

DAVID BENAVIDEZ VS. ALEXIS ANGULO SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® PRESS WEBINAR QUOTES

UNCASVILLE, CONN. – August 12, 2020 – Undefeated WBC Super Middleweight World Champion David Benavídez joined his main event opponent, Alexis Angulo, and the rest of the fighters on this Saturday's SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® tripleheader in a virtual press webinar on Wednesday in advance of their respective bouts that will take place live on SHOWTIME (9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT) from the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn. The card is presented by Premier Boxing Champions.

The co-main event features rising lightweight Rolando "Rolly" Romero taking on fellow unbeaten Jackson Maríñez in a 12-round battle for the interim WBA Lightweight Title, while heavyweight contenders Otto Wallin and Travis Kauffman square off in a 10-round showdown.

The event is promoted by TGB Promotions and Sampson Boxing. The Romero vs. Maríñez bout is co-promoted by Mayweather Promotions.

FLASH QUOTES:

DAVID BENAVIDEZ

"I feel amazing. Our preparation has been very good and everything has gone smoothly. We had private sessions in our gym, so we had sparring and everything we needed. I'm very close to weight right now and I'm ready to defend my title on Saturday.

"Moving to Seattle was really good for me. I just bought a house out there and it's a beautiful place. I'm there to figure out what I really want in life and dedicate myself to

boxing. I've hit a different stage in my life and career and I'm just ready to keep winning.

"I've seen Angulo's style in some of my previous opponents. I'd compare him to 'Porky' Medina, but Angulo is a little fresher because he hasn't been through the wars like Medina. Angulo is very heavy handed and he wants to win. He's coming off of an upset win and I think that has him motivated to believe he can beat me.

"I'm ready for whatever he brings to the ring. I just have to be patient. I can't just try to knock him out and leave myself open. I have confidence in my abilities, and if I do everything right, I believe the knockout will come. I'm ready to give a great show to all my fans around the world.

"I've just been working on every aspect of my game. My defense, the jab, body shots and keeping the distance especially. I think Angulo is the perfect opponent to display everything I have. This is going to be a rugged and tough fight but that's what I expect for every fight from now on. As long as I prepare myself correctly, I think I'll be fine. This is the level I wanted to be at, and now that I'm here, I want to take full advantage of that.

"Angulo is a tough fighter. He hurt Gilberto Ramirez a couple times in their fight. I have to go in there and be alert. Everything has to be perfect. When I get on the inside, I'm going to attack the body and throw combinations.

"I think this is going to be a different fight than my last fight. I don't think Angulo will utilize the ring like Anthony Dirrell did. I want to start the fight off well, find my rhythm and ultimately break him down.

"I want to fight [IBF Super Middleweight Champion] Caleb Plant next. All the super middleweight champions have to take risks and fight each other. I want those other belts. I want to take the chances now and show everybody, including myself, that I'm

the best.

“I feel like this is just the beginning for me. I want to be a unified champion and be known as the best super middleweight of my generation. I have time on my side and I’m hungry and competitive. The sky’s the limit for me.”

ALEXIS ANGULO

“The [COVID shutdown] has helped me tremendously. I’ve been able to prepare better, and not just physically, but also spiritually and emotionally. I’m more prepared than I’ve ever been and this is really the best thing that could have happened to me. I know the coronavirus has affected many people negatively, but for me it’s been the total opposite. It’s just given me a lot more time to train.

“I hear that they are predicting Benavidez will knock me out in the seventh round, but that is just people’s opinion. I’m going to show on Saturday night that the people who are predicting that will be proven wrong.

“When I fought Anthony Sims Jr., he was a good fighter, but Benavidez is on another level in the boxing game. I’m going to show people that I belong on the same level as Benavidez.

“Benavidez is a warrior, but I don’t see him having any big advantages over me. In my only pro loss to Gilberto Ramirez, it was really just the experience factor. The biggest change for me since that fight is more personal, and just my mindset. I’m just stronger now, emotionally too. That’s the biggest change I’ve experienced.

“I know I have to be more aggressive in this fight – just more effective and smarter on Saturday. I don’t have a game plan. I’m going to adjust to the fight as it comes to me. I know I can adjust to anything Benavidez throws at me.

“I don’t know if this is my toughest fight to date. All my

fights are difficult, some more than others. I'm prepared, I'm ready and on Saturday you will get to see if this is my toughest fight."

ROLANDO ROMERO

"This is a big opportunity for me. This is a way for me to show that I belong in there against the top fighters in the division. I've sparred with all of them before, but this will show I'm ready to face any of them in a real fight.

"I'm not worried about going 12 rounds for the first time. I'm not trying to let it go 12, but I'm prepared from sparring 15 rounds at a time in camp. It's not going to be hard to have more left in the tank in the later rounds.

"Floyd Mayweather taking time to work with me in camp says a lot about him. He's got a lot of other things he could be doing, so it's already a blessing. He always tells me to work my jab and focus on my boxing ability. We've worked a lot together in camp for this fight.

"When I signed with Floyd. I asked him what I should work on and he told me to work on my jab. About four or five fights in I started to really use that advice and it's the best advice that he could have given me.

"I've never relied on just my power. I use my skill set and when I land a punch, the power is what floors them. I'm just a heavy-handed fighter.

"I've been asking for tough fights like this and to step up against the better competition. If it turns out it was too soon, then it's only because I asked for it. But that's not happening. I'm going to end up on top.

"I don't think his experience is going to be a problem for me. My boxing ability and power is going to be way too much for him. I don't think he'll be able to do anything to me. I think

I'm going to win with an early round knockout. It's going to be a really bad knockout.

"I think I'm the best in the world, but that's just me. I think I'd stop every single fighter at 135-pounds.

"I'm already defined as a puncher, but I've yet to really show my boxing ability. That's only because I haven't needed to yet. As I get into tougher and tougher fights I think I'm going to blow through the 135-pound division. When I move up to 140 and 147 pounds, I'll be ready to show my boxing ability more. I started this sport at 17 and I'm 24 now. I feel like I have nothing but room to grow."

JACKSON MARIÑEZ

"I've been training with the Garcia team for over a year. I've learned so much from them. The Mexican boxing style is very different than the Dominican one – working with Robert and his team has helped me combine them both.

"Romero's overconfidence and lack of experience will give me the edge on Saturday. I'm clearly the more experienced fighter, and I guarantee you, he's never been in a ring with a boxer like me. My style is very different to what he's used to. He's in for a surprise.

"I give Romero merit for his power, he's a good athlete, but I'm not intimidated by him. I know I will get the win come Saturday night.

"Every boxer dreams of becoming a world champion from the moment they first try on a pair of gloves. I'm no different. I've dreamt of this moment my entire life. Winning this fight will bring countless opportunities and will change my life.

"I believe everything is possible if you work hard enough. I'm a man of a few words, but my hard work will show in the ring on Saturday night.

“My fellow Dominican, [Jeison] ‘Banana’ Rosario has filled the Dominican people with hope. I want to follow his footsteps.”

OTTO WALLIN

“Yes, it has been quite different [training during COVID]. In the spring, when New York shut down, we were training a lot in my apartment and in Central Park. I pretty much had to build a gym in my apartment. I bought a bike, a bench press, and some other weights. Then for the last couple of months we had a private gym that we were working out of.

“It is not so much about proving that the Fury fight wasn’t a fluke. It is about me going out there and being myself and taking care of Kauffman. He’s a good fighter, so I have to be alert at all times, but I feel like I am just a better fighter so as long as I go out and preform, no one will be saying it is a fluke and that I am for real.

“Hopefully I will get a title shot soon. I did better against Fury than anybody has, so you can take that and see that I am one of the top guys. I think that I am one of the top guys and I am happy to be fighting again so I can show that. The champions are tied up with themselves, so we will see what happens, but I feel like after the Fury fight people know that I am in that mix. Fury seems to always be calling people out, but he never mentions my name.”

“I would like to fight the champions, of course, and that is Fury and Anthony Joshua. Wilder is a top guy, so that is an option when he comes back, but a Fury rematch or a fight with Joshua is what I really want. It is important for me to take care of Kauffman and stay busy, then get back in the ring quick.

“It feels great that I am finally going to fight. It has almost been a year since my last fight. It is great to train, but I do not want to train all the time, I want to fight. I have been on lockdown in New York, so finally I get some

action.”

“When you fight the best, you see what you do well, and you see what you need to work on. I have been watching the Fury fight, and I have been studying it. Being in there with Fury, and trading rounds with the champion like that, there is nothing better. I need the experience, so that was great for me. I am sure I learned a lot that I do not even know of yet. I feel like improved after that fight, but we always need to improve.”

TRAVIS KAUFFMAN

“My life has always been full of challenges. With every fight and every camp there have been challenges. With the passing of Brother Naazim Richardson, who I’ve known since I was nine and who’s trained me for the last six years, it hurt. I didn’t expect him to pass away because he’d already overcome so much. It truly hurt me, but it also motivated me. I was unable to leave training camp, because all I could think about was that Brother Naazim would not have let me leave. He was truly a great mentor to me.

“When we knew Naazim wouldn’t be here, we decided to go back to what I knew best, which was working with my dad Marshall Kauffman. I knew that I should go back to the person who taught me everything I know.

“I turn 35 next Friday so it would be a great birthday present to beat this guy up before that. Every time I go to fight, I don’t get the nerves that people talk about. It’s another day at the office. This is a way to provide for my family. There’s always a lot on the line. If I win, it puts me in position to make life changing money.

“I have everything on the line because I know I have what it takes to beat Wallin. His claim to fame is losing to Tyson Fury. That’s all they know him for. I won’t take anything away from him, but he’s trying to prove that it wasn’t a fluke.

Champions Event Saturday, August 15 Live on SHOWTIME

NEW YORK – August 5, 2020 – Undefeated WBC Super Middleweight World Champion David “El Bandera Roja” Benavídez will defend his title against former world title challenger Alexis Angulo in a Premier Boxing Champions event Saturday, August 15 live on SHOWTIME from Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn.

The SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® telecast begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and also features rising lightweight Rolando “Rolly” Romero taking on fellow unbeaten Jackson Maríñez in a 12-round battle for the interim WBA Lightweight Title, while heavyweight contenders Otto Wallin and Travis Kauffman square off in a 10-round showdown.

“David Benavídez will look to keep his perfect record intact, continue to display his superstar potential and further cement his positioning in the stacked 168-pound division,” said Tom Brown, President of TGB Promotions. “As an undefeated world champ, Benavídez can expect a strong challenge from Alexis Angulo, which should create an action-packed main event on SHOWTIME. Combined with a battle of hungry unbeaten lightweights in ‘Rolly’ Romero and Jackson Maríñez, plus a heavyweight slugfest between Otto Wallin and Travis Kauffman, this shapes up to be another can’t miss night of high-stakes action.”

“It’s going to be great to be in the corner of David ‘El Bandera Roja’ Benavídez on fight night,” said Sampson Lewkowicz of Sampson Boxing, who is recovering from a recent surgery. “I feel so good and so strong and I truly can’t wait to be there to support the youngest super middleweight champion in history.”

The event is promoted by TGB Promotions and Sampson Boxing.

The Romero vs. Maríñez bout is co-promoted by Mayweather Promotions.

The 23-year-old Benavídez (22-0, 19 KOs) defends his belt after defeating two-time super middleweight champion Anthony Dirrell in September, stopping him in nine rounds. Benavidez is trained by his father José Sr., alongside his brother and former title challenger, José Jr. In 2017, he became the youngest super middleweight champion in boxing history by defeating Ronald Gavril on SHOWTIME at just 20 years old. Representing his native Phoenix, Ariz. Benavídez went from a 15-year-old prodigy sparring with Gennady Golovkin and Peter Quillin, to world title contender with a 10-fight knockout streak from 2015 through 2017, including a highlight-reel knockout of Rogelio Medina with a seven-punch combination that earned him his first championship fight.

“It’s been almost a year since the last time I fought, so I’m very eager to get back in the ring and give the fans a great fight,” said Benavídez. “Training camp has been amazing. Fortunately, my dad opened his own gym just before the pandemic, so we’ve had private training and been able to safely bring in sparring partners to help me work. I’m facing a very tricky and rugged fighter, so I’m taking him very seriously. I feel like I can take advantage of some openings in his defense and look for the knockout like I do every fight.”

Born in El Bordo, Colombia and now fighting out of Miami, Fla., Angulo (26-1, 22 KOs) enters his second world title opportunity on a three-fight winning streak, including two triumphs over previously unbeaten fighters. Angulo stopped Reinaldo Gonzalez in 2018 in his first fight since losing a decision to then-super middleweight champion Gilberto Ramirez earlier that year. He scored a decision victory this January over Anthony Sims Jr. to put himself in position to again challenge the best in the division.

"I'm ready for anything that happens in the ring on August 15," said Angulo. "This is going to be a great fight for the fans because of the style I bring to the ring. Benavidez is a strong champion, but my style will be too much for him and I will have my hand raised on fight night."

Fighting out of Las Vegas, Nev., Romero (11-0, 10 KOs) added three knockout victories to his tally in 2019 before his 2020 debut saw him stop previously unbeaten Arturs Ahmetovs in February. A fast-rising prospect in the Mayweather Promotions stable, the 24-year-old is ranked No. 10 by the WBA and will look to extend his six-fight knockout streak on August 15.

"It feels great to return to the ring and to be fighting for such a great opportunity," said Romero. "This has been the best camp of my career, and I'll just say this, if a pandemic is holding you back from training, then you don't want it bad enough. I already believe I should be here with the top guys, but the world will actually get to see that I am who I say I am. I'm confident in my abilities as a fighter and I have the best in the business, Floyd Mayweather, behind me. I think this fight will end fairly quickly, but you will get to see the growth in me as a fighter. This is another fight that will further prove I'm here to stay. Sign up for KO's!"

"This is a big step up for Rolando, and he's been waiting for the opportunity to showcase his talent," said Leonard Ellerbe, CEO of Mayweather Promotions. "He has a big test ahead to prove himself. This is going to be another one that you don't want to miss, so tune-in to SHOWTIME on Saturday, August 15."

The 29-year-old Maríñez (19-0, 7 KOs) holds the WBA's No. 6 ranking, which he earned with victories over Rolando Giono and Kenin Betancourt while picking up eight wins between 2018 and 2019. Representing his native Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Maríñez was successful in his U.S. debut in December of last year, stopping Yardley Armenta Cruz in two rounds.

"I've had a great training camp for this fight," said Maríñez. "I've been sparring with Vergil Ortiz and Jose Ramirez, plus other fighters in Robert Garcia's gym, and it's gotten me ready to step into the ring. I know that Romero is a tough and durable fighter, so it won't be easy, but I'm going to do anything I can to bring the title back home."

Wallin (20-1, 13 KOs) will return to the ring for the first time since he nearly defeated Tyson Fury in September 2019, when he opened up a gruesome cut over Fury's right eye with a legal punch that nearly halted the fight. While the 29-year-old lost a decision, he proved his mettle as a potential future heavyweight champion. Representing his native Sundsvall, Sweden, Wallin trains in New York with former champion Joey Gamache.

"I'm very happy to finally be back in the ring," said Wallin. "It's been a long and crazy year in many ways and it feels great to be getting ready to step back into the ring. I've been training steady since the Fury fight and I feel like I've developed my game in a lot of ways. Kauffman is a tough veteran that can both come forward or box if he wants to. He's a fan friendly fighter and I have to be ready at all times. We have a great game plan as always and I'm in excellent shape. I know I have all the tools to beat Kauffman."

A veteran of the heavyweight landscape, Kauffman (32-3, 23 KOs) owns a ledger that includes challenges of top heavyweights including Luis Ortiz, Chris Arreola and Amir Mansour, amongst others. The Reading, Pennsylvania native lost his most recent bout to Ortiz, following a 2018 triumph over Scott Alexander.

"This is my first training camp in seven years without Brother Naazim Richardson, but I know that he wouldn't want me to leave camp and he'd want me to stay focused," said Kauffman. "Having him pass away while I was in camp was one of the hardest things I've had to deal with, but there's adversity in

every camp I've had. I wouldn't feel right if there wasn't adversity to overcome. My father, Marshall, stepped back in as my head trainer. We know we're facing a young, hungry fighter, but I have more experience than him and I don't think he can last 10 rounds with me when I'm at 100% like I'll be on August 15."

Additional non-televised action will include super middleweight contender Alantez Fox (26-2-1, 12 KOs) battling Ghana's Habib Ahmed (27-1-1, 18 KOs) in an eight-round attraction.

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