

Richar (NOT Richard) Abril Wants To Prove He's The "Real Deal"

Written by The Sweet Science
Thursday, 28 February 2013 10:32

WBA LIGHTWEIGHT WORLD CHAMPION RICHAR ABRIL,

TOP-RATED CONTENDER SHARIF BOGERE,

UNBEATEN GARY RUSSELL JR. & VYACHESLAV GUSEV

FINAL WORKOUT QUOTES

“This motivates me even more to put on a good fight for the fans

and show them that I’m the real deal.”

– Richar Abril

“I’m confident that after Saturday, people will know my name and know who I am.”

– Sharif Bogere

The SHOWTIME BOXING – Special Edition Airs This Saturday, March 2,

Live on SHOWTIME® (10 p.m. ET/PT)

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From Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada; Tickets on Sale

LAS VEGAS (Feb. 27, 2013) – When Cuba's **Richar Abril** (17-3-1, 8 KO's), of Miami, Fla., steps into the ring to face undefeated Ugandan

Sharif "The Lion" Bogere

(23-0, 15 KO's), of Las Vegas, this

Saturday

March 2

in the main event of

SHOWTIME BOXING – Special Edition

live on

SHOWTIME

®

(10 p.m. ET/PT, delayed on the West Coast) from

The Joint at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

in

Las

Vegas

, he will be making the first defense of his WBA Lightweight World Championship.

The WBA recently announced that it had elevated Abril from interim champion to regular champion, a decision fully supported by both Abril and Bogere.

"I had no idea it was happening and it was definitely a surprise," said Abril during Tuesday's media workout at **Long Life Fit Boxing Gym** in Las Vegas. "But it was a great surprise. Every fighter has aspirations of becoming a world champion. Anybody who watched absolutely knows I beat **Brandon Rios** (in a bout on April 14, 2012) and that I deserved the decision. Ever since then, in my heart, I always considered myself the WBA champion. The WBA only made it official.

"This motivates me even more to put on a good fight for the fans and show them that I'm the real deal."

Said Bogere after his workout, "I don't think anybody is satisfied fighting for an interim title. We want a full title, a world title. I've been waiting my whole life for this chance. Uganda is one of

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the poorest countries on the planet. Most people don't know how hard it's been to get from where I started to where I'm at now. Fighting for the WBA title is an opportunity of a lifetime.

"People talk about my ring entrance, and that's really good. It's gotten me a lot of attention. They may not know my name, but they've maybe heard of the kid and his lion. I'm confident that after Saturday, people will know my name and know who I am."

In Saturday's co-feature, talented, undefeated southpaw **Gary Russell Jr.** (23-0, 15 KO's), of Capitol Heights, Md., meets Russia's **Vyacheslav Gusev** (20-2, 5 KO's) in a 10-round featherweight bout.

Russell is coming off of one of 2012's most devastating knockout victories, a brutal one-punch, third-round stoppage over **Roberto Castaneda** last Nov. 9 on ***ShoBox: The New Generation***.

"I'm satisfied with the way my career is going and at the pace it's going," said the classy, world-rated Russell, who may possess the fastest hands in boxing. "I refuse to listen to anybody who says anything negative about it. I think in a couple more fights I'll be ready to challenge for a world title.

"I'm not overlooking anybody. I've seen tapes of Gusev and he seems to have that classic European style, although he does try and box. He certainly has the potential to be a spoiler. He's the type that if you allow him to set the pace, he'll run up the points on you. I expect a good fight on Saturday."

Said Gusev, who'll be making his second start in the United States: "I'm very relaxed, calm and confident. I've seen some of Russell's fights and know he is a very good fighter.

"I'm excited about this fight and looking forward to it. It's not going to be easy, but I am here to win. I didn't come all this way to lose."

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ABOUT "ABRIL VS BOGERE":

Abril vs. Bogere, a 12-round fight for Abril's WBA Lightweight World Championship, will take place Saturday, March 2 at The Joint at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. The event is promoted by Golden Boy Promotions, sponsored by Corona and will be televised live on SHOWTIME beginning at 10:00 p.m. ET/PT (delayed on the West Coast) with preliminary fights to air live on SHOWTIME EXTREME at 8:00 p.m. ET/PT (delayed on the West Coast). The co-main event will be a 10-round featherweight bout between undefeated phenom Gary Russell Jr. and Russia's Vyacheslav Gusev.

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