

# JARON ENNIS vs. RAYMOND SERRANO FINAL WEIGHTS, QUOTES & PHOTOS FOR SHOBOX: 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 Khagai 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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# **Bright Prospects From Hard Hitting Promotions Highlight Non-Televised Undercard of ShoBox: The New Generation on Friday, November 16 At The 2300 Arena**

PHILADELPHIA – October 26, 2018 – A bevy of prospects will be on display as part of the non-televised undercard of ShoBox: The New Generation on Friday, November 16 at The 2300 Arena in Philadelphia.

Highly-touted junior welterweight Branden Pizarro will see action in an eight-round bout as he takes on Jerome Rodriguez.

The 19-year-old Pizarro, of Philadelphia, is a two-year professional with a record of 12-1 with six knockouts. One of the top amateurs in the country before turning professional, Pizarro has a knockout win over Abdiel Padilla. In his last bout, Pizarro stopped 30-fight veteran Justin Johnson in two rounds on October 6 at The 2300 Arena.

Rodriguez, of Allentown, Penn., has a record of 7-10-3 with two knockouts. The 32 year-old has big wins over Tre'Sean Wiggins (3-0) and world-ranked Avery Sparrow (4-0). Rodriguez, who has fought 10 undefeated opponents, is coming off a unanimous decision loss to Jeremy Cuevas on October 6 at The 2300 Arena.

In a six-round bout, Gadwyn Rosa (8-0, 7 KOs) of Ocala, Fla.,

will take on an opponent to be named in a super featherweight bout.

In four-round non-televised bouts:

Kieran Hooks (3-1-1, 1 KO), of Philadelphia, takes on Gledwin Ortiz (5-2-1, 4 KOs) of Bronx, N.Y. in a super welterweight bout;

Christian Tapia (6-0, 5 KOs), of Coamao, PR, will take on an opponent to be named in a super featherweight bout.

Benny Sinakin (1-0), of Philadelphia, takes on an opponent to be named in a light heavyweight bout.

Angel Pizarro (4-0, 3 KOs), of Philadelphia, will take on an opponent to be named in a super bantamweight bout.

Former top-amateur standout, David Stevens, of Reading, Penn, will make his pro debut in a cruiserweight bout.

In the previously announced main event, 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 live on SHOWTIME® at 9:35 p.m. ET/PT from 2300 Arena in Philadelphia.

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 of Hard Hitting Promotions (14-2-1, 7 KOs) in an eight-round super lightweight bout. Also on the card, undefeated Ukrainian Arnold Khagai (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).

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# **UNDEFEATED WELTERWEIGHT PROSPECT JARON ENNIS TO FACE RAYMOND SERRANO IN AN ALL PHILADELPHIA MAIN EVENT OF NOVEMBER 16 SHOBOX: 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 KO 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 Chinea 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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**Kenneth Sims, Jr. returns  
Saturday night against Andrew**

# Rodgers in Gary, Indiana

CHICAGO, IL., (October 11, 2018) – Junior Welterweight Kenneth Sims, Jr. will be back in action this Saturday night when he takes on Andrew Rodgers in a six-round bout at The McBride Hall in Gary, Indiana.

Sims of nearby Chicago will be back in the ring for the first time since taking an eight-round split decision over previously undefeated Montana Love on July 20th in a bout that was nationally televised on ShoBox: The New Generation on SHOWTIME.

Sims (12-1-1, 4 KOs) has been working in Houston, Texas with some top-notch sparring partners, which will help him go forward in his career.

“My camp was great. It was a full camp with my strength and conditioning coach. I got great sparring with O’Shaquie Foster, Regis Prograis, and Taras Shelestyuk,” said Sims.

In Rodgers, Sims is taking on an unheralded opponent in what most are terming a “stay busy fight.”

“I really do not know much about him. I am taking this fight as it is close to home. I have been fighting in different places, so this is a good opportunity for my family and fans to see me fight.”

After being injured for the better part of the last year, Sims is looking to stay active at the end of the 2018 and into 2019.

“I hope to have another fight before the end of the year. It doesn’t matter if it another fight like this or something more significant. It all depends on the situation.”

Sims, who is promoted by GH3 Promotions can be followed on Twitter and Instagram at @KennethSimsJr

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# **GH3 Promotions Fighters to stay busy in September in October**

Nutley, NJ (September 4, 2018) – It will be a busy next six weeks for GH3 Promotions as it's stable of fighters will be active all over the country.

2018 National Golden Gloves champion Roney Hines (3-0, 3 KOs) will see action on Saturday night at The Showboat Hotel in Atlantic City as he takes on Kendrick Houston (1-3, 1 KO) in a four-round bout. With a win, Hines will return to action on September 22nd in North Carolina as well as on September 28th in Temecula, California.

On that same September 28th date, Undefeated lightweight Thomas Mattice (13-0, 10 KOs) will square off with Zhora Hamazaryan in a highly anticipated rematch that will be seen live on SHOWTIME as part of a ShoBox: The New Generation tripleheader.

On September 29th in Charlotte, North Carolina, undefeated junior middleweight, Joey Alday, Jr. (8-0, 7 KOs) will be back in action in a six-round bout.

Kenneth Sims, Jr. (12-1-1, 4 KO's) will stay busy when he sees action on October 13th in a junior welterweight bout in Gary , Indiana

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# **GH3 Promotions fare well in Sloan, Iowa**

Nutley, NJ (July 23, 2018) – GH3 Promotions fighters Thomas Mattice and Roney Hines gained wins this past Friday night in Sloan, Iowa while Kenneth Sims, Jr. fought to a draw in the opening bout of a ShoBox: The New Generation tripleheader.

In the televised co-feature, Mattice got up from a 2nd round knockdown to eek out an eight-round split decision over Zhora Hamazaryan in a battle of undefeated lightweights.

Mattice of Cleveland, Ohio won by scores of 76-75 twice while Hamazaryan won a card by a 77-74 tally.

Mattice is now 13-0.

In the opening bout of the ShoBox telecast, Kenneth Sims, Jr. was denied a victory in his eight-round junior welterweight bout with Montana Love as the judges saw the fight as a split draw.

Sims controlled the action and seemingly got the better of the fight, but somehow the fight was scored a draw.

Each fighter won a card 77-75 and a 3rd card read even at 76-76.

Sims of Chicago is 12-1-1.

In non-televised action, 2018 National Golden Gloves champion Roney Hines needed just 68 seconds to drop David Becker three times to win his pro debut.

Hines of Cleveland, Ohio was making his pro debut.

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# Quartet of GH3 Promotions fighters look to shine TONIGHT in Sloan, Iowa

Sloan, Iowa (July 20, 2018) – Four members of the GH3 Promotions stable will be featured TONIGHT at The WinnaVegas Casino Resort.

In the main of event of a ShoBox: The New Generation tripleheader that will be LIVE ON SHOWTIME® at 10 PM ET / PT (Delayed on The West Coast), newly signed Armando Alvarez (18-0, 12 KOs) of Key West, Florida takes on Jaron Ennis (20-0, 18 KOs) in a welterweight bout scheduled for ten-rounds.

In the co-feature, Thomas Mattice (12-0, 10 KOs) of Cleveland, Ohio takes on Zhora Hamazaryan (9-0, 6 KOs) in an eight-round lightweight bout.

Kenneth Sims, Jr. (12-1, 4 KOs) of Chicago, Illinois battles Montana Love (11-0, 5 KOs) in a eight-round junior welterweight bout.

In non-televised action, 2018 National Golden Gloves champion Roney Hines of Cleveland, Ohio makes his pro debut against David Becker (1-1, 1 K0) of St. Joseph, Missouri in a four-round heavyweight bout.

“I want to thank SHOWTIME and ShoBox for this great card. This is will be another fantastic evening of fights. This is another big night for our fighters. We expect Armando, Thomas and Kenneth to shine on national television. I am really excited to see Roney Hines turn pro, and mark his ascent

towards where the other three are, and that is being featured on a great platform like ShoBox,” GH3 Promotions CEO, Vito Mielnicki.

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## **Kenneth Sims Jr. Camp Notes**

Chicago (July 17, 2018) – Junior welterweight Kenneth Sims, Jr. (12-1, 4 KOs) has been hunkering down in training camp in Chicago for his showdown with undefeated Montana Love (11-0, 5 KOs) in an eight-round bout that will be part of a ShoBox: The New Generation tripleheader on Friday, July 20 live on SHOWTIME® at 10 p.m. ET/PT

In the main event, undefeated welterweights will tangle as Jaron Ennis (20-0, 18 KOs) squares off against Armando Alvarez (18-0, 12 KOs) in the 10-round main event from WinnaVegas Casino in Sloan, Iowa.

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 eight-round 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).

Sims, who was a former National Amateur champion, has been off since suffering his only professional blemish, when he dropped a majority decision to Rolando Chinaea, and subsequently had elbow surgery. He is eager to get back in the ring, and prove he’s one of the best prospects in the 140-pound division.

“Everything is going great,” Sims said. “I am feeling better than ever. I have been working with a strength and conditioning coach for the first time in my career, and I can feel the difference.”

In Love, he is facing an undefeated fighter, who made an impression in his previous ShoBox appearance on Feb. 2 when he won a majority decision over Samuel Teah on short notice.

“Love is a good fighter,” Sims said. “We fought when we were kids. We were about 15 years-old. I won that fight, but that does not mean anything as we head into this fight.”

Sims has extra motivation, as he feels that in the loss to China, he was not at his best physically, and he vows to put on a great performance.

“I am super motivated. The last fight upped my motivation. It’s amazing, to see some of the people who have rooted for me in the past are now saying negative stuff about me. A win will get me back on track. I have been sparring with Regis Prograis, and that has lifted my game up even more.”

# # #

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#### About ShoBox: The New Generation

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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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## **ROLANDO CHINEA SHINES ON SHOWTIME WITH WIN OVER KENNETH SIMS JR.**

MIAMI, OKLAHOMA – July 18, 2017 – Nobody told Rolando China he was supposed to the “B-side,” when he upset Ladarius Miller, O’Shanique Foster, Mel Crossty, or on Saturday, when he handed Kenneth Sims Jr. (12-1, 4K0) his first loss.

The Super Lightweight prospect, who hails from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, won a majority decision over Sims in the co-feature of Saturday night’s edition of SHOBX: The New Generation. Sims came out strong early in the fight, but China was relentless, breaking down his opponent over eight rounds. China dominated the last two rounds, and punch stats indicated that he landed more punches overall throughout the bout.

It was China’s second Showtime outing, and Victory Boxing Promoter Chris Middendorf hopes to see him back on the network soon. “He’s shown that he’s willing to step up and face the best. He doesn’t shy away from an undefeated fighter, and he’s ready to get back in the ring on Showtime, and continue to show boxing fans what a real throw-back fighter looks like,” said Middendorf.

China, for his part, rated the performance a 'B.' "I am back in the gym and ready to improve. Every fight I learn something about myself and I am ready to put that experience to work for me."

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## **HOMETOWN FAVORITE IVAN BARANCHYK DECISIONS KEENAN SMITH IN MAIN EVENT OF SHOBOX: THE NEW GENERATION FRIDAY ON SHOWTIME® FROM BUFFALO RUN CASINO IN MIAMI, OKLA.**

MIAMI, Okla. (July 15, 2017) – Ivan Baranchyk went the distance with Keenan Smith in front of Baranchyk's adopted hometown in the main event of a quadrupleheader featuring eight returning fighters on Friday's ShoBox: The New Generation from Buffalo Run Casino & Resort.

In a battle of undefeated fighters, the hard-hitting Baranchyk (15-0, 10 KOs) took advantage of a one-point holding deduction against Sims in the fifth round to earn the decision in his fifth appearance on the ShoBox series and six consecutive fight out of Miami.

"I'm happy to be fighting back home in Miami, I love to fight here," said Baranchyk, who was happy with his win but displeased with his overall performance. "I came out too hard

and tried too hard to knock Smith out. I really wanted to knock him out which is why my punches were wild.”

Smith (11-1, 5 KOs) sealed his fate when he was deducted a point by officials after excessive holding throughout the first half of the fight. He became the 166th fighter to lose his undefeated record on the ShoBox series.

“They weren’t playing fair,” Smith said. “Anything that I did, the referee was on me. I was hitting him with clean body shots, and he kept telling me to keep them up, and then he took a point for holding. I don’t know what fight [the judges] were watching.”

The fight was a hard-hitting and physical affair from the beginning. Baranchyk came out swinging, landing just 21% of his jabs and 29% of total punches, edging out Smith who landed just 22% of his total punches.

“I came out too hard and tried to knock him out, which is why my punches were wild,” said Baranchyk.

In the co-feature, Rolando Chinaea upset previously unbeaten former national amateur champion Kenneth Sims Jr. in a close majority decision.

“I was most confident after the second round of the fight, when I noticed he was sticking his tongue out and making certain gestures that showed he was tired,” Chinaea said. “If I had to grade myself I would rate my overall performance as a B... I have a lot to improve on and my job here is never finished.”

Like Smith, Sims (12-1, 4 KOs) suffered the first loss of his career, becoming the 165th fighter to lose his undefeated record on the ShoBox series.

In the wild final round, the pair combined for 291 punches and 85 connects, but Chinaea’s surge earned him the majority

decision win.

“My body just didn’t respond tonight,” Sims said. “I am done at 140 pounds. I just did not feel right from the opening bell. I am going to 147 pounds.”

In the sixth round, China took control and was the busier fighter against a fading Sims. While both fighters exchanged numerous punches in the seventh and closed the fight out with a flurry of activity, Sims clearly struggled at 140 pounds.

In the wild final round, the pair combined for 291 punches and 85 connects, but China’s surge earned him the majority decision win.

In the second fight of the night, Glenn Dezurn (9-0-1, 6 KOs) stepped up to the 121-pound super bantamweight division to go the distance with ShoBox veteran Adam Lopez (16-1-2, 8 KOs) in an action-packed eight-round slugfest that ended in a split draw. Both fighters were visibly disappointed by the judge’s decision.

“I thought I did enough to win,” said the still-undefeated Dezurn, who spars with his wife, women’s pro fighter Franchon Crews. “I’m just fortunate for this opportunity and hope [Lopez] and I can come back strong and fight again someday.”

The first round was a round of give-and-take where both Dezurn and Lopez landed and sustained an impressive amount of body punches. It was Lopez who originally appeared more subdued, foregoing the counterpunch as Dezurn worked the jab.

By the fifth round it was clear Dezurn was losing steam when Lopez began to break him down and force him against the ropes. Lopez went on to dominate the sixth and seventh rounds, when Dezurn, clearly out-fought, looked tired and began to lean over.

“After the first round, I dominated the action,” said Lopez,

who has now fought on ShoBox a record-tying six times. Maybe [Dezurn] won the seventh, but I whipped him. I should have won the fight, this was a redemption for me. Once I got used to his speed, I feel I won rounds six to two. The whole fight, his back was against the ropes and I beat up his body.”

Trained by the famed Coach Barry Hunter, the still-undefeated Dezurn made a valiant comeback in the final round, where he came back to life.

“I thought it was fair,” Hunter said. “We came on in the middle rounds, and Glenn won the seventh and eighth to get us the draw. It all came down to the stretch and I thought we did enough to win those rounds.”

In the opening bout of the telecast, former knockdown-of-the-year candidate Joshua Greer Jr. (14-1-1, 6 KOs) stopped Leroy Davila (5-2, 3 KOs) after five rounds, when Davila’s corner called the fight at the conclusion of the fifth.

“The game plan was to box and hit hard, and that’s what I did,” said Greer, who earned a memorable knockout against James Gordon Smith in his last ShoBox appearance. “I had to put on a good show. I will fight whoever has the belts. I want to fight for a world title.”

The 23-year old Greer landed a number of aggressive combinations that had Davila against the ropes from the onset. While Davila appeared to come alive in the second round, the 29-year old southpaw became stationary and had trouble recovering from a shot to the face that had him bleeding out of the left side of his nose and struggling for the second half of the fourth and the fifth. His corner called the fight just after the bell sounded, ending the fifth round.

The event was co-promoted by GH3 Promotions and Holden Productions.

Friday’s quadrupleheader will replay on Monday, July 17 at 10

p.m. ET/PT on SHOWTIME EXTREME and will be available on SHOWTIME on DEMAND® and SHOWTIME ANYTIME®.

Barry Tompkins called the ShoBox action from ringside with Steve Farhood and former world champion Raul Marquez serving as expert analysts. The executive producer was Gordon Hall with Rich Gaughan producing and Rick Phillips directing.

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