



**Featherweight World Champion Gary Russell Jr. Defends His Belt
Against Top Challenger Oscar Escandon Saturday, May 20
From MGM National Harbor in Maryland & Live on SHOWTIME**

Tickets Now on Sale!

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD. (May 17, 2017) - WBC Featherweight World Champion **Gary Russell Jr.** will make the second defense of his title when he faces top challenger **Oscar Escandon** Saturday, May 20 in the main event of **SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING** from the recently opened MGM National Harbor in Maryland live on SHOWTIME.

The Maryland-native **Russell Jr.** (27-1, 16 KOs) and the WBC Interim Featherweight Champion **Escandon** (25-2, 17 KOs) will battle in one of boxing's most talented divisions that continues to deliver exciting action fight after fight. A lineup of exciting co-featured attractions will be announced next week.

"I'm a gladiator getting ready for a tough battle," said Russell Jr. "This is going to be a huge night for my family and I'm glad that the time is here. This will be the first time as pros that I get to fight on the same card as both of my little brothers, (unbeaten bantamweight) Gary Antonio and (2016 U.S. Olympian) Gary Antuanne, plus my brother Gary Allan will work all of our corners. We're excited to get in the ring and show the fans what we're capable of doing in the ring."

"I've had to wait for this opportunity to face Gary Russell Jr. and I'm going to take full advantage of it," said Escandon. "It's going to be a great fight and I know the fans are going to get their money's worth. I feel 100 percent healthy and now that the fight is here I am ready to knock him out."

Tickets for the live event promoted by TGB Promotions are priced at \$200, \$150, \$100 and \$50, and are now on sale. To purchase tickets go to <http://mgmnationalharbor.com/>. The main event is co-promoted by Sampson Boxing. This bout was originally scheduled to take place on March 11 but was rescheduled after Escandon suffered a back injury in training camp. Fans who bought tickets for the March 11 show will have their tickets honored on May 20.

"This is going to be a great night of boxing," said Tom Brown, President of TGB Promotions. "The featherweight division is very hot right now with the recent wins by Leo Santa Cruz and Abner Mares. There is something very special going on in the division and this will be another memorable fight. Escandon is a tough warrior who has proven time and again that he doesn't

care about going on the road or where he fights. There are great boxing fans in the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia region and they are in-store for an exciting night on May 20.”

A speedy and supremely talented boxer, Russell Jr., was impressive in his fourth-round stoppage of the battle-tested Jhonny Gonzalez that earned him the title in March 2015. The 2008 U.S. Olympian had scored important victories over Vyacheslav Gusev, Juan Ruiz and Miguel Tamayo before losing a majority decision to Vasyl Lomachenko for the WBO 126-pound title in June 2014. The southpaw, of Capitol Heights, Md., most recently scored a dominant second-round TKO victory over Patrick Hyland in his first title defense in April 2016.

Fighting out of Ibague, Colombia, Escandon turned pro in 2008 and was undefeated in his first 22 professional bouts. Escandon won an interim world title at super bantamweight in 2014 when he defeated Tyson Cave in his U.S. debut. He earned his shot at Russell Jr. last March when he survived an early knockdown to score a knockout victory over Robinson Castellanos in the seventh round of their showdown in Washington, D.C.

ABOUT RUSSELL JR. vs. ESCANDON

Gary Russell Jr. vs. Oscar Escandon is a featherweight world championship showdown that headlines SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING on Saturday, May 20 from MGM National Harbor in Maryland. Televised coverage begins on SHOWTIME at 6 p.m. ET/3 p.m. PT and features super middleweight contenders Andre Dirrell and Jose Uzcategui in a matchup for the Interim IBF Super Middleweight World Championship plus two-division world champion Rances Barthelemy in a WBA 140-pound world title eliminator against Kiryl Relikh. In the telecast opener, from Copper Box Arena in London, Gervonta Davis puts his IBF Jr. Lightweight Title on the line against Liam Walsh.

For more information, follow on Twitter @MrGaryRussellJr, @TGBPromotions, @MGMNatlHarbor and @Swanson_Comm or become a fan on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SHOBoxing and www.Facebook.com/MGMNationalHarbor. The event is sponsored by Corona, La Cerveza Mas Fina.

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Super Middleweight Contenders Andre Dirrell & Jose Uzcategui Battle for Interim World Title Plus Two-Division World Champion Rances Barthelemy Takes on Former Title Challenger Kiryl Relikh in 140-Pound Title Eliminator

Saturday, May 20 From MGM National Harbor in Maryland & Live on SHOWTIME

Tickets Now on Sale!

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD (May 17, 2017) - An exciting night of action will feature super middleweight contenders **Andre Dirrell** and **Jose Uzcategui** in a matchup for the Interim IBF Super Middleweight World Championship plus two-division world champion **Rances Barthelemy** in a WBA 140-pound world title eliminator against **Kiryl Relikh** on Saturday, May 20 from the recently opened MGM National Harbor in Maryland and live on SHOWTIME.

The SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast is headlined by WBC Featherweight World Champion **Gary Russell Jr.** making the second defense of his title when he faces top challenger **Oscar Escandon**.

Top 168-pound contenders **Dirrell** (25-2, 16 KOs) and **Uzcategui** (26-1, 22 KOs) are set to meet in a 12-round matchup with the winner in line to face IBF champion James DeGale, who is currently recovering from injuries sustained in his draw against Badou Jack in January on SHOWTIME.

"This fight is a massive step towards my journey to success in 2017," said Dirrell. "To me, this is my championship fight leading up to the rematch with the current champion, James DeGale. Jose has all of the tools of a champion, so he's fierce competition for me. But I will show the world that I'm up for the task. This is my year!"

"I'm very excited to be facing a fighter the quality of Andre Dirrell," said Uzcategui. "These are the types of fights that I've wanted and I look forward to coming out victorious. This fight will be another step on the way to my dream of becoming a world champion."

A world champion at 130 and 135-pounds, **Barthelemy** (25-0, 13 KOs) and the former world title challenger **Relikh** (21-1, 19 KOs) will battle in 12 rounds of action for the right to be the

mandatory challenger for current WBA Super Lightweight Championship held by unified champion **Julius Indongo**.

"I'm very excited to be back in the ring, especially on SHOWTIME against a top-ranked contender in Kiryl Relikh," said Barthelemy. "This victory will get me one step closer to fulfilling my dream of becoming the first Cuban to win world titles in three different weight classes. I'm very motivated and I will not be denied on May 20."

"I'm thrilled to have this opportunity in a world title eliminator," said Relikh. "Rances Barthelemy is a good fighter, but my experience at this weight will help me get the victory. I'm ready to do whatever it takes to get this win and eventually wear that world title belt around my waist."

Tickets for the live event, promoted by TGB Promotions, are priced at \$200, \$150, \$100 and \$50, and are now on sale. To purchase tickets go to <http://mgmnationalharbor.com/>.

Representing his hometown of Flint, Michigan, **Dirrell** looks to take one step closer to a rematch with DeGale after dropping a narrow decision to the current IBF champion in May 2015. The 33-year-old bounced back from the defeat in his last outing by earning a wide unanimous decision over Blake Caparello last April. After a decorated amateur career that saw him win two U.S. Amateur World Championships in addition to an Olympic bronze medal, Dirrell was unbeaten in his first 18 pro fights before losing a split decision to Carl Frosh in 2009.

Born in Venezuela, **Uzcategui** now fights out of Baja California, Mexico, where he won two fights last year by knockout. The 26-year-old shot up the rankings in 2015 when he stopped previously unbeaten Julius Jackson in the second round after knocking his opponent down four times. Uzcategui was undefeated in his first 22 pro fights and enters this bout on a four-fight win streak.

A Cuban amateur national champion, 30-year-old **Barthelemy** has yet to taste defeat since turning pro in 2009. Born in Cuba but now fighting out of Las Vegas, Nev. he won a super featherweight world title in July 2014 by defeating Argenis Mendez in impressive fashion, and followed that up with a second round TKO victory over Angino Perez. After dominating former champion Antonio DeMarco in June, he won a world title in a second division when he impressively defeated Denis Shafikov in December. Most recently, Barthelemy made the lone defense of his lightweight belt with a decision over former champion Mickey Bey last June.

Fighting out of Minsk, Belarus, **Relikh** returns to the ring after challenging the former champion Burns for the WBA title in October 2016. The 27-year-old was undefeated after turning pro in 2011 leading up to his world title shot. Relikh owns wins over veteran contenders Christian Ariel Lope, Joaquim Carneiro and Lazaro Santos de Jesus.



Gary Russell Jr., Gary Antuanne Russell & Gary Antonio Russell Media Workout Quotes & Photos

**Trio of Brothers Enter the Ring Saturday, May 20 from
MGM National Harbor in Maryland - Russell Jr. Defends Featherweight
Title Against Oscar Escandon in Main Event on SHOWTIME**

Click [HERE](#) for Photos from Ed Diller/SHOWTIME

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD. (May 17, 2017) - Featherweight world champion **Gary Russell Jr.** hosted a media workout Thursday along with his brothers and rising prospects **Gary Antuanne Russell** and **Gary Antonio Russell** before all three brothers enter the ring on Saturday, May 20 live from MGM National Harbor in Maryland.

Coverage on SHOWTIME is headlined by Russell Jr. defending his featherweight world title against top challenger **Oscar Escandon**. The telecast begins at 6 p.m. ET/3 p.m. PT features super middleweight contenders **Andre Dirrell** and **Jose Uzcategui** battling for the IBF Super Middleweight World Championship plus two-division world champion **Rances Barthelemy** taking on **Kiryl Relikh** in a 140-pound world title eliminator. In the telecast opener, from Copper Box Arena in London, Gervonta Davis puts his IBF Jr. Lightweight Title on the line against Liam Walsh.

Tickets for the live event at MGM National Harbor, promoted by TGB Promotions, are priced at \$200, \$150, \$100 and \$50, and are now on sale. To purchase tickets go to <http://mgmnationalharbor.com/>.

The 2016 U.S. Olympian **Gary Antuanne** and unbeaten bantamweight prospect **Antonio Russell** (7-0, 5 KOs) will compete in separate undercard attractions on May 20 as the three brothers will fight on the same card for the first time as pros.

Here is what the participants had to say Thursday from the Enigma Gym in Capitol Heights, Maryland:

GARY RUSSELL JR.

"My weight is perfect. We did a 30-day weigh-in and I was about 132. I'm about 128 right now. I feel comfortable. If we can't get a unification bout, I'll move up in weight though. I understand why people haven't wanted to fight me. It's a business and I understand that.

"The postponement didn't bother me. I can't get upset about stuff that I can't control. When you have two elite athletes pushing themselves to the limit, injuries occur. It gave me more time to rest my body properly. We're definitely ready now.

"I haven't fought anyone as short as him, but that's the purpose of training camp. We bring people in who have a similar style to Escandon. We've gotten great work in and I feel prepared.

"It's easier against a more aggressive guy. It's hard to go after someone who is retreating. He's going to bring it right into my face.

"We come to the gym and grind every day so we can be the best we possibly can. On fight night, it'll all come to fruition.

"It's going to be history in the making. We're in familiar territory with making history. We were the first set of four brothers to win the National Golden Gloves and I don't see anyone breaking our record any time soon. I believe in a dynasty and I'm excited for my dad to see all of his hard work come together on fight night.

"When you focus on the magnitude of an event you take away from the true focus that we're supposed to have. My goal is to become victorious. But it's definitely cool that the people from my hometown will be able to be a part of the event."

GARY ANTUANNE RUSSELL

"We plan on giving our father a gift that he can't buy on his birthday May 20. There's been a lot of sets of two brothers but there's never been three as far as I know. There have been the Klitschkos, the Dirrells and the Charlos, but those are just two. We're breaking new ground.

"This sport is brutal. Anyone who steps into that ring has to have a certain amount of intelligence, heart and character. It takes a different kind of individual to get in there alone knowing the other person is trying to take your head off.

"Gary Jr. is my vision. I needed a role model and there he is. I needed someone to keep my humble and keep me out of trouble.

"Me and my whole family talk a lot and about everything. Not just about the sport of boxing. Boxing is what I do, but it's not who I am. I'm a class valedictorian and I graduated with the highest GPA in Prince George's County. Don't just look at me as a jock. That's what we tell anybody.

"Real estate is in my future. We're going to own our own properties and be the shot callers. I've been getting educated from my brother and my father.

"It's amazing what my dad did, but you can't forget about my mom. Behind every king is a strong queen. My mom is the most important woman in my life. Other than that, it's tunnel vision. Tunnel vision in school and in the gym or anything else I do in my life.

"I want to give back to my brother. A lot of families leave their children with nothing. We're all working to leave something with substance for our families.

“What makes the Russell brothers different is that we’re all equal and we get our energy from each other. It’s never about being better at something than your brother, we all want to get through every obstacle together.

“I’d say I should be on the world title level in the next five years. This is a business. We’re going to do this well. That’s what my team talks about.

“We’re looking to build a dynasty and I believe that May 20 will be a memento to our dynasty building. I hope I’m at the championship level in the next five years. We’re going to run this thing correctly.”

GARY ANTONIO RUSSELL

“It means a lot but it was all expected. We put in hard work in the gym so I expected us to reach these levels.

“It’s even better to be able to come home and compete. Not all of our fans could make it to our other fights. But being at MGM in Maryland, it’s all coming together.

“I watch everything that my older brother does and I learn from his mistakes. He makes sure that I don’t make those same mistakes. He critiques me every way, through life and in the gym.

“My career is going up. I know my father has my best interest at heart. He’s going to get me the right fights and put me in good positions.

“There is a sense of order in our house. Iron sharpens iron. We all help each other no matter what. We’ll all be victorious on May 20 and it’s going to be a wonderful birthday present for our dad.”

GARY RUSSELL SR., Father and Trainer for the Russell brothers

“The D.C. and Maryland area has always produced great boxers. Right now it’s their time. With Gary, Jarrett Hurd and Gervonta Davis, this is as good as it’s ever been. They represent the sport as gentlemen.

“Gary Antuanne is coming in fresh off of the Olympics. We know he won that fight in Rio, but politics got him. He’s not a normal young fighter. He was a class valedictorian which I don’t think a lot of boxers can say. Antonio has a lot of talent as well and he’s on the rise. It’s going to be a great opportunity to show their skills.

“I’m really excited. It’s unique to have all of these guys from the area showcasing their talent at the same time. I’ve known Jarrett and Tank since they were kids and I’m proud of how far they’ve come.”



Oscar Escandon Training Camp Quotes & Photos



Top Featherweight Challenger Battles Featherweight Champion Gary Russell Jr. in Main Event Showdown Saturday, May 20 from MGM National Harbor in Maryland on SHOWTIME®

Click [HERE](#) for Photos from Team Escandon/
Premier Boxing Champions

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD. (May 17, 2017) - Top 126-pound challenger **Oscar Escandon** shares his thoughts on training camp and more ahead of his first world title opportunity against WBC Featherweight Champion **Gary Russell Jr.** Saturday, May 20 on SHOWTIME from MGM National Harbor in Maryland.

Coverage on SHOWTIME begins at 6 p.m. ET/3 p.m. PT and features super middleweight contenders **Andre Dirrell** and **Jose Uzcategui** battling for the IBF Super Middleweight World Championship plus two-division world champion **Rances Barthelemy** taking on **Kiryl Relikh** in a 140-pound world title eliminator. In the telecast opener, from Copper Box Arena in London, **Gervonta Davis** puts his IBF Jr. Lightweight Title on the line against **Liam Walsh**.

Tickets for the live event at MGM National Harbor, promoted by TGB Promotions, are priced at \$200, \$150, \$100 and \$50, and are now on sale. To purchase tickets go to <http://mgmnationalharbor.com/>.

Here is what Escandon had to say from Las Vegas before he wraps camp and heads east to headline at MGM National Harbor in Maryland:

On his recent training camp:

"Training camp started off in Gilroy, California where we got a lot of good sparring in the Bay Area. But then we moved camp to Las Vegas where we are training in high elevation. We are running up at Mt. Charleston where the elevation is 8400 feet. All in all, it has been a fantastic camp."

On fighting in his first main event on SHOWTIME:

"It's a dream come true to be fighting on SHOWTIME, especially in the main event for a world title. I believe the fans watching will enjoy my fighting style. I always bring excitement to the ring. This will be a fan-friendly fight to watch."

On facing his opponent, champion Gary Russell Jr:

"Gary Russell Jr. is one of the best fighters in the division. I know it's not going to be an easy task to defeat him but I'm confident in my ability to come out victorious. I will dig deep and impose my will on him."

On training with head coach Ruben Guerrero:

"Together Ruben and I get along very well. He's always there for me when I need him. We are doing everything to get better and we'll be ready to go. We have a nice game plan that we will display on fight night."

On what a victory will do for his career:

"This is the biggest fight of my career and a win will lead to bigger and better things, like unification bouts. To capture the WBC world title will be an honor for my team and my people of Colombia. I need to win this fight and capture that WBC title. I can see myself in major fights with a victory."



Rances Barthelemy Training Camp Quotes & Photos



Two-Division World Champion Battles Kiryl Relikh in 140-Pound Title Eliminator on SHOWTIME Saturday, May 20 From MGM National Harbor in Maryland

**Click [HERE](#) for Photos from Sean Michael Ham/
Premier Boxing Champions**

NATIONAL HARBOR, MD (May 17, 2017) - Cuban star **Rances Barthelemy** will look to take one step closer to becoming the first Cuban fighter to win world titles in three weight classes when he battles **Kiryl Relikh** in a WBA 140-pound title eliminator on Saturday, May 20 on SHOWTIME from MGM National Harbor in Maryland.

Televised coverage begins on SHOWTIME at 6 p.m. ET/3 p.m. PT and is headlined by WBC Featherweight World Champion **Gary Russell Jr.** defending his title against top challenger **Oscar Escandon** plus super middleweight contenders **Andre Dirrell** and **Jose Uzcategui** in a matchup for the Interim IBF Super Middleweight World Championship. In the telecast opener, from Copper Box Arena in London, Gervonta Davis defends his IBF 130-pound world championship against Liam Walsh.

Tickets for the live event at MGM National Harbor, promoted by TGB Promotions, are priced at \$200, \$150, \$100 and \$50, and are now on sale. To purchase tickets go to <http://mgmnationalharbor.com/>.

Already a champion at 130 and 135-pounds, a victory over the former title challenger Relikh will put Barthelemy in the mandatory position to face unified 140-pound champion Julius Indongo and do something that no fighter has done in the rich history of Cuban boxing.

Here is what Barthelemy had to say from training camp in Las Vegas:

1) How is training camp going? How have you benefitted from sparring and training alongside of your brother Leduan and Yordenis Ugas and have their recent performances been an indication of how you expect to perform?

"Training camp is going really well. Training alongside of my brother and Yordenis under the tutelage of Ismael Salas is the best thing that could happen in my career. They keep me focused and motivated to get better every day. Yordenis and I have been helping each other during our camps, he's an Olympic athlete so having him to train with is really beneficial. We have a new strength and conditioning coach as well who has us in the best shape possible. I know May 20 you guys will see the best Rances Barthelemy yet."

2) What would it mean to you to become the first three-division world champion from Cuba?

"It would mean the world to me, after all that it took to defect from Cuba, the near death experiences, the imprisonments, leaving my loved ones behind, it would all have been worth it. I want to inspire the youth that come after me as well, let them know to never give up on their dreams no matter the conditions you live in or what the naysayers may say. Me winning a third world title and making history for a Cuban would prove that."

3) What did you take away from Relikh's loss to Ricky Burns?

"I didn't get to watch the fight but watched the highlights and it seemed like a very entertaining fight. People were saying that it probably should have gone the other way even, so it seems like he put on a good performance."

4) How would you characterize Relikh's style and how do you see this fight playing out?

"He likes to come forward a lot and attack. I'm prepared for that if that's what he plans to do come fight night but I also anticipate having to make adjustments. I always prepare to adjust to whatever my opponent brings. Being a cerebral fighter is a skill that has helped me succeed inside the ring."

5) Can you address your 11-month layoff and how your training has been geared towards shaking off any ring rust you may have?

"There will be no ring rust come May 20 as we have been in the gym non-stop since my last fight against Mickey Bey. We took a few weeks off to visit Cuba for the first time since my defection. Aside from that I made sure to stay active and I've been training hard to be prepared when my name got called. The 11-month layoff happened for reasons out of my control. My management team has been trying to get the best opponents and unfortunately it took longer than we expected but we are here now and I'm as prepared as I have ever been."

6) How did your trip back to Cuba come about and what was it like to be back in your home country?

"It was very emotional and a long eight years since I had been back. I didn't know if I'd be able to go back or not. But I visited the Cuban embassy in Washington D.C. and they told me I'd finally be able to go back to visit my loved ones. It was nothing but nerves until I got over there. It was an emotional time and everyone welcomed me back with open arms in my hometown of Havana. It's something I will never forget, especially for the way I was received."

7) How do you rate your skills and progression as a fighter considering your last three dominant wins over top quality opposition? Do you feel that you are at the peak of your career?

"I am definitely at my peak physically, and I'm looking to match that on paper this year. I'm looking forward to getting back in the ring. I don't like to rate myself, I leave that to the people and the media. They've taken notice and that's why I am where I am today, but I am expecting big things to happen this year."

8) Why did you feel it was time to rise in weight, especially considering the wealth of talent at 135 right now? Who do you consider to be the top 135 fighter now that you are gone?

"My body was asking for it, 135 was taking too much of a physical toll on me. It may not have been noticeable, but I struggled to make weight during my last fight at 135 and felt I lost some of my power because of the drainage. Since I moved up to 140 I definitely have felt a lot better. It was the right move. Plus, I now have the chance to go after a third world title in a third division, which would be the first time for any boxer from Cuba."

9) Why did you make the decision to move from Miami to Las Vegas and how do you think it has benefited you?

"To be honest, there is nothing better for a Cuban than to be living in Miami, because the weather is just right and what we are used to. But at the same time it presents a lot of distractions too. So moving to the boxing hub of the United States is better for me so I don't get wrapped up in anything extra other than boxing. Plus, there are so many sparring partners here and I can go up to Mt. Charleston and get my runs in up there."

#

GARY RUSSELL JR.

QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Gary Russell Jr.
- **Height** – 5-4 ½
- **Weight** – 126 (Featherweight)
- **Date of Birth** – June 5, 1988
- **Hometown** – Capitol Heights, Maryland
- **Record** – 27-1 (16 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- Trained by his father, Gary Sr., he is stablemates with his brothers, undefeated prospect Gary Antonio Russell and 2016 U.S. Olympian Gary Antuanne Russell

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in January 2008 with a third round stoppage of Antonio Reyes
- Unbeaten in his first 24 pro fights
- Defeated Vyacheslav Gusev, Juan Ruiz and Miguel Tamayo in 2013-14 to earn shot for vacant title against Vasyl Lomachenko
- Lost majority decision to Lomachenko in June 2014
- Defeated Christopher Martin in December 2014 before challenging Jhonny Gonzalez for the WBC 126-pound title
- Knocked Gonzalez down three times on his way to a fourth-round stoppage victory to claim the featherweight world title
- Most recently stopped Patrick Hyland in the fourth round in his first title defense in April 2016

AMATEUR EXPERIENCE

- 2008 U.S. Olympian
- 2007 World Championships Quarterfinalist
- 2006 U.S. Amateur Bantamweight Champion
- 2005 Bantamweight Bronze medalist at World Championships
- 2005 U.S. Amateur Bantamweight Champion
- 2005 National Golden Gloves Bantamweight Champion

OSCAR ESCANDON

QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Oscar Escandon
- **Height** – 5-1 ½
- **Weight** – 126 (Featherweight)
- **Date of Birth** – July 10, 1984
- **Hometown** – Ibague, Colombia
- **Record** – 25-2 (17 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- Training in Las Vegas with Ruben Guerrero, father and trainer of multiple division champion Robert Guerrero

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in June 2006 with a decision over previously unbeaten Luis Meza
- Went undefeated in his first 22 pro fights including a stoppage victory of former world champion Jesus Cuellar in 2011
- Dropped a split decision in a 2013 bout against Nehomar Cermeno for an interim 122-pound title
- Defeated Tyson Cave in December 2014 to capture an interim super bantamweight belt before losing a split decision to Moises Flores in April 2015
- Most recently knocked out Robinson Castellanos in March 2016 to pick up the interim WBC interim world title

AMATEUR EXPERIENCE

- 2006 South American Games Silver medalist
- 2004 2nd America's Olympic Qualifier Gold medalist
- 2004 Colombian Olympian

ANDRE DIRRELL

QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Andre Dirrell
- **Nickname** – The Resurrected
- **Height** – 6-1
- **Weight** – 168 (Super Middleweight)
- **Date of Birth** – September 7, 1983
- **Hometown** – Flint, Michigan
- **Record** –25-2 (16 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- Began boxing in elementary school with younger brother, Anthony
- Originally trained by their grandfather, Leon Lawson Sr., a former sparring of Muhammad Ali
- 21-month layoff in 2010-11 after neurological problems found following March 2010 bout

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in Jan. 2005 with a fourth round TKO over Carlos Jones
- Won his first 18 bouts including victories over Curtis Stevens, Victor Oganov & Derrick Findley
- Suffered lone defeat by narrow split decision against Carl Froch, but rebounded to defeat previously unbeaten Arthur Abraham in his next bout
- Defeated Derek Edwards, Nick Brinson and Vladine Biosse in 2014
- Dropped narrow decision to James DeGale in 2015 world title bout
- Most recently defeated Blake Caparello in April 2016

AMATEUR CAREER

- 231 Amateur wins
- 2001 and 2003 U.S. Amateur Champion
- 2003 Pan Am Games participant
- 2004 Olympic Bronze Medalist

SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Twitter** – @AndreDirrell
- **Instagram** – AndreDirrell
- **Facebook** – Facebook.com/Andre-Dirrell

JOSE UZCATEGUI

QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Jose Uzcategui
- **Nickname** – Bolivita
- **Height** – 6-2
- **Weight** – 168 (Super Middleweight)
- **Date of Birth** – December 24, 1990
- **Hometown** – Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico
- **Record** – 26-1 (22 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- Born in Venezuela but now fights out of Mexico

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in March 2011 with a first round knockout over Ramiro Rosales
- Delivered knockouts in 13 of his first 16 career fights
- Scored eight victories in 2012, including six by knockout
- Defeated power-punching contender Rogelio Medina in February 2013
- In 2013, he defeated experienced contender Michel Rosales by fourth-round stoppage
- Defeated David Alonso Lopez by sixth-round knockout in March 2014
- Made his U.S. debut in decision loss to Matt Korobov in June 2014
- Skyrocketed up the rankings with a dominant second round stoppage of previously unbeaten Julius Jackson in October 2015
- Picked up stoppage victories over veterans Derrick Findley and Fabiano Pena in 2016

RANCES BARTHELEMY

QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Rances Barthelemy
- **Nickname** – Kid Blast
- **Height** – 5-11
- **Weight** – 140 (Super Lightweight)
- **Date of Birth** – June 25, 1986
- **Hometown** – Arroyo Naranjo, Cuba
- **Record** – 25-0 (13 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- Middle brother of fellow professional boxers Yan (2004 Olympic gold medalist) and Leduan
- Reached the United States after defecting from Cuba in 2009

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in Aug. 2009 with a first round knockout over Jamal Clay
- Delivered knockouts in 10 of his first 12 pro fights
- Defeated previously unbeaten Hylon Williams in Feb. 2012 by unanimous decision
- Won a unanimous decision over previously undefeated Arash Usmanee in Jan. 2013
- Won a super featherweight world title via a unanimous decision over Argenis Mendez in July 2014
- Defended his title against Fernando Saucedo in Oct. 2014
- Delivered a round two TKO over Angino Perez in March of this year before defeating Antonio Demarco in June
- Won a 135-pound world title by defeating Denis Shafikov in December 2015 and followed it up with a successful defense against Mickey Bey in 2016

AMATEUR CAREER

- Competed in around 200 amateur fights
- Cuban Junior National Champion

SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Twitter** - @RealKidBlast

KIRYL RELIKH

QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Kiryl Relikh
- **Nickname** – Made Bee
- **Weight** – 140 (Super Lightweight)
- **Date of Birth** – November 26, 1989
- **Hometown** – Minsk, Belarus
- **Record** – 21-1 (19 KOs)

BACKGROUND

- Trained by boxing legend and former champion Ricky Hatton

PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in April 2011 with a decision over Alexey Naboischikov
- Stopped 19 of his first 21 opponents inside of the distance
- Picked up a regional 140-pound belt with a second round stoppage of Lazaro Santos de Jesus in May 2015
- Beat previously twice-beaten Christian Ariel Lopez by fifth round TKO in October 2015
- Dominated Joaquim Carneiro before forcing him to quit after four rounds in May 2016 to earn his first world title shot
- Dropped a decision to super lightweight champion Ricky Burns in a 12-round battle in October 2016