

**AUDIO: Interview with
Heavyweight contender Travis
Kauffman**

**VIDEO: Talking with
Heavyweight Travis Kauffman**

**AUDIO: Interview with
Undefeated Heavyweight
Michael Coffie**

<https://anchor.fm/marc-abrams7/episodes/Interview-with-undefeated-Heavyweight-Michael-Coffie-ehq30e>

VIDEO: Interview with undefeated heavyweight Michael Coffie

**Undefeated WBC Super
Middleweight World Champion
David Benavídez Defends Title
Against Former Title
Challenger Alexis Angulo
Headlining Premier Boxing
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. Benavídez 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.

#

For more information visit www.SH0.com/sports, www.PremierBoxingChampions.com, follow on Twitter @ShowtimeBoxing, @PremierBoxing, @TGBPromotions, and @Swanson_Comm or become a fan on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SH0Boxing

AUDIO: Interview with World-Ranked Welterweight Mykal Fox about upcoming fight with Lucas Santamaria

VIDEO: Raeese Aleem talks about his stoppage win over Marcus Bates

VIDEO: Joe George Post Fight Press Conference

King's Promotions Triumvirate on Display TONIGHT on SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING®

Reading, PA (August 1, 2020)—.TONIGHT at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut, King's Promotions will be featured prominently as three members of the promotional outfit will see action on a SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING tripleheader.

In the televised co-feature, it will be a rematch of King's Promotions super bantamweight's as WBA Number-13 ranked Raese Aleem (16-0, 10 KOs) and WBA Number-eight ranked Marcus Bates (11-1-1, 8 KOs) square off in a WBA Elimination contest.

In the televised opener, Joseph George (10-0, 6 KOs) will look to repeat the outcome of his November 15th battle with Marcos Escudero (10-1, 9 KOs) as the two will square off in a 10-round light heavyweight bout.

Raese Aleem

The fights, which begin at 9 PM ET / 6 PM PT, will be headlined by the WBO Super Bantamweight title bout featuring Angelo Leo taking on Tramaine Williams.

“This is a big night for our company,” said Marshall Kauffman, CEO of King’s Promotions.

“We have three of our fighters in two big rematches. The winners of each fight set themselves up for huge opportunities in their next fight. I want to thank Stephen Espinoza and Al Haymon for the opportunities for Raese, Marcus and Joseph. They will all prove that they belong on this stage on Saturday night, and I hope this will be the 1st of many big fights on SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING for the three.”

At Friday’s weigh-in, both Aleem and Bates weighed 121 1/4 lbs.

George was 174 1/4 lbs while Escudero was 173 1/2.

Below are fight week quotes from Aleem, Bates and George.

RA’EESE ALEEM

“My first fight against Marcus was a good fight, I believe I won every round. That was my first fight back after a two-and-a-half-year layoff. I just couldn’t get a fight and he accepted the challenge at that time. I gave him his first loss and you always remember your first loss. I’m sure he thinks about me at night.

“Facing a new opponent on late notice doesn’t take away from my aggression, if anything it amps it up. I’m probably going to be more aggressive, if anything, because it is more of a grudge match. The first time that I fought him, head-to-head, I beat him fair and square and he has the audacity to say that something was up with his water or whatever. Real fighters don’t make excuses and that’s exactly what he has done. He called me out and told people I was scared to fight him. Well,

now he gets his chance and it's going to be more than what he bargained for."

MARCUS BATES

"I've been working hard to get to where I'm at and everybody who boxes dreams of being a world champion. For this to fall into place at this point of my career, I think it's perfect timing a perfect opportunity. I've wanted the rematch with Aleem and I couldn't get it, so for us to get the rematch on SHOWTIME is great. If I win this, I will be in position to fight for a world title and every boxer's dream is to get a belt.

Marcus Bates

"Even though there was a chance I wouldn't be fighting, I came here expecting to fight. I didn't come all the way up here just to go home without a fight. Once they told me I was definitely fighting and it was going to be a rematch to the only guy I've lost to, I was very excited. I always wanted to fight him again after I lost to him so I'm so excited."

JOE GEORGE

"I'm in better shape for this fight compared to our first fight. We're working on fighting off of the ropes better and fighting in the center of the ring more effectively.

"A knockout is always good, but I like to take it one round at a time. If the knockout comes, it comes, and we're going to take advantage. I've been dropping fighters in camp, so the chance of a knockout is pretty high.

"He was an okay opponent. He had a chin and was in shape. His punches weren't effective though. I made sure my punches landed and I hurt him a few times, I just couldn't really finish him.

Joseph George

“This fight will be different because I’m going to work off the ropes more instead of letting him gain momentum with his punches. Last fight was just him being really active and having a good chin -that’s all that stopped him from getting knocked out. If I was in better shape, I could have finished him. If I get the opportunity this fight, I’ll finish it.

“I expect to see a slight difference in Escudero. If you change trainers, then you should have made some changes. I had a good hard camp and whatever he brings, I’ll be ready for it.

“Some people think that Escudero won, and that’s their opinion. But I knew what I was doing. He wasn’t effective. I think just by me being on the ropes it made some people think that I was losing. But for me, I’m very comfortable fighting on the ropes.

“I didn’t really spar with people my weight in camp, it was either with heavyweights or guys who are lighter. The lighter guys helped with my speed and the heavyweights helped with my power. It worked out perfectly and I got the best of both worlds.

“My manager Trent Williams is a young athlete so he knows how this goes. He knows the things to do and what to say. You never see him angry or frustrated, the only time he’s aggressive is when he’s training or on the field. His work ethic is incredible and that’s motivation in itself. He’s a great role model and I learn a lot from watching him.”

Raeese Aleem talks rematch with Marcus Bates

Raeese Aleem talks rematch with Marcus Bates

Marcus Bates Media Availability

Marcus Bates Media Availability

Media conference with undefeated light heavyweight Joseph George

Media conference with undefeated light heavyweight Joseph George

Saturday's fights are presented by Premier Boxing Champions and promoted by TGB and Mayweather Promotions in association with Kings Promotions. The main event is promoted in association with New World Sports and Warriors Boxing.

For more information visit www.SH0.com/sports, www.PremierBoxingChampions.com, follow on Twitter @ShowtimeBoxing, @PremierBoxing, @TGBPromotions or become a fan on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SH0Boxing

VIDEO: Raeese Aleem talks rematch with Marcus Bates