Boxing Promotions and sponsored by Lucas Oil, in association with Everlast.

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## **Michael Dutchover remains undefeated at "Path to Glory"**

ORANGE, Calif./PHILADELPHIA, Penn.(June 26, 2017) – Junior lightweight Michael Dutchover (5-0, 4 KOs) used an array of skills to defeat Miguel Carrizoza (10-2, 2 KOs) by unanimous decision from the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario, Calif.

Dutchover controlled the fight by mixing a powerful left jab,

with strong right hands to the head and body (60-54, 59-55, 58-56).

“Carrizoza is a tough boxer,” said Dutchover, who is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing. “I knew he came in here with the expectation of giving me trouble, but I didn’t let him develop any kind of rhythm. I was in command for the entire fight.”

“Michael looked terrific. This was the type of fight that will help Michael immensely as he continues to develop. For someone so young in his career to fight an opponent with the type of record that Carrizoza has, shows the type of fighter that Michael is,” said Banner Promotions President, Artie Pelullo.

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## **Unbeaten Taras Shelestyuk Tests Unblemished Mark Saturday, July 1 in Sacramento, CA**

ORANGE, Calif. (June 23, 2017) – Thompson Boxing Promotions heads to Northern California on Friday, July 1st to promote its first show in Sacramento starring unbeaten, Olympic bronze medalist Taras ‘The Real Deal’ Shelestyuk (15-0, 9 KOs).

The highly ranked Shelestyuk (WBO No. 5) faces fellow welterweight Jesus Alvarez Rodriguez (15-2, 11 KOs) in the “Locked n’ Loaded” 8-round main event from Omega Products International, an outdoor venue.

Shelestyuk vs. Rodriguez and the entire 8-bout card will be

streamed live on TB Presents: Locked n' Loaded. Watch the action on ThompsonBoxing.com and Facebook Live beginning at 7:45 p.m. PST / 10:45 p.m. EST.

Tickets for "Locked n' Loaded" are priced at \$40, \$60, & \$100 and are available for purchase online at ThompsonBoxing.com, or by calling 714-935-0900.

Shelestyuk, 31, is coming off a unanimous decision win against Jaime Herrera in November. The fight, televised on SHOWTIME, had championship implications with Shelestyuk winning the WBO-NABO welterweight title.

The Ukrainian-born Shelestyuk, who now lives and trains in Los Angeles, had a decorated amateur career punctuated by winning a bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics.

"I'm excited to fight in Sacramento," said Shelestyuk, who is promoted by Thompson Boxing and Banner Promotions. "I've been in the gym all year and can't wait to put on a show next week."

In the co-feature, standout amateur Ruben Villa (5-0, 3 KOs) of Salinas, Calif. looks to stay undefeated against Gino De La Paz (2-1, 1 KO) in a fight set for 6-rounds.

Villa has all the tools to become the next world champion at featherweight. He cleaned up the amateur ranks with back-to-back National Golden Gloves championships prior to turning professional last year. He inked a promotional contract with Thompson Boxing and Banner Promotions last July and has been busy since then.

"I love being active," said Villa, who is managed by Danny Zamora. "That was one of the main selling points in signing with Thompson Boxing and Banner Promotions. They assured me that I would be fighting frequently. I'm ready to get another win on my resume."

“We are looking forward to a great night for Taras and Ruben,” said Artie Pelullo, President of Banner Promotions. “Taras is on the cusp of big fights, and with a win over a tough fighter like Rodriguez should prepare him for that. As for Ruben, he is coming along great, and on July 1st, he will yet again show why he is the one of the top prospects in Boxing.”

TB Presents: Locked n’ Loaded broadcast team consists of Beto Duran on play-by-play and Steve Kim provides expert, color commentary.

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

“Locked n’ Loaded” is presented by Thompson Boxing Promotions and sponsored by Lucas Oil, in association with Everlast.

For more information, please visit [ThompsonBoxing.com](http://ThompsonBoxing.com). To follow the conversation on social media, please use #LockednLoaded, #TBPresents, and #ThompsonBoxing.

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## **Michael Dutchover 130.4 lbs – Miguel Carizoza 130.7**

ORANGE, Calif. (June 23, 2017) – Undefeated junior lightweight Michael Dutchover (4-0, 4 KOs) checked in at 130.4 lbs and his



opponent Miguel Carrizoza (10-1, 2 KO's weighed 130.7 for their six-round bout that will take place TONIGHT from the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario, Calif.

Dutchover is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing.

Watch Dutchover vs. Carrizoza and the rest of the 6-fight card on TB Presents: Path To Glory, live streaming on ThompsonBoxing.com and Facebook Live beginning at 7:45 p.m. PST / 10:45 p.m. EST.

Tickets for "Path to Glory" are priced at \$40, \$60, & \$100 and are available for purchase online at ThompsonBoxing.com, or by calling 714-935-0900.

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## **Elite Prospect Michael Dutchover Highlights "Path to Glory" Undercard Friday Night**

ORANGE, Calif. (June 20, 2017) – Junior lightweight Michael Dutchover (4-0, 4 KOs), a highly accomplished amateur and recently turned professional, highlights Friday night's "Path to Glory" undercard from the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario, Calif.

Watch Dutchover vs. Carrizoza and the rest of the 6-fight card on TB Presents: Path To Glory, live streaming on ThompsonBoxing.com and Facebook Live beginning at 7:45 p.m. PST / 10:45 p.m. EST.

Tickets for "Path to Glory" are priced at \$40, \$60, & \$100 and are available for purchase online at ThompsonBoxing.com, or by

calling 714-935-0900.

Dutchover, who trains in Southern California but resides in Midland, Tex., faces his toughest opponent to date: once-beaten Miguel Carrizoza (10-1, 2 KOs) of Hermosillo, Mex.

The bout marks Dutchover's second 6-round fight of his young career. He stormed into the paid ranks with four straight knockout wins.

"The plan this year is to up my level of competition," said Dutchover, who recently sparred with world title challenger Petr Petrov. "I know I'm ready for the challenge. I want to work my way to the top, and in order to do that I need to challenge myself."

Dutchover had a successful amateur run that saw him win nine national titles, a bronze at the 2015 U.S. Olympic Trials, and a runner-up finish at last year's National Golden Gloves competition. Dutchover, 19, believes he was built to fight professionally.

"As an amateur, I often boxed in the pro-style," said Dutchover, who counts Danny Zamora, older brother Junior Dutchover, and Javier Gomez as coaches. "I didn't really throw a lot of quick, small punches that define the amateurs. I was more aggressive in my approach. I worked the body and threw a lot of power shots."

Detailed opponent scouting reports in the early years of a boxer's professional career are often not available. Dutchover has an idea of what to expect from Carrizoza, but he will rely mostly on his extensive amateur background.

"I had such a long amateur career that I've seen basically every style in the book," said Dutchover, who is promoted by Banner Promotions and Thompson Boxing. "I'm going to adapt in the ring and be prepared for whatever he brings. I had an excellent training camp. I'm in great shape and ready to go

after another win.”

“We are looking forward to Micheal stepping up in competition on Friday night,” said Matthew Rowland, Vice-President of Banner Promotions. “Michael has shown that he is ready for this challenge, and we expect another terrific performance.”