Written by The Sweet Science Tuesday, 23 July 2013 18:30



ANDRE BERTO ARRIVES IN SAN ANTONIO FOR SHOWDOWN WITH JESUS SOTO KARASS

(SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS) - Welterweight **Andre Berto** (Winter Haven, Fla.) arrived in San Antonio this afternoon for his July 27th match-up with Jesus Soto Karass at the AT&T Center. Berto and his team broke training camp on Monday following seven weeks of preparation in the Bay Area. The former two-time World Champion is stepping into the ring for the first time with a new coach in his corner, 2011 Trainer of the Year Virgil Hunter, and he's looking forward to his first fight of 2013.

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"We had a tremendous training camp for this fight, and I am ready to put on a great show for all the fans on July 27. My new team took me out of comfort zone, which is something that I needed. It was a very technical training camp and helped remind me who I am as a fighter and everyone will see those skills when I step into the ring on Saturday night," Berto said. "Make sure to come out to the AT&T Center or tune in on SHOWTIME because it's going to be a hell of a card."

Berto is returning to the ring for the first time since November when he faced off with Robert Guerrero in a fight of the year candidate. The 29-year-old Haitian Olympian relocated to the Los Angeles area in January and completed his full preparation for the upcoming fight in northern California with Hunter and his team. Hunter and Berto, who have known each other since Berto's early amateur days, began working together in late spring.

Saturday's fight will be Berto's second in the Lone Star State and his first since a fifth round knockout win over James Crayton in El Paso in 2006. The 29-year-old Berto is looking forward to competing in front of the great fight fans in San Antonio, which has become one of the great hotbeds for the sport. He got a taste of the fantastic boxing atmosphere after traveling to San Antonio at the end of May for the press conference and enjoyed all the fans that he got the opportunity to meet at the event.

The first Haitian Olympian in the sport of boxing, Berto has built an extensive professional resume, winning both the WBC and IBF welterweight belts in his eight years in the paid ranks. Known for his combination of lightning-quick hand speed and thunderous power, Berto's fights have become must watch TV. With the new skills he has added to his arsenal of the last seven weeks, Berto plans to start a new winning streak on Saturday night.

"Knockout Kings II," featuring former Two-Time Welterweight World Champion Andre Berto facing tough Mexican veteran contender Jesus Soto Karass in a 12-round main event for the vacant NABF Welterweight Championship, takes place Saturday, July 27 at the AT&T Center in San Antonio, Texas. The event is promoted by Golden Boy Promotions and Leija & Battah Promotions and sponsored by Corona and AT&T. In the 12-round co-featured attractions, Weslaco, Texas' undefeated rising star Omar Figueroa Jr. squares off against Tokyo's Nihito Arakawa for the vacant WBC Interim Lightweight World Championship in a fight promoted in association with Teiken Promotions and undefeated power-puncher Diego Chaves faces fellow unbeaten knockout artist Keith Thurman for Chaves' WBA Interim Welterweight World Championship in a fight promoted in association with KO International. The tripleheader will be

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broadcast live on SHOWTIME® at 9:00 p.m. ET/PT and will be available in Spanish via second audio programming (SAP).

Tickets priced at \$200, \$100, \$50, \$25 and \$10, plus applicable taxes, fees and services charges, are on sale now and are available for purchase at the AT&T Center box office, online at www.ticketmaster.com at www.ticketmaster.com and ATTCenter.com all Ticketmaster locations, by calling (800) 745-3000 or through Leija & Battah Promotions by calling (210) 979-3302

or emailing m@leijabattahpromo.com

Click here to see photos from Berto's training camp in the Oakland area.

A 2004 Haitian Olympian and two-time former welterweight world champion, Berto boasts a 28-2 record (22 KOs). The 29-year-old welterweight comes from a true fighting family, led by his father, Dieuseul Berto, who competed in mixed martial arts and shared the love of combat sports with his children. Berto's brother, Edson and sister, Revelina, currently compete in MMA and older brother, Cleveland is a former state wrestling champion. Outside the ring, Berto focuses his philanthropic efforts on work in Haiti and founded the Berto Dynasty Foundation in 2010 to assist in earthquake relief. BDF is currently in the process of creating a boxing gym and youth center for youth in the island nation.

Comment on this article

brownsugar says:

Even the 2013 version of Berto should have enough leftb to blow past the ever-ready and game as they come Karas... If he doesn't...he might as well join R Marquez on the seniors tour.

amayseng says:

Soto karass by ko.

Ya it seems far fetched but he threw that overhand right with deadly intentions at Madaina and landed quite a few.

Berto eats right hands for breakfast.

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Carmine Cas says:

Idk I'm not too crazy about either of them, but I think it will be an exciting fight

brownbomber says:

I am friends with Soto Karass brother, they are good people, and relentless. I would love to see Jesus win

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

Virgil Hunter in his corner and a fighter that comes straight forward with no regard for defense. Hmmmmm, let me think. Berto by late round TKO, holla!

brownsugar says:

[QUOTE=Shoulder Roll Defense;34068]Virgil Hunter in his corner and a fighter that comes straight forward with no regard for defense. Hmmmmm, let me think. Berto by late round TKO, holla![/QUOTE]

I might have to change my vote Berto was so dehydrated at the weigh-in he had that walking Cadaver look....yes he looks cut and defined but his skeleton was showing....time will tell...but its clear he's outgrown the welterweight division.

Radam G says:

Berto was never a true welter. He used roids to help him cut weight as a pro. Working with Trainer Hunter is his first time cutting weight with proper diet. Holla!

amayseng says:

Berto is jacked. Damn.

I don't think he looked dried out.

Def cut weight but his arms and chest seem full.

brownsugar says:

He looks like a cartoon...his guts are way too sucked in.. let's see if RG's theory is correct..then I'm back on the band wagon with Berto winning a bloody brawl.

ultimoshogun says:

I'll take Berto in this one...His speed and explosiveness should win him the fight. Could be another exciting one with multiple knockdowns like his fight with Ortiz. I'm also looking forward

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to watching Figueroa again!

amayseng says:

Berto has ruined his body and cns with steroids.

Muscle too strong too much torque creates ligament and tendon injuries.

Also early in first round a short shot had his legs all over the place.

I seriously think something is wrong with him. It's concerning.

amayseng says:

I called it.

Berto has no skill or fundamentals. He has great speed and buzz. But this is the sweet science. Berto is done. Mosley would knock him out.