

# Undefeated Contender Kanat Islam Stops Colombia's Juan De Angel in Main Event of Premier Boxing Champions: The Next Round On Bounce TV From The Lakeland Center In Lakeland, Florida

LAKELAND, FLORIDA (May 9, 2016) – Undefeated contender Kanat Islam (21-0, 18 KOs) stopped Colombia's Juan De Angel (18-4-1, 17 KOs) in the sixth round of Sunday night's main event on Premier Boxing Champions: The Next Round on Bounce TV from the Lakeland Center in Lakeland, Florida.

The rising 154-pounder from Kazakhstan stopped his ninth straight opponent inside the distance when De Angel fell to the canvas twice in round six prompting referee Telis Assimenios to halt the bout 22 seconds into the round.

De Angel appeared to succumb to an ankle injury while taking a step backward that forced him to drop to the canvas. Islam sensed his moment and pounced on the injured brawler to put an end to the bout quickly.

A 2008 Olympic Bronze medalist, Islam was able to navigate around the four-inch reach advantage owned by De Angel and control the fight with his athleticism and powerful right hand. His first headlining appearance was a successful one as he looks to continue to climb the ladder towards a world title.

The co-main event of the evening saw Miguel Cruz (13-0, 11

KOs) take home a split decision victory over Samuel Figueroa (10-1, 4 KOs) in an eight-round back-and-forth battle of unbeaten prospects.

The friends turned rivals brought the action from the beginning as the smaller southpaw Figueroa aggressively attacked the body of Cruz in early exchanges. Cruz's timing improved as the fight went on and his combinations began to land and stunt the attack of Figueroa.

Some of the best back-and-forth action came in round six as both fighters had found their way through the opponent's defense. Cruz used his length to beat Figueroa to the punch, but Figueroa continued to throw punches and do plenty of damage throughout the heated final stanzas.

In a fight that appeared to be an even affair, the judges scores were 77-75 for Figueroa and 78-74 and 77-75 for Cruz to give him the split decision.

In the opening bout of the telecast, super featherweight Dennis Galarza (13-1, 8 KOs) won his eighth straight fight as he defeated durable Mexican Yardley Suarez (15-4, 9 KOs) over eight hard fought rounds.

Galarza used his length advantage to break Suarez down with his jab and penetrate his defense with various combinations. The Brooklyn-born fighter now training out of Orlando dominated the first half of the fight on his way to the unanimous decision.

Suarez began to pick up the action in the second half of the fight landing several hard punches and challenging Galarza to exchange in the middle of the ring in round five. He landed perhaps the best combination of the fight in round six with a pair of punches that sent Galarza into retreat mode for the remainder of the round.

Overall it was Galarza's output that proved to be the biggest

difference as he threw 421 punches to Suarez's 305 on his way to a 117-99 advantage in punches landed. The judges' scores were 77-75 and 78-74 twice for Galarza.

Here is what the fighters had to say Sunday night:

KANAT ISLAM

"It felt good to go to (six) rounds to get the win. My last few opponents didn't put up a fight and challenge me. My team wanted to test me and everything went to plan for what I wanted to do in the ring.

"I boxed, I used my feet, I moved in and out, I set up my power punches and I was able to finish him off. I hope he's OK, I know it's hard to fight with an injury. I hope he recovers soon.

"I saw he was beginning to get tired around round four and knew I had him hurt. That's when I started hitting him with harder punches. I did the work I wanted to do, and then I wanted to finish him.

"There were a lot of fans from the Kazakhstan community here, a lot of fans who traveled from far places to see me fight. That meant a lot to me. I wanted to make sure they got to see everything I can do in the ring. Now I want them to see me win a world title this year.

"I feel like I can come back tomorrow. I don't want any longer breaks in my career. I want big fights. Who are the champions? That is who I want to fight."

MIGUEL CRUZ

"I know that I won the fight in the end, but it was a hard fight, a very tough fight. I was landing the cleaner shots but there were times where he was putting the pressure on me. He hurt me with body shots and he actually managed to hurt me in the last round with a right hook. I recognized when he hurt me

and I hit him and hurt him right back. I had him hurt a couple of times.

"I knew he was a tough guy from when we fought in the amateurs and from when we sparred together. He made me bring something out of me that I didn't even know I had and I appreciate him for that.

"This was the toughest fight of my career. Right now, I want to rest and relax, but within the next 2-3 months I'll start looking at the guys that can get me closer to a world title.

"The fight's over, we can absolutely go back to being friends. It's business. They told us we had to fight each other. We're better fighters for it and now it's over and back to the way it was between us as far as I'm concerned."

#### SAMUEL FIGUEROA

"I didn't think Miguel won the fight but that's how the judges seen that. I don't know how, but I can't do anything about that. The first rounds I hit him clear in the face, Miguel only caught me with a couple of clean shots but I was catching a lot of his punches with my hands and elbows. I don't know how I lost this fight.

"I love fighting unbeaten opponents. I train with champions in the gym, I have the resources to get me ready for these fights.

"Yes of course we go back to being friends. Nothing personal. He's my friend. We're cool."

#### DENNIS GALARZA

"It felt good to go eight rounds. I didn't mind going rounds, although I wanted to take him out. He was throwing a lot of wild shots just looking to catch me with a lucky blow. He caught me with some good shots but he never had me hurt. I train with southpaws all the time and was ready for anything

Yardley Suarez had to offer.

“I want to come back as soon as possible. Whatever my team has in store for me, I’ll be ready.”

YARDLEY SUAREZ

“I had him hurt but feel like I let the opportunity get away from me. I wasn’t busy enough; I need to let my hands go more. My corner told me that I needed a knockout to win. I went for it, but I couldn’t slow him down and land enough punches.

“I want to stay on this level, I could have done more but know that I can compete with the best.”

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PBC: The Next Round on Bounce TV was promoted by King’s Promotions.

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Bounce TV is the fastest-growing African-American (AA) network on television and airs on the broadcast signals of local television stations and corresponding cable carriage. The network features a programming mix of original and off-network series, theatrical motion pictures, specials, live sports and more. Bounce TV has grown to be available in more than 93.5 million homes across the United States and 93% of all African American television homes, including all of the top AA television markets. Among the founders of Bounce TV are iconic American figures Martin Luther King, III and Ambassador Andrew Young.

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## **Back with Marshall Kauffman, Featherweight Dat Nguyen has title aspirations**

LAKELAND, FLA. (May 8, 2016) – TONIGHT in Lakeland, Florida, featherweight Dat Nguyen returns to the ring after a 31-month layoff when he takes on Gustavo Molina (22-10, 9 KO's)

In the main event, unbeaten super welterweight and Olympic Bronze medalist Kanat Islam (20-0, 17 KOs) will take on Colombian brawler Juan De Angel (18-3-1, 17 KOs) in the 10-round main event of Premier Boxing Champions: The Next Round on Bounce TV taking place Sunday, May 8 from Lakeland Events Center in Lakeland, Florida.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by King's Promotions, are priced at \$100, \$75 and \$50 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased by visiting [www.thelakelandcenter.com](http://www.thelakelandcenter.com) or by calling 888-397-0100 and from the Lakeland Center Box Office by calling 863-834-8111 or visiting between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Televised coverage begins at 9 p.m. ET/PT and features a pair of exciting undercard battles as unbeaten prospects Miguel Cruz (12-0, 11 KOs) and Samuel Figueroa (10-0, 4 KOs) compete in an eight-round super welterweight showdown while featherweight prospect Dennis Galarza (12-1, 8 KOs) faces Mexico's Yardley Suarez (15-3, 9 KOs) in an eight-round bout.

Nguyen of Vero Beach, Florida hasn't had the typical layoff of getting out of shape and thinking about missed opportunities.

"I have been training the whole time. I own a gym here in Vero Beach and I have been training people for the past six years, so I have been in shape. Sure it is not professional competition but I am able to stay busy and am ready for the fight on Sunday," said Nguyen. "I haven;t fought in a while, but I have no fear of ring rust. I been sparring and going through boxing techniques the whole time."

Nguyen was cruising along as a heralded prospect at 11-0 before losing a split decision to Gregorio Torres. Nguyen then won six straight before dropping back to back fights to Luis Del Valle and future world title challenger Jayson Velez.

"The first loss was a bad decision. The second loss, I was so winded after five rounds that I don't know what happened. The third loss to Velez, I also thought that I won that fight. I just think under better circumstances that I would have won those fights. I know a lot of good stuff was said about me on the way up and I still think that I am championship material. I just have not had that opportunity."

To gain that opportunity, Nguyen turned to the man, who turned him professional twelve years ago in King's Promotions Marshall Kauffman.

"Marshall is a father figure to me. He trained me in 2004 and twelve years later I am back with him. I have learned the business and now I am with a good promoter. If I would have stayed with Marshall, I would be world champion. I have the skills and Marshall knows boxing. Now that I am back with him, he will get me that opportunity. I live a clean and healthy life and now it is time that I reach my potential as a boxer."

Also on the card:

In an eight-round bout, Alantez Fox (18-0, 7 K0's) of

Forestville, MD takes on Milton Nunez (35-15-1, 29 K0's) of Barranquilla, COL in a middleweight bout.

In four-round bouts:

Antonio Tarver Jr. (3-0, 2 K0's) of Tampa, FL will fight Jose Cortez (1-1) of West Palm Beach, FL in a middleweight bout.

In a junior welterweight battle, Nestor Bravo (5-0, 5 K0's) fights Daniel Lorenzano (4-7-1, 2 K0's) of Miami, FL.

Efrain Cruz (4-0-1, 1 K0) of Vieques, PR will fight Irvin Hernandez (3-14-2, 1 K0) of Caguas, PR in a junior welterweight bout.

Botirsher Obdidov (4-0-1, 1 K0) of Kissimmee, FL take on Hakeem Atkinson (2-2, 2 K0's) of Atlanta, GA in a super middleweight bout.

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# **Unbeaten Super Welterweight Kanat Islam Battles Colombia's Juan De Angel in Main Event of Premier Boxing Champions: The Next Round On Bounce TV On Sunday, May 8 From Lakeland Events Center in Lakeland, Florida**

LAKELAND, FLA. (April 26, 2016) – Unbeaten super welterweight and Olympic Bronze medalist Kanat Islam (20-0, 17 KOs) will take on Colombian brawler Juan De Angel (18-3-1, 17 KOs) in the 10-round main event of Premier Boxing Champions: The Next Round on Bounce TV taking place Sunday, May 8 from Lakeland Events Center in Lakeland, Florida.

Televised coverage begins at 9 p.m. ET/PT and features a pair of exciting undercard battles as unbeaten prospects Miguel Cruz (12-0, 11 KOs) and Samuel Figueroa (10-0, 4 KOs) compete in an eight-round super welterweight showdown while featherweight prospect Dennis Galarza (12-1, 8 KOs) faces Mexico's Yardley Suarez (15-3, 9 KOs) in an eight-round bout.

“I am very happy about this fight and I’m training very hard for the opportunity,” said Islam. “I am ready to fight. He is a good opponent but I have everything I need to win. I’ve waited a long time for this chance and I’m going to put on a show. The people of Kazakhstan will get a great performance from me.”

“I’m looking to com win and win this fight” said De Angel. “I know my opponent is tough and I have trained very hard for this fight. I am going to give him his first loss and make a big statement. I’m thankful for the opportunity and I will take advantage of it.”

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by King’s Promotions, are priced at \$100, \$75 and \$50 and are on sale now. Tickets can be purchased by visiting [www.thelakelandcenter.com](http://www.thelakelandcenter.com) or by calling 888-397-0100 and from the Lakeland Center Box Office by calling 863-834-8111 or visiting between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“We are excited to bring this terrific show to Lakeland, Florida,” said Marshall Kauffman of King’s Promotions. “The main event should be an explosive one as the two fighters have a combined 34 knockouts in their 38 wins. It will be an early night for someone. The fans in Lakeland and watching on Bounce TV will see some of the best future contenders in the world.”

A Chinese born boxer representing Kazakhstan, Islam now fights out of Pahokee, Florida and made his U.S. debut in Miami in November 2015 with a first round knockout of Jonathan Batista. The two-time Olympian won a Bronze medal in 2008 and eventually made his pro debut in 2012 with a knockout of Daniel Beato. The 31-year-old owns victories over Francisco Cordero, Fidel Monterrosa Munoz and Emilio Julio.

Fighting out of Baranquilla, Colombia De Angel will make his U.S. debut on May 8 in the main event. The 28-year-old has won

his last nine fights including eight by way of stoppage. He's won 16 of his last 17 fights overall and most notably picked up a regional middleweight belt with a victory over Jose Pinzon in 2014.

Born in Aguada, Puerto Rico and now residing in Lake Mary, Florida, the 25-year-old Cruz was a member of the Puerto Rico National Team as an amateur. He turned pro in 2012 and picked up five victories in 2015 as he ended fights with Virgil Green, Daniel Rodriguez, Eli Addison, Juan Rodriguez, Travis Hartman and Anthony Abbruzzese inside the distance.

A powerful Puerto Rican southpaw, Figueroa defeated fellow unbeaten Javontae Starks on Bounce TV in October 2015. The 25-year-old turned pro in 2011 and will have another opportunity to take down an undefeated opponent on May 8.

Galarza is looking for his fourth straight victory in the state of Florida when he enters the ring on May 8. The 23-year-old has fought professionally since 2013 and racked up five wins in 2015 before kicking off 2016 with a decision over Samuel Amoako in January.

A pro since 2013, the 21-year-old Suarez is coming off of a knockout victory over Charly Soto. The Sinaloa, Mexico-native will fight for the third time in the U.S. on May 8. Suarez picked up 11 victories between 2014 and 2015 including seven by knockout.

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