

Hovhannisyan Meets Acosta on Friday ShoBox

Written by The Sweet Science
Wednesday, 18 July 2012 15:09

NEW YORK (July 18, 2012) - At 30, **Art Hovhannisyan** (14-0-2, 8 KOs) is a six-year pro who remains highly regarded even though he has fought only 75 rounds in his career - an average of about 12 a year.

This **Friday, July 20**, in what should be an exciting main event on **ShoBox: The New Generation** live on **SHOWTIME®**

(11 p.m. ET/PT, delayed on the West Coast), the Glendale, Calif.-based Armenian faces always-dangerous, hard-hitting former World Boxing Association (WBA) lightweight champion

Miguel Acosta

(29-5-2, 23 KOs) at

Chumash Casino Resort

in

Santa Ynez, Calif.

In a compelling co-feature, talented unbeaten **Roman Morales** (10-0, 6 KOs), of San Ardo, Calif., meets **Alexis Santiago** (11-2-1 5 KOs), of Phoenix, Ariz., in an eight-round super bantamweight bout.

A scheduled eight-round junior middleweight fight between undefeated **Julian "J-Rock" Williams**, of

Philadelphia, and

Sid El Harrak

, of Santa Clarita, Calif., was cancelled yesterday after El Harrak withdrew with a knee injury.

Morales, 23, and Santiago, 21, are making their ShoBox debuts. Morales, a top amateur who's making his sixth appearance at Chumash, hasn't come close to losing since going pro in February 2011. But he's only been matched with two fighters with winning records, and he's never fought more than six rounds.

Santiago, a pro since October '09, relocated to Las Vegas from Phoenix 10 months ago and is trained by former world champion **Roger Mayweather**. Santiago has fought much better and has twice gone eight rounds; one of his losses came against undefeated prospect

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. He's won three of four.

Hovhannisyan will be making his first start in 11 months and second in a row against a former world titleholder. In his last outing, he fought a technical draw with ex-International Boxing Federation (IBF) featherweight champion **Cristobal Cruz** in an entertaining bout on Aug. 5, 2011, that was stopped at 2:36 of the fourth round due to a nasty, accidental head butt that opened a bad cut on Cruz' forehead.

The experienced, aggressive-minded Acosta captured the WBA lightweight crown in May 2010 but lost it in his first defense to **Brandon Rios** in a thrilling, fast-paced scrap with plenty of two-way action on Feb. 26, 2011. Acosta swept the first four rounds on two of the scorecards and hurt Rios on several occasions, but Rios rallied to win by 10th-round TKO.

Hovhannisyan, who scored a career-best victory with a sixth-round knockout over previously undefeated prospect **Archie Ray Marquez** on June 10, 2011, on ShoBox, knows this could be his toughest fight. But he desperately wants to jump-start his career, so what better time than now?

"This is the kind of fight I have to take and I have to win," he said. "As soon as we got the call, I took the fight. It took me about a second to decide. I know some may think twice about me fighting two former champs back-to-back, but I'm thrilled for the opportunity. I'm definitely ready to take the next step,

"I'm really eager to show my critics that I'm not a one-hit wonder, that the Marquez fight was for real. I'm determined to show the people that I have the goods to be a world champ. It's going to be a great fight.

"I'm a hard worker and will be as motivated as I can be. I'm definitely treating this like a world title fight. I have all the respect for Acosta and know he's a great champion. I would have liked to take a fight at 130 pounds, but at some point I have to fight and defeat some good fighters."

Tickets for an event presented by Gary Shaw Productions in association with Thompson Boxing

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Promotions are priced at \$35, \$45, \$55, \$70, and \$85 and are on sale at Chumash Resort Casino Box office or online at **www.startickets.com**.