PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL PREDICTS

AN EARLY WINNER FOR

2013 FIGHT OF THE YEAR:

RIOS vs. ALVARADO II

GOBBLER'S KNOB, (Groundhog Day 2013) -- At 7:28 A.M. ET today, **Punxsutawney Phil** -- the Seer of Seers, Prognosticator of all Prognosticators -- emerged from his burrow at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA. and proclaimed, in his native Groundhogese, that there would be an early winner of the 2013 Fight of the Year -- the upcoming rematch between undefeated former world champion
BRANDON "Bam Bam" RIOS
and top-rated contender
"Mile High" MIKE ALVARADO.
Rios and Alvarado will battle each other again, with the WBO interim junior welterweight title at stake,
Saturday, March 30,
at the
Mandalay Bay Events Center
in Las Vegas. It will be televised live on
HBO Boxing After Dark®,
beginning at
10:15 p.m. ET/PT.

"Will Alvarado get sent up the Rios without a paddle? Will Rios become a Rocky Mountain Highlight for Alvarado? Who knows? But I do predict, without a shadow of a doubt, that Rios-Alvarado II will be the early winner for being the 2013 Fight of the Year," said the world's No. 1 pound-for-pound quadruped as he shadowboxed (wearing a Tecate headband and a Top Rank warmup) during his annual news conference. "Temperatures are already rising. Forget an early spring, there is a heat wave heading boxing's way!"

When pressed for a definitive answer on whether he could predict the winner of Rios-Alvarado II, Phil astounded the media by answering in English.

Quoth the groundhog, "Nevermore."

In their first fight, last October 13, a battle of undefeated gladiators, Rios (33-0-1, 22 KOs), of Oxnard, Calif., and Alvarado (33-1, 23 KOs), of Denver, Colo., fought toe-to-toe and non-stop for seven thrilling rounds that saw dramatic momentum shifts throughout the action-packed bout. Two of the judges had the fight scored even before referee Pat Russell stopped the fight at 1:57 of the seventh round, awarding the TKO victory to Rios. Media and fans alike compared Rios-Alvarado to the great matches of the past 50 years, including Ali-Frazier III, Corrales -Castillo I and Hagler-Hearns, based on action and entertainment value.

Promoted by Top Rank®, in association with Tecate, remaining tickets to Rios-Alvarado II are priced at $250, $150, $100, and $50, not including applicable service charges. Tickets are limited to eight (8) per person and will be available for purchase at all Ticketmaster locations (select Smith's Food and Drug Centers and Ritmo Latino). To charge by phone with a major credit card, call Mandalay Bay at (877) 632-7400 or Ticketmaster (800) 745-3000 . Tickets are also available for purchase at
www.MandalayBay.com
or
www.Ticketmaster.com
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Fans who are interested in not only purchasing tickets to the fight but also booking a room at Mandalay Bay can earn a special offer, which includes a discounted room rate along with a $25 resort credit (tickets to the fight are not included in the offer). This sweet room deal can be accessed by visiting https://resweb.passkey.com/go/ erank13b.

For fight updates go to www.toprank.com or www.hbo.com/boxing .

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deepwater says:

just sitting on the couch and watching good ole phil huh?very creative way to combine phil and boxing.phil predicted 6 more weeks of cold. phil also predicted bernard hopkins will b1tch about something this year,paulie malignaggi will have a breakdown since all his fans turned on him on twitter, don king will have a law suit in court, and 50 cent will have ruined gamboas and dibs career. I think 50 cent has jumped the shark. sliding down a rope talking junk was the moment he jumped the shark. this time next year dib or gamboa will be trying to fight curtiss jackson, ko victim in ny golden gloves.