



DEONTAY WILDER, ERIC MOLINA, JOSE PEDRAZA MEDIA DAY WORKOUT QUOTES

***Heavyweight World Championship Saturday, June 13,
Live On SHOWTIME® From Bartow Arena in Birmingham, Ala.;***
ALL ACCESS: Deontay Wilder Premieres June 3 On SHOWTIME

NEW YORK (June 1, 2015) - Unbeaten Heavyweight World Champion Deontay "The Bronze Bomber" Wilder, confident heavyweight contender Eric "Drummer Boy" Molina and unbeaten junior lightweight Jose "The Sniper" Pedraza participated in Media Day Workouts last Thursday for their fights **Saturday, June 13**, on **SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING®** live on **SHOWTIME®** (9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT) at **Bartow Arena** in Birmingham, Ala.

The power-punching, popular hometown favorite Wilder (33-0, 32 KOs), of Tuscaloosa, Ala., will make the first defense of his title when he meets Molina (23-2, 17 KOs), of Raymondville, Texas, in the main event on June 13. Pedraza (19-0, 12 KOs), of Caguas, Puerto Rico, will meet **Andrey Klimov** (19-1, 9 KOs), of Klimovski, Russia, in a 12-rounder for the vacant IBF Junior Lightweight World Championship in the co-feature.

Below is what Wilder, Molina and Pedraza said during their separate Media Days in Northport, Ala., Weslaco, Texas and Cidra, Puerto Rico, respectively:

DEONTAY WILDER, Heavyweight World Champion

"It's definitely a blessing to be able to fight in my state. When we set the goal to be heavyweight champion of the world that was one of the goals we set, to bring it to Alabama. Just to change it up and give Alabama some spice besides football, and to finally get the opportunity to have a major fight in the state of Alabama. This is what we were looking for when we worked to bring the commission here, and we were successful and got it done. This is what we were looking for.

"I want Alabama to be my home territory. It's why I stay here. Some people still try to throw me out but my heart is here and I've got bigger and better plans. This is just the beginning.

"My team handles all the distractions (from fighting at home). I've got a wonderful team. I'm just ready to go. I'm ready to get this party started and welcome Molina to Alabama.

"My hand is fine. We tested it yesterday for 10-ounce gloves because that's the competition weight. We put it on and I felt great. It gave me even more confidence. I'm ready to get in the ring and do what I have to do and perform for my people."

(on being world champion)

"We knew we would be doing a lot of traveling after getting the belt but we didn't know the capacity of how much. It's been a journey for me.

"I think I bring a different flavor to the sport of boxing, and I want to bring even more to the world."

(on Molina)

"I haven't heard from Molina but that's good, that means he's focused. I want him to come very focused. I know he's going to be nervous and scared, but they say if you back a rabbit in a corner, they fight back.

"I'm most dangerous when I'm at home. I'm not going to let down my home crowd and let someone take what I've worked so hard for. He's not going to come behind enemy lines and take anything from me.

"I want a great performance from him. I want a great performance for the crowd and people to say, 'Hey, I want to come back for the next one!' and to be hungry for the next one. We got a lot of fights we want to do in Alabama, and this is just the start. I want to move on from Bartow to the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC), which is bigger than the MGM Grand.

"Every title defense is proving something. I'm the world's most wanted, and everyone wants it. I've got the WBC crown. It's the most well-known, famous belt in boxing. Everyone wants their name on this belt, and I have it. Every fight is a dangerous fight when I'm putting the belt on the line, and I train as if everyone is a world champion."

(on why he's defending against Molina)

"We have a lot of other opponents, but Molina was the one to understand the opportunity that lies at hand. Some people can price themselves out and some teams make it so difficult that the fight won't happen. They can really block themselves out from getting the fight. You can have the money or the opportunity. Molina understands what the situation is, and he stepped up to the plate and understands the opportunity at hand to be the World Heavyweight Champion.

"My last fight I proved to everyone what I was capable of. I can go 12 rounds and take a punch. I can be just as fresh in the 12th round as the 1st.

"The sky's the limit in what we're trying to do. I represent the state. Even though I'm from Tuscaloosa, it's not just where my gym is in Northport or Coffeeville. I represent the state of Alabama. I need a home territory and a home state not only where we can bring in local people, bring in the nation, but also bring in the whole world."

ERIC MOLINA, Heavyweight Contender

"This is the fight that we dream about when we first lace on the gloves and I am extremely excited about the opportunity to fight for the biggest prize in sports, the WBC heavyweight title. I've been preparing and training very hard, and I'm almost at the point where we're ready to go.

"We've studied a lot of Wilder, and expect a very physical fight. I think a lot of people are underestimating my strength and power. They know Wilder can punch but they are underestimating the power that I possess.

"We know it's going to be a hostile environment, fighting in basically his backyard, but he's now the champion and with that he gets an opportunity in his optional title defense (to fight who he wants, where he wants). He gets to enjoy those opportunities, but that's where I come in.

"Of course, I'm confident I can win the title. I think people look at my record and think this or that, but I don't feel they understand my entire career, the things I have gone through and overcome, the different angles of boxing that more than meets the eye.

"Nothing against Deontay, who has worked hard to get to where he is, but he doesn't represent the kind of fighter, in general, that I am. I've always had to fight and struggle from fight to fight. I never had a true training camp situation. I'm not saying he had things easy, but I had to work and juggle things to keep going. Only the fighters in my situation can understand it.

"I've been boxing for nine years. I have a BS and Master's Degree and I'm in my fourth year teaching kids with disabilities. Along with boxing, this is what I do. This is who I am, and I am not ashamed of who I am either. I'm proud. If they want to consider me an underdog, fine. But I'm also the guy who got knocked out in his first pro fight and battled back to where I am now and I'm fighting for the championship.

"What people don't know about me is that my career has been all about determination, strength and struggles. Other boxers, including Bernard Hopkins, lost their first fights and went on to win a world title. I've learned a lot from my two losses and now I have the confidence to accomplish anything.

"Bottom line is I am not trying to convince anybody who I am, I just want people to see who the real Eric Molina is -- that I am more than what my record on paper indicates. I was NABF champion for a while but could never get a fight so I was dropped from the rankings. It was like I had to start over again. But I stuck to it, and with everything else I had going on outside the ring, things I had to put aside for this fight, still managed to get into the position I'm in now.

"I don't think there's ever been a heavyweight contender like me. Where I train, there are no other real heavyweights except for one or two. I have to fly guys in to help me work with the guys already here. I've been in camps with Bernane Stiverne; I often had to go to where the sparring was just to get the work.

"I've never been in a spot where things have been easy for me in boxing. I never had the odds on my side, the tools, the resources. But I still made it this far and want to go farther.

"I think the first round is very important. I expect that from the get-go that he will feel like he could hurt me, but I also feel very strongly that I could hurt him. So it is very important to be ready for that first bell.

"This is going to be a great fight, much, much better than many may be expecting, and I am ready."

JOSE PEDRAZA, Unbeaten Junior Lightweight Contender

"As a Puerto Rican, every time I fight, I fight for the honor of my people. So, on June 13, I won't only be fighting to win a world title, I'll be fighting for Cidra, Puerto Rico and for all the Puerto Ricans out there watching me. Puerto Rico needs another champion and I'm here to deliver and make my people proud. I cannot afford to let them down. I won't let Puerto Rico down. I'll come back a champion.

"This is a great opportunity fighting on a big show on SHOWTIME. It has taken hard work, dedication and long gym work to obtain this big exposure on SHOWTIME.

"My last fight against Michael Farenas was very important to me because that fight was a title eliminator and, by winning, it opened the door to this fight and finally my dream of becoming world champion is close to arriving.

"It has been a long and hard training camp -- intensive. We opened camp in Las Vegas in December. This camp has been special because it is for the world championship.

"Andrey Klimov is a strong boxer, always going forward, the jab and straight right are his best shots. The only thing I see is he is strong and has good fitness. From his last fight against Terrence Crawford I could see that he has problems when he fights a left-handed boxer with good movement. I will be working in side steps and with speed.

"I hope that he comes well prepared for me. We must do our best to give the fans a good show. On June 13, I will be a new champ and after that I want to make two defenses and move to 135."

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ALL ACCESS: Deontay Wilder, which chronicle's the champion's January fight against Bernane Stiverne and sets the stage as he prepares for his upcoming title defense, premieres on Wednesday, June 3 at 10 p.m. ET/PT.

"WILDER vs. MOLINA," a 12-Round fight for Wilder's WBC Heavyweight Championship, takes place Saturday, June 13, at The Bartow Arena in Birmingham, Ala. DiBella Entertainment and Bruno Event Team have joined forces to bring this event to Alabama. In the co-main event co-promoted by DiBella in association with Universal Promotions, Jose Pedraza will face Andrey Klimov in a 12-Round bout for the IBF Jr. Lightweight World Title. It will air live on SHOWTIME® (9 p.m. ET/ 6 p.m. PT). The telecast will also be available in Spanish via secondary audio programming (SAP). Preliminary bouts will be televised live on SHOWTIME EXTREME (7 p.m. ET/PT, delayed on the West Coast).

For more information visit www.sports.sho.com and www.dbe1.com follow on Twitter at @SHOSports, @WilderVSMolina, @BronzeBomber, @LouDiBella and @Swanson_Comm, follow the conversation using #WilderMolina, become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SHOBoxing or visit the SHOWTIME Boxing Blog at <http://theboxingblog.sho.com>.

CONTACTS:

Kelly Swanson/Lisa Milner, Swanson Communications: (202) 783-5500

Kevin Rooney, DiBella Entertainment: (212) 947-2577

Chris DeBlasio, Showtime Networks Inc.: (212) 708-1633

Matt Donovan, Showtime Networks Inc.: (212) 708-1663

Flo Jocou, Showtime Networks Inc.: (212) 708-7319

John Beyrooty/Jared Kaufer, BZA/Showtime: (562) 233-7477/(818) 621-1111

Angel Hufham, Bruno Event Team, 205-706-2616

Jim Bakken, UAB: (205) 934-3887

Media Credentials: www.magnamedia.com