



WBO JR. WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPION RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV TO MAKE FIRST WORLD TITLE DEFENSE AGAINST NEW YORK'S UNDEFEATED CHRIS ALGIERI

SATURDAY, JUNE 14 AT BARCLAYS CENTER AND LIVE ON HBO®

--Tickets On Sale *Next Thursday!* April 24 at 10 A.M.--

BROOKLYN (April 16, 2014) –World Championship boxing returns to **Barclays Center** when the **“T**
he Siberian Rocky” RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV
makes the first defense of his World Boxing Organization (WBO) junior welterweight title and his Brooklyn debut against undefeated world-rated contender and New York product **CHRIS ALGIERI.**

Provodnikov vs. Algieri will take place

Saturday, June 14

and will be televised live on

HBO Boxing After Dark

®

,
beginning at 10:00 p.m. ET/PT

.

The co-main event will feature undefeated WBO junior middleweight champion **DEMETRIUS "Boo Boo" ANDRADE**

Provodnikov-Algeri Tix Info; Hopkins Weigh-In To Stream

Written by The Sweet Science
Wednesday, 16 April 2014 14:59

making his first title defense, against No. 1 contender and mandatory challenger
BRIAN "The Lion" ROSE.

These four gladiators boast a combined record of 87-3-1 (44 KOs) – a 96 percent winning percentage, with more than half of their total victories coming by way of knockout.

The action-packed undercard will feature undefeated World Boxing Council (WBC) Continental Americas champion, Top-Five contender and Long Beach, Long Island fan favorite "**Irish**" **SEANIE MONAGHAN**, and the debut of professional women's boxing at Barclays Center with **HEATHER "The Heat" HARDY** of Brooklyn risking her undefeated record.

Promoted by Banner Promotions and Top Rank®, in association with Joe DeGuardia's Star Boxing, tickets to the Provodnikov-Algeri world champion event are \$31, \$56, \$86, \$106 and \$206. **Tickets will go on sale** beginning **Thursday, April 24 at 10:00 a.m.** and can be purchased online via Ticketmaster by visiting www.barclayscenter.com

or www.ticketmaster.com, or by calling [800-745-3000](tel:800-745-3000). Tickets are also available at the American Express Box Office at Barclays Center beginning Friday, April 25 at noon. Group tickets are also available by calling 855-GROUP-BK. For information on individual suites, please call 718-BK-SUITE.

"I am very excited to be fighting in Brooklyn at Barclays Center and look forward to this fight very much," said Provodnikov. "I know a lot of my fans from Russia will be flying in to see this great event. I also hope that my fans from the United States, including the great Russian community in Brooklyn, will be there to support me."

"I cannot wait for June 14," said Algeri. "Ruslan is a great champion and a feared and avoided guy in the junior welterweight division, which is exactly why I am eager for the chance to fight him. I am ready."

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"This will be a great event," said Arthur Pelullo, President of Banner Promotions. "Ruslan has proven in his last two bouts that he is one of the best fighters in the world and he knows that the biggest fights are ahead of him. Algieri is hungry and will be fighting close to home so we know this will be an outstanding fight with both men each bringing in a legion of fans to support them. We look forward to bringing this great event to Barclays Center in front of the great fans in Brooklyn."

"We have been grooming Chris for this opportunity and I know he is ready," said Joe DeGuardia of Star Boxing. "Chris is in top shape and thrilled to be fighting Ruslan, one of the toughest and most highly-regarded fighters in boxing. This show will be captivating and I am looking forward to watching it at one of the most premiere arenas in the world."

"We are excited to continue hosting such great boxing events at Barclays Center," said Barclays Center CEO Brett Yormark. "Between the large Russian community in Brooklyn coming out to support Ruslan, and the other local fighters on the card, we expect a great crowd and a lot of excitement in Brooklyn on June 14. I also want to thank our boxing partner Golden Boy Promotions for graciously enabling us to host this fight for the boxing fans of this borough."

Provodnikov (23-2, 16 KOs), born and raised in Berezovo, Khanty-Mansi, Russia in Siberia, is trained by Hall of Famer Freddie Roach. He had an incredible year in 2013. On March 16, he was on the wrong end of a hotly-disputed unanimous decision loss to undefeated WBO welterweight champion Timothy Bradley, Jr. Provodnikov, who moved up in weight for his first title shot, hurt Bradley numerous times during their slugfest, nearly knocking out the defending champion in the first and second rounds and scoring a knockdown in the final round. Two of the three scorecards had Bradley winning by only one point. It was voted the Fight of the Year by the Boxing Writers Association of America. Provodnikov moved down to his natural weight in his next fight and challenged WBO junior welterweight champion Mike Alvarado, scoring a dramatic 10th round stoppage to claim his world title, last October 19. Five of Provodnikov's last six victories have been by knockout.

Algieri (19-0 8 KOs), hails from nearby Huntington, NY. Over the last 18 months Chris has elevated himself to a world-class contender after accumulating significant victories over top prospect Jose Alejo, former USBA champion Mike Arnaoutis, and most recently highly-rated contender Emmanuel Taylor in February. He's as much a scholar as he is a brawler. He graduated from Stony Brook University with Honors in 2007 with a Bachelors of Science in Health Care Management and then went on to receive his Masters degree from the New York Institute of Technology. He aspires to attend Medical School.

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"We are excited to have Demetrius make his first defense on this card," said Pelullo, Andrade's co-promoter. " He is one of the future stars of boxing. To be at Barclays Center in Brooklyn is just fabulous"

"I am thrilled that Demetrius Andrade will be defending his WBO World Championship on this fantastic card," added Andrade co-promoter DeGuardia. " I've always felt Demetrius would rise to stardom and, on June 14, he will be able to do it in spectacular fashion at the beautiful Barclay Center in Brooklyn, NY."

Andrade (20-0, 13 KO), of Providence, RI, has been a mainstay on television since making his professional debut following his stint on the 2008 U.S. Olympic team. Co-promoted by Banner Promotions and Star Boxing, Andrade's aggressive style has attracted and created fans on both coasts of the U.S. He captured the vacant world title on November 9, defeating fellow U.S. Olympian Vanes Martirosyan in a battle of undefeated top-rated contenders. One doesn't have to look any further than his recent record where Andrade has stopped five of his last eight opponents. Career highlights include victories over former world title challengers Freddy Hernandez and Angel Hernandez as well as former *Contender* champion Grady Brewer.

Rose (25-1-1, 7 KOs), from Blackpool, Lancashire, England, will be fighting outside the United Kingdom for the first time. He enters his first world title tilt riding a four-year, 11-bout winning streak, which has included BBBofC British, BBBofC English and WBO Inter-Continental junior middleweight title victories. In his last fight, on October 26, he won a split decision over Javier Maciel in a title elimination bout which made Rose the WBO's mandatory junior middleweight challenger and No. 1 contender. Career highlights include knockout victories over former world champions Joachim Alcine and Vivian Harris.

For fight updates go to www.banner-promotions.com or www.hbo.com/boxing , on Facebook at facebook.com/banner-promotions or facebook.com/hboboxing, and on Twitter at twitter.com/bannerboxing or twitter.com/hboboxing.

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SHOWTIME Sports will offer a live stream of Friday's official weigh-in for the light heavyweight world championship unification between future Hall of Famer and IBF champ

Bernard "The Alien" Hopkins

and WBA Super champ

Beibut Shumenov

taking place this

Saturday, April 19

, live on

SHOWTIME

®

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

DC Armory

in Washington, D.C.

At 49-years-old, Hopkins (54-6-2, 32 KOs), of Philadelphia, is looking to become the oldest fighter in boxing history to unify world titles, while Shumenov (14-1, 9 KOs), of Shymkent, Kazakhstan, is aiming to become the fastest fighter to unify the light heavyweight division with only 15 professional fights.

The world championship tripleheader also features a showdown between IBF Welterweight World Champion **Shawn Porter** and former champ **Paulie Malignaggi**. WBO Middleweight World Champ **Peter**

Quillin

will risk his belt against

Lukas Konecny

in the opening bout of the telecast.

The weigh-in will be available at **1 p.m. ET/10 a.m. PT LIVE via satellite feed, YouTube, Ustream**

and

www.SHO.com/Sports

in

High Definition

. The event will be hosted by

Brian Custer

.

On Thursday beginning at **3:30 p.m. ET/12:30 p.m. PT**, Hopkins (3:30 ET), Malignaggi (4 ET)

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and Quillin (4:30 ET) will answer fan questions live pulled from social media platforms. The fighter chats are available live at www.sports.sho.com/live

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Skibbz says:

It was an interesting and exciting press conference. Loved that Ruslan wore his traditional Mansi clothing. I hope Chris doesn't freeze on the night... Looked like it was dawning on him whom he was going to square across June 14th. The Mansi Mauler is bringing pain in abundance, and no motor will get you away from that.

He wasn't saying it, presumably doesn't want to scare Algieri off too soon, but it's going to be war, a street fight and the new-to-boxing 19-0 Huntington NYC native is going to get his ear drums popped, his jaw broken and go home with a head the shape of a pumpkin.

The Siberian Rocky devours bear hearts for breakfast, and if you thought any of the voodoo Mama Pac was doing was strong... Wait till you see what the Mansi can incite!

(On a serious note, I can't wait for this. Going to be a great test for both fighters. Fair play to Algieri for taking it and Ruslan for giving him the shot. It's not going to be easy for either guy, as with all Ruslan fights it will eventually boil down to a test of character and will. Wish the best for both men.)

flackoguapo says:

Haha You always get super hype when it comes to the Russian bad ***! I have heard of him eating raw meat in an interview I think? Have any cool info on him? I did watch that amateur video you posted of his. He is relentless. He has a pro style all the way through.

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Hahaha yeah man he's got everything I want a fighter to have, and acts every bit the way a champion should in my view. Everyone has a fighter they would root for against the devil himself and for me that champion is Ruslan. His fights are a rollercoaster ride for me, full of ups and downs but that's what makes it even greater to watch. That amateur video really shows you the kind of character he has. Growing up as a Mansi in Russia is not easy and he would get racially abused by kids his own age and adults all the time. However, one hard thump later and they were no longer call him names. He started boxing young, and eventually made it into Moscow's elite boxing gym which was a 10 hour train ride away.

Cool info? Well he plays the guitar well, and used to hunt bears with his family when he was younger. It's a tradition of the Mansi that dates back a long time which they still keep to this day, although it's with guns now. Something more boxing related, when he first got into talks with Artie about a move to America, he didn't know whether to trust him or not. So Artie proposed that he sort him a few fights, free of charge to earn his trust. The result was 4 fights in the US, and true to his word Artie didn't take a dime.

He was really chasing big names after the Alvarado fight, you'd think the guy with the belt would be able to get the big guys to come after him... It wasn't the case which is somewhat disappointing, but nothing new to the sport. That's why we must commend both Algeri for taking the fight, and Ruslan for welcoming all challengers.