

Mikkel Kessler To Fight Mehdi Bouadla On June 4

Written by The Sweet Science
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**FORMER CHAMPION MIKKEL KESSLER RETURNS
AGAINST WORLD-RANKED MEHDI BOUADLA
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, ON SHOWTIME®**

Fight From Denmark With Be Televised On Same-Day Delay

Before Carl Froch-Glen Johnson Super Six World Boxing Classic Semifinal Airs LIVE on SHOWTIME (Delayed on the West Coast)

NEW YORK (May 24, 2011) – Looking to regain his status as one of the premier super middleweights in the world, former World Boxing Council/World Boxing Association (WBC/WBA) 168-pound champion **Mikkel “The Viking Warrior” Kessler** will return to the ring for the first time in 14 months when he faces **Mehdi Bouadla** on **Saturday, June 4**, on **SHOWTIME** (9 p.m. ET/PT, same-day delay) at Parken Stadium in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The 12-rounder between Kessler (43-2, 32 KOs), of Denmark, and Bouadla (23-3, 11 KOs), of France, will be shown before the **LIVE Super Six World Boxing Classic Semifinal** on SHOWTIME (delayed on the West Coast) between defending WBC titlist **Carl Froch** (27-1, 20 KOs) and former world champion **Glen Johnson** (51-14-2, 35 KOs) of Miami, Fla., at Adrian Philipps Ballroom of Atlantic City’s Boardwalk Hall.

The Super Six announce team of **Gus Johnson**, **Al Bernstein** and **Antonio Tarver** will call the Kessler-Bouadla match from Atlantic City. **Steve Farhood** will serve as ringside reporter from Denmark.

For Kessler, it will be his first start since a potentially career-ending eye injury forced him to withdraw from the Super Six shortly after he won an exciting 12-round unanimous decision over the previously undefeated Froch on April 24, 2010. A victory puts Kessler, 32, back in the thick of things in the talent-rich 168-pound division. Kessler’s only defeats came against future Hall of Famer, **Joe Calzaghe**, in November 2007, and to **Andre Ward** in Group

Stage 1 of the Super Six World Boxing Classic on Nov. 21, 2009.

The 29-year-old Bouadla has won 11 in a row dating to February 2008. The No. 5-ranked super middle in the World Boxing Organization (WBO) and 10th-rated contender in the International Boxing Federation (IBF), Bouadla earned a decision over **Pavels Lotahs** in his most recent start last Jan. 29. Bouadla was slated to challenge defending champion **Sebastian Sylvester** last Jan. 22 for the IBF middleweight championship, but the fight was postponed after Sylvester suffered a viral infection.