THE SEMIFINALS BEGIN! SUPER SIX WORLD BOXING CLASSIC No. 1 SEED ANDRE WARD
DEFENDS WBA TITLE AGAINST ARTHUR ABRAHAM
SATURDAY, MAY 14

LIVE on SHOWTIME® at 10 p.m. ET
From The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.

NEW YORK (March 22, 2011) – The Super Six World Boxing Classic Semifinals are set to begin. Andre Ward, Arthur Abraham, Carl Froch and Glen Johnson are all one victory from the tournament final en route to 168-pound supremacy. On Saturday, May 14, Ward will defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) Super Middleweight world title against European superstar Abraham to kick off the Semifinals of the groundbreaking tournament LIVE on SHOWTIME® at 10 p.m. ET/PT (delayed on the West Coast) from The Home Depot Center in Carson, Calif.

The event is co-promoted by Goossen Tutor Promotions, Antonio Leonard Productions and Sauerland Event and sponsored by Corona. In the co-featured non-televised portion of the card at The Home Depot Center heavyweight world contender and popular Southern California slugger Cristobal Arreola will try to stay on track for another opportunity of a world championship when he takes on Nagy Aguilera of the Dominican Republic.

“The stage is set for the dramatic conclusion of the Super Six World Boxing Classic,” said Ken Hershman, Executive Vice President and General Manager of SHOWTIME Sports®. “We have seen some tremendous fights, scintillating action and surprising twists and turns. These four semifinalists have all survived the tournament’s rigorous road to this point but they are not done yet. They need two more outstanding performances if they want to truly be considered No. 1. I can’t wait for May 14.”

For Ward (23-0, 13 KOs), with his November victory over Sakio Bika and convincing wins over Mikkel Kessler and Allan Green in the Group Stage portion of the tournament, he enters the single elimination bout against Abraham as the tournament favorite. Ward, of Oakland, Calif., can advance to the tournament Final to face the winner of the upcoming Froch vs. Johnson Semifinal bout with a win over the former middleweight champ.

"I’m ready to get back in the ring and kick off the Semifinals against Arthur Abraham on May 14,” Ward said. “I’m just one win away from reaching the Finals and achieving what I set out to achieve when I entered this tournament: Super Six champion and the world’s best 168-pound boxer.”

Ward continued: “I’m also happy to return to The Home Depot Center. I fought there once before and I think it’s a great outdoor venue. Arthur should have a lot of fans there with the large Armenian contingency in Los Angeles, and I will have a lot of fans as well.”

”California fans are going to be treated with what I believe will not only be a very exciting night of fights at the championship level, but witnessing the next superstar in Andre Ward. He reminds me of Sugar Ray Leonard, tough as nails, classy, charismatic with matinee idol looks,” stated Dan Goossen of Goossen Tutor Promotions.

Abraham (32-2, 26 KOs), of Berlin, Germany by way of Armenia, entered the tournament as a heavy favorite alongside Kessler. But after emerging from Group Stage 1 as the points leader with a knockout win over Jermain Taylor, Abraham is now trying to bounce back from consecutive tournament losses to Andre Dirrell and Froch in Group Stages 2 and 3, respectively.

With a win over Ward on May 14, Abraham, who entered the tournament with an unblemished record, can once again become a world champion and the tournament favorite heading into the Finals.

“I have a lot of respect for Andre Ward,” Abraham said. “He has proven his class and he has defeated a lot of strong opponents. But once we meet in the ring, the past does not matter anymore. I had a very bad day against Carl Froch but I have put that behind me and learned from my mistakes. I am ready to bounce back. That is what being a true champion is all about – to come back from a loss and win the title again. I am looking forward to May 14. I will prove myself in the ring.”

Abraham, who has only fought in the U.S. twice in his career, isn’t concerned with fighting in California, Ward’s home state.

“There is a huge Armenian community in Los Angeles, and I will put on a spectacular fight for them,” said the Armenian-born Abraham. “I am very grateful to have their fantastic support and I can already promise them a very special evening. It will be good to have their backing. It will give me a huge boost.”

Added promoter Kalle Sauerland of Sauerland Event: "This is going to be a fantastic fight. We have a lot of respect for Andre Ward. He is a deserving champion but he will be dethroned by the comeback King! Arthur has learned from his mistakes in the Froch fight. At Team Sauerland, we certainly know one or two things about comebacks, especially when it comes down to making the necessary adjustments. Mikkel Kessler, the Viking Warrior, lost to Ward but in his next fight he defeated Carl Froch on points. May 14 will be the comeback of King Arthur! He will surprise a lot of people - and he will stun Andre Ward!"

Tickets for the May 14 Semifinals at The Home Depot Center will be go on sale on Wednesday, March 30, and will be available for as low as $25, with VIP floor seats priced at $200. Other tickets in the 8,000-seat outdoor stadium at The Home Depot Center are available at $50 and $100. Fans can purchase tickets, starting on March 30, at all Ticketmaster outlets and online at www.Ticketmaster.com as well as The Home Depot Center Box Office (open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.). Groups of 10 or more can purchase tickets by calling 1-877-234-8425.

The Semifinals of the Super Six World Boxing Classic will continue just one week later on Saturday, May 21, when Froch (27-1, 20 KOs) defends his World Boxing Council (WBC) Super Middleweight title against Johnson (51-14-2, 35 KOs) at a venue to be named in the near future.

For more information on the Super Six World Boxing Classic including exclusive photos, fight highlights and interviews, plus to view all episodes of the acclaimed documentary series FIGHT CAMP 360°: Inside The Super Six World Boxing Classic, please visit the website at www.WorldBoxingClassic.com

Comment on this article

amayseng says:

i just dont see froch being able to deal with the pressure and activity of glen. froch is not a superior athlete, barely an athlete at all really. slow feet, thudding movements, little agility, less speed. he was outboxed for 10 rounds against a shot and ruined taylor before landing a good punch to knock him out. ward disposes of the robotic and unadaptable and inactive abraham severely breaking him down and then knocking him out late or with the ref jumping in to stop it.

the Roast says:

Ok amayseng, time for a side bet! You and me buddy! I got Froch by UD. Froch will box and move for twelve rounds. Johnson will give chase the whole time but he won't win enough rounds. If Froch wins, I mean when Froch wins, you gotta come on and say "the Roast is the most excellent poster in all of the TSS" If Johnson wins, I'll say whatever you want. Deal?

Grimm says:

Froch by points, but with narrow margin. Ward gives Abraham a solid beating. Ward emerges victorius in the final via UD. Ward then gets a shot at Bute, and is stopped with brutal bodypunches as he tries to move in and hustle Bute up. Bute then takes on Pavlik, whose straight punches is all wrong for Bute. And, surprisingly, the Youngstown hero sits on top of the world again.

the Roast says:

Interesting scenario Grimm from Sweden. Love me some Mats Wilander. I'm with you on the first two, Froch over Johnson, and Ward over AA. I see Ward beating hands down Bute. Most likely by safe UD. I hope for Pavlik's sake he gets back in the mix. Hey did I ever tell you about when the Roast met the Ghost? Of course I did. Love me some Raging Bull also. Hey Ray, you never got me down Ray...

amayseng says:

it would be nice to see the ghost get his life back in order and get back in the mix. he can still be a threat with his length and power. i just dont see how a slow and unathletic froch beats the pressure and activity of glen. nothing froch will do will deter glen J. ward will put a beating on AA. and bute matches up good with any of these guys with his great speed, southpaw awkwardness and great body punching.. an exciting division..