

ShoBox: The New Generation Final Weights, Quotes & Photos

Written by The Sweet Science
Thursday, 05 June 2014 23:38



Photo Credit: Esther Lin / SHOWTIME

INDIO, Calif. (June 5, 2014) – Undefeated middleweight prospect **Hugo Centeno, Jr.** weighed in at 160.4 pounds and fellow unbeaten

Gerardo Ibarra

tipped the scales at 162 pounds during Thursday's official weigh-in for their 10-round main event showdown

tomorrow/Friday, June

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on

ShoBox: The New Generation

, live on

SHOWTIME

®

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

Undefeated welterweight prospect **Eddie Gomez** measured 149 pounds and streaking **Francis co Santana**

weighed-in at 148.2 pounds for their 10-round

ShoBox

co-feature bout from Fantasy Springs Resort Casino in Indio, Calif.

The 23-year-old Centeno Jr. (20-0, 11 KOs), of Oxnard, Calif., is returning to *ShoBox* for the first time since a dominating 10-round unanimous decision victory over

KeAndre Leatherwood

in March of 2013. Now under the tutelage of

Eric Brown

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, trainer of WBO Middleweight World Champion

Peter Quillin

and former world champion and SHOWTIME analyst

Paulie Malignaggi

, Centeno Jr. is aiming to take the leap from prospect to contender.

Ibarra (14-0, 8 KOs), of Houston, was announced last Friday as a late replacement for the injured **Domonique Dolton**. The undefeated yet untested 23-year-old was a solid amateur – he won the 2005 National Junior Olympic tournament and owns an amateur victory over undefeated pro **Gary Russell Jr.**

At just 21 years old, Gomez (16-0, 10 KOs), of the Bronx, N.Y., is taking a step-up in opposition against veteran prospect Santana (19-3-1, 7 KOs), of Santa Barbara, Calif., who has won seven in a row since his last loss to undefeated contender **Jermell Charlo**.

Here's what the fighters had to say prior to Thursday's weigh-in at Fantasy Springs:



HUGO CENTENO, JR.

“This guy is definitely dangerous -- late replacements always are. I've underestimated guys before because you might think they haven't had enough time to get ready for the fight, or you might not be ready for the type of style that they bring.

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“But, for this training camp, I feel like we were training for every type of fighter. I had a lot of different sparring partners, such as **Ruslan Provodnikov**, **Sergio Mora**, **Frankie Gomez** and **Glen Tapia**

. They are all different types of fighters and great caliber fighters. It was just great work.

“I know he’s an aggressive boxer. He tries to be a little slick; he tries to bring the action and press forward. I feel like I’m prepared for what he has to bring to the table.

“It’s been a year since I had a chance to fight on *ShoBox* and the last time the guy was talking a big game. I was hoping for a war to give the fans what they wanted, but, unfortunately, he wanted to turn it into a hug-fest. But I think it should be different this time. I think it should be a good fight and I’m looking to make a statement.

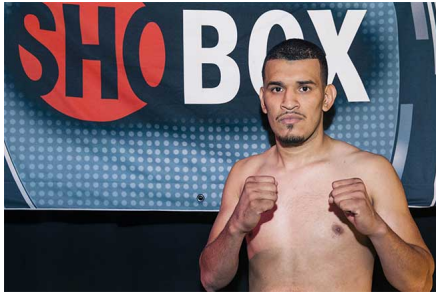
“I’m not calling a knockout because I don’t go in there looking for it, but I’m not sure it will go the distance.

“Everything has been going great with Eric (Brown). The type of style that he brings to the table is awesome. The chemistry is there and everything came together perfectly.

“Working with world-class fighters like Peter (Quillin) and Paulie (Malignaggi) just ups your level and shows you where you’re at. Being able to hang in there with guys like that is an amazing feeling because you know you’re at that world-class level.

“Training with Ruslan (Provodnikov) has been great. The type of pressure that he brings is like no other. He’s just straight forward – he’ll take all your shots and he’s relentless. After becoming accustomed to that type of pressure, I feel like anything this guy brings I’ll be ready for.

“My dad had three heart surgeries and I told him it’s just time to hang it up. Training me was really tough on his body and extremely stressful. We both chose Eric Brown together because we both thought he would go well with my style. He knows how to teach his fighter that killer instinct and he knows how to teach fighters to think for themselves. That’s what we really liked about him and it’s working really well.”



GERARDO IBARRA:

“I was ready and training when we got the call for this fight. We moved from Houston to Los Angeles almost two months ago to get ready for an opportunity like this. I’ve been steadily training waiting for this chance.

“I came over to Los Angeles for an opportunity like this. I’m just ready to get in there and show what I can do.

“I wouldn’t say he’s my toughest test, but this is definitely my biggest opportunity. We’ll find out in the ring if he’s the biggest test yet.

“I’m here to surprise people. I’m here to dethrone him. From whatever cloud they have him on, I’m here to bring him down from that.

“I’ve been in the ring with a lot of different guys. I was in the ring with the Charlo (Jermell and Jermall) brothers and **Brian Vera** to help him get ready for the **Julio Cesar Chavez, Jr.** fight. I feel ready; there is nothing I can’t handle.”

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