



**JAVIER FORTUNA TAKES ON BRYAN VASQUEZ IN TELEVISED OPENER
FOR PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS ON SPIKE ON FRIDAY, MAY 29
LIVE FROM BARCLAYS CENTER
BEGINNING AT 9:00 P.M. ET/6:00 P.M. PT**

**Plus, Undercard Action Featuring
Staten Island's 2012 Olympian Marcus Browne Battling Cornelius White
& Brooklyn's Heather Hardy Facing Noemi Bosques**

BROOKLYN (May 21, 2015) - An electric showdown between **Javier Fortuna** (27-0-1, 20 KOs) and **Bryan Vasquez** (35-1, 18 KOs) will open up the **Premier Boxing Champions** on **Spike** telecast taking place Friday, May 29 at Barclays Center.

The 12-round junior lightweight bout between Fortuna and Vasquez will lead into the highly anticipated contest between former world champions **Amir Khan** and **Chris Algieri**. The Spike telecast begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT.

Undercard action will also feature a slew of exciting local prospects competing in tough fights. 2012 U.S. Olympian "**Sir**" **Marcus Browne** (14-0, 11 KOs) of Staten Island will take on the experienced **Cornelius White** (21-2, 16 KOs) in a 10 round light heavyweight bout while **Heather "The Heat" Hardy** (12-0, 2 KOs) faces **Noemi Bosques** (8-2-2) in eight rounds of featherweight action.

Also on the card are **Wesley Ferrer** (8-0, 5 KOs) taking on **Jose Miguel Castro** (4-2, 2 KOs) in a six round lightweight attraction, **Noel Murphy** (1-0) battling **Michael Black** (0-1) in four rounds of welterweight action, **Adam Kownacki** (9-0, 9 KOs) squaring off against **Ytalo Perea** (5-1-1, 3 KOs) in an eight round heavyweight fight and the eight round cruiserweight battle between **Keith Tapia** (14-0, 9 KOs) and **Leo Pla** (5-4-2, 2 KOs).

Rounding out the action is the professional debut of **Chris Colbert** as he battles **Marquis Pierce** (1-5) in a four round featherweight bout and **Luis Franco** (12-1-1, 8 KOs) taking on **Guillermo Sanchez** (15-15-1, 6 KOs).

Tickets for the live event, promoted by DiBella Entertainment and Star Boxing, are priced at \$250, \$150, \$75, and \$45, not including applicable service charges and taxes, and are on sale now. Tickets are available at www.barclayscenter.com, www.ticketmaster.com and at the American Express Box Office at Barclays Center. To charge by phone, call Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000. For group tickets, please call 800-GROUP-BK.

An amateur standout who participated in the first Pan American Junior Championships in 2003, the 25-year-old **Fortuna** (27-0-1, 20 KOs) owns victories over Abner Cotto, Miguel Zamudio and Patrick Hyland. The undefeated rising star out of La Romana, Dominican Republic holds four knockouts over his last six fights as he looks to put on another great show on May 29.

The 27-year-old **Vasquez** (35-1, 18 KOs) is quickly becoming known as the preeminent pugilist from Costa Rica. The San Jose-native is the winner of his last five fights, including a stoppage of Sergio Thompson in Dec. 2014. Vasquez does not shy from any competition and will not back down when he faces his toughest test to date in Javier Fortuna on Spike TV.

As he approaches his record ninth appearance at Barclays Center, the 2012 U.S. Olympian **Browne** (13-0, 10 KOs) is becoming synonymous with boxing's newest Mecca. Unbeaten as a professional, with six knockouts at Barclays Center, the Staten Island native has shown how much he loves fighting in his backyard, most recently scoring a sixth round stoppage over Aaron Pryor Jr. at Barclays Center in April. The 24-year-old faces the 34-year-old **White** (21-3, 16 KOs) from Houston.

Already the winner of the first-ever professional female boxing match at Barclays Center, **Hardy** (12-0, 2 KOs) returns on May 29 looking to bounce back from a frustrating no contest on April 11. Her previous victory at Barclays Center came in June 2014 when she won a split decision over Jackie Trivilino. Her most recent victory was a dominant unanimous decision against Elizabeth Anderson in December 2014. She looks to keep that momentum going on May 29 when she faces the 32-year-old **Bosques** out of Saint Petersburg, Florida.

An accomplished amateur out of Brooklyn, **Ferrer** owns a 2012 New York Amateur Boxing Championship and a 2013 New York Daily News Golden Gloves Championship. The 22-year-old has already won twice in 2015, scoring a second round TKO over Bryan Timmons in April. He prepares to face the 27-year-old **Castro** out of Carolina, Puerto Rico.

A 20-year-old prospect out of Woodlawn, New York, **Murphy** turned pro in November of last year with a unanimous decision over Anthony Smith. He returns to the ring on May 29 to fight **Black** out of Las Vegas.

Originally from Lomza, Poland, but fighting out of Brooklyn, **Kownacki** is a 2006 and 2009 New York Daily News Golden Gloves Champion. The 26-year-old delivered a first round knockout in April over Randy

Easton and returns to the ring in his adopted hometown looking for his 10th professional victory. He faces the 21-year-old 2012 Olympian **Perea** from Ecuador.

An undefeated prospect from Santurce, Puerto Rico, **Tapia** aims to build on his previous two outings, which both ended in first round knockouts. The 24-year-old will battle with the 33-year-old **Pla** out of Wichita, Kansas.

Making his professional debut on May 29, Brooklyn's own **Colbert** will face off against the 25-year-old **Pierce** out of Newark, New Jersey.

An accomplished amateur who represented Cuba in the 2004 Olympics, **Franco** won a Junior World Championship in 2003. The 33-year-old, who now fights out of Miami, will take on the 26-year-old **Sanchez** out of Buffalo, New York.

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