New York, NY (3/14/13) - As the date of Gennady Golovkin's title fight in Monte-Carlo looms, Golden Gloves promoter Rodney Berman has issued a stark warning to the WBA and IBO middleweight champion: "Underestimate Nobuhiro Ishida at your peril."

Unbeaten Golovkin makes his seventh title defence against the Japanese boxer, who is considered an underdog against one of the world's best fighters, in Monaco on March 30.

Berman's fighters have a remarkable knack for upsetting the odds, none more impressive than Corrie Sanders, who stopped heavy favourite Wladimir Klitschko in two rounds for the WBO heavyweight title 10 years ago.The late Sanders was a prohibitive underdog, but he stunned the doubters with the performance of his life.

Berman also promoted the heavyweight championship fight when Lennox Lewis was knocked cold by unheralded Hasim Rahman inside five rounds in 2001.

One of Berman's earliest world championship promotions saw unbeaten Olympic champion Kennedy McKinney derailed by little-known South African Vuyani "The Beast" Bungu for the IBF super bantamweight title. *Ring Magazine* named it 1994's "Upset of the Year".

"I must admit, it's a bit freakish, which is why I learned long ago never to underestimate anyone in boxing," said Berman. "Some of the least likely boxers go on to do great things."

Another such example occurred in 1996 when Sugarboy Malinga, who had lost nine fights, was matched with ferocious puncher Nigel Benn for the WBC super middleweight title. Few gave Malinga a chance, but he captured a split decision in Benn's UK backyard.

Berman was again the mastermind when former lightweight champion Dingaan Thobela knocked out Glenn Catley to win the WBC super middleweight title 13 years ago. It was an extraordinary upset that demonstrated Thobela's power.

Africa's greatest promoter was again on hand when low-key Phillip Holiday challenged vaunted Miguel Julio for the vacant IBF lightweight title in 1995. The Colombian was on a run of 27 stoppages, but this time it was Holiday who inflicted the stoppage, winning by TKO in the 10th round against every expectation.

Ratanopol Sor Vorapin had made 10 defences of his IBF minimumweight title when he faced Zolani Petelo, another Golden Gloves star, in 1997. Yet the tiny South African overwhelmed him, inflicting a fourth-round stoppage.

"Complacency is every boxer's biggest enemy, let this be a warning to Golovkin. Ishida will do him no favours," said Berman.

Golovkin versus Ishida is the headliner on the "Monte-Carlo Million Dollar Super Four" tournament that features four of the world's best super middleweight and light heavyweight boxers, plus a clash for the European junior middleweight title.

The "Monte-Carlo Million Dollar Super 4" is distributed in the United States and Canada by Integrated Sports Media for live viewing at 3:00 p.m. ET/12:00 p.m. PT on both cable and satellite Pay-Per-View via iN Demand, DIRECTV, DISH and Avail-TVN in the United States and in Canada via Bell TV for a suggest retail price of only $24.95.

The event is promoted by Rodney Berman's Golden Gloves. The Golovkin-Ishida bout is

promoted in association with K2 Promotions, while the Rodriguez-Maderna and Erdei-Grachev bouts are promoted in association with DiBella Entertainment.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting the SBM Reservations Department by phone at: **+377 98 06 36 36**
(10 am to 7 pm) or email:
ticketoffice@sbm.mc

Comment on this article