CORNELIUS "K9" BUNDRAGE VS. ISHE SMITH IBF JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLE FIGHT
IS A TOUGH CALL

WBA Champ Austin Trout and Top 10 Contenders

Alfred Angulo, Jermell Charlo & Carlos Molina

Can't Commit Either Way; They All Want to Fight the Winner

Saturday, Feb. 23, Live on SHOWTIME® (9 p.m. ET/PT)

From The Masonic Temple Theatre in Detroit

NEW YORK (Feb. 15, 2013) - So who's going to win the eagerly awaited IBF Junior Middleweight World Championship fight between defending champion **Cornelius** "**K9**" **Bundrage** (32-4, 19 KO's) of Detroit and **Ishe "Sugar Shay" Smith** (24-5, 11 KO's) of Las Vegas on **Saturday**, **Feb. 23** in the main event live on **SHOWTIME®** (9 p.m. ET/PT, delayed on the West Coast) from **the Masonic Temple Theatre** in **Detroit**?

Neither undefeated WBA Super Welterweight World Champion **Austin "No Doubt" Trout** (26-0, 14 KO's) nor three top-10 contenders in the 154-pound division, hard-hitting **Alfred Angulo** (22-2, 18 KO's) unbeatens **Jermell Charlo** (20-0, 10 KO's) and **Carlos Molina** (17-0-1, 7 KO's), could predict a clear-cut winner, although they say the challenger may hold the slightest of edges.

What the four boxers agreed on, however, is that this is a compelling matchup that they definitely will be watching and that, most important of all, they want to fight the winner.

Below is what they said about the upcoming world title fight:

AUSTIN TROUT

"I think this is going to be a good ol' fashioned brawl. Ishe has more technical skills than "K9," but he still likes to bang it out. I really don't know who to pick, but it will be a good fight between two guys who are both kind of inactive, up in age and evenly matched.

"I'll be tuned in and watching, but I have no any personal interest in who wins. I respect both fighters, they are men of God.

"I'll respect the winner even more if he's willing to unify the belts. If one guy has an edge, I think it's probably Ishe more than "K9." But good luck to whoever wins, and let's unify."

ALFRED ANGULO

"I'll be watching because these are two important fighters in my weight class in a world title fight. One of them holds the IBF title, and the other might be the new titleholder. The outcome could affect my career, so it's important for me to watch this fight.

"As for picking a winner, I don't have a preference either way. Both are talented, yet have contrasting and distinct styles. One is more of a technical fighter, the other is a brawler, so it should make for a very interesting fight.

"I think a lot will depend on Ishe's condition and if he can handle the pressure because K9 throws punches with a lot of power and a lot of fighters can't handle that."

JERMELL CHARLO

"There will be a lot of competent fighters in this weight class who'll have their eyes glued to the TV for this one. The main reason I'll be watching is to see who will win. I'm anxious to see if Ishe actually made the changes to his style and, if so, if they made him better.

"I suppose I'm rooting for Ishe because "K9" turned me down for a fight before after I thought it was a 95 percent done deal. If he wins I'm pretty sure he'd turn me down again. Ishe is a guy with a lot of heart who comes to fight. Who knows that if he won the title that he would fight me, but I'd be willing.

"As for a flat-out prediction, I see it going either way, but have a feeling someone's going to get caught with a good shot. At his age and the route he's been going, I can see Bundrage winning if it goes the distance, but I see Ishe, who doesn't get knocked out and is more of a boxer than "K9," coming along. It's very possible he can win by KO.

"My pick is Ishe by KO, but Bundrage if it goes the distance."

CARLOS MOLINA

"I plan on attending the fight and look forward to watching. I'm the mandatory challenger in the IBF for whoever wins, so I'm hoping to be fighting the winner. Really, I just want my first world title shot. It's what I've worked for my whole career.

"It doesn't matter to me who wins as long as there's no controversy. I wish them both the best. They're both good people. Ishe said I deserve the title shot and he would fight me next if he wins; "K9" has not been as committal.

"Still, this is a tough fight to predict. Smith is a good boxer and I expect he'll be boxing more and using his defense. "K9" is a slugger whose style is to be aggressive, go right after Smith and try to land something early. If Ishe is more aggressive, he can win a decision."

Bundrage vs. Smith, a 12-round fight for Bundrage's IBF Junior Middleweight World Championship, will take place Saturday, February 23 at the Masonic Temple Theatre in Detroit, Michigan. The event is promoted by Golden Boy Promotions and Mayweather Promotions, sponsored by Corona and MGM Grand Detroit and will be televised live on SHOWTIME beginning at 9 p.m. ET/PT (delayed on the West Coast).

Tickets priced at $200, $125, $100, $75, $50 and $25, plus applicable taxes, fees and services charges are on sale at the Masonic Temple box office, online at www.ticketmaster.com , all Ticketmaster locations or by calling
800-745-3000
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The historic Masonic Temple in downtown Detroit was dedicated on November 25, 1926. With 1,037 rooms and 550,000 square feet, and built to house numerous fraternal organizations,it is the largest structure of its kind in the world. This amazing Gothic building was constructed between 1920 and 1926 at a cost of $7 million. George Washington's own working tools were used to spread the first mortar for the cornerstone.Washington, who was a Freemason used these same tools to lay the cornerstone of the Capitol building in Washington DC.