

## UNBEATEN HEAVYWEIGHTS COLLIDE AS GERALD WASHINGTON TAKES ON OSCAR RIVAS ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, IN OPENER OF SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING<sup>®</sup> TRIPLEHEADER FROM HONDA CENTER IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

## Exciting Night Of Action Features Undefeated Leo Santa Cruz vs. Kiko Martinez & Julio Ceja vs. Hugo Ruiz 2 In A Pair Of World Title Bouts

**ANAHEIM, CALIF.** (February 2, 2016) - Unbeaten brawlers **Gerald "El Gallo Negro" Washington** (16-0-1, 11 KOs) and **Oscar "Kaboom" Rivas** (18-0, 13 KOs) will meet in a 10-round showdown of rising heavyweights on **Saturday, February 27**, in the opening bout of a **SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING**<sup>®</sup> tripleheader from Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif.

The telecast features two world title fights. In the main event, undefeated three-division world champion **Leo ''El Terremoto'' Santa Cruz** will make the first defense of his Featherweight World Championship against former world champion **Kiko Martinez**. Televised coverage begins live on **SHOWTIME**<sup>®</sup> (10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT) with the exciting super bantamweight world title rematch between Mexican power-punchers **Julio Ceja** and **Hugo Ruiz**.

"I'm thrilled to be fighting so close to home in front of all my friends and family," said Washington. "Oscar Rivas is a hard puncher but he's never faced anyone as big and strong as I am. I'm anxious to get in the ring and continue to prove myself on my way to a world title opportunity."

"I'm very excited to be fighting Gerald Washington in my first fight in Southern California," said Rivas. "I know that he is a very tough, strong fighter. I will be prepared to come out victorious and stay undefeated as I head towards my goal of becoming a world champion."

"The heavyweight division has been revived and Gerald Washington and Oscar Rivas are two guys to keep your eyes on," said Tom Brown of TGB Promotions. "Both are undefeated and hungry to earn their shot at a world title."

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by TGB Promotions, are priced at \$27, \$54, \$104 and \$199 and are on sale now via ticketmaster.com, Ticketmaster retail locations or by calling 800-745-3000. Tickets are also available at the Honda Center Box Office.

A two-way player (tight end and defensive end) at the University of Southern California, Washington spent time with the Seattle Seahawks and Buffalo Bills practice squads on his unconventional path that led him to boxing. The 33-year-old also worked in the Navy as a helicopter mechanic before going to USC and did not get his start in professional boxing until 2012. Fighting out of San Jose, California, he is yet to lose in his latest endeavor after fighting to a draw with Amir Mansour in October and defeating Jason Gavern in March last year.

Rivas, who represented Columbia at the 2008 Olympics, fought exclusively as a pro in his adopted hometown of Montreal before making his U.S. debut with a first-round knockout of Jason Pettaway in June 2015. The 28-year-old is riding a seven-fight knockout streak and most recently took down Joey Abell in the second round of a November 2015 fight. He will be looking to impress against the toughest opponent of his career on February 27.

For more information visit <u>www.SHO.com/Sports</u> follow on Twitter @SHOSports, @LeoSantaCruz2, @MartinezKiko, @TGBPromotions, @HondaCenter and @Swanson\_Comm or become a fan on Facebook at <u>www.Facebook.com/SHOSports</u>

## **CONTACTS:**

Kelly Swanson/Lisa Milner, Swanson Communications: (202) 783-5500 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, BZA/Showtime: (562) 233-7477 Bernie Bahrmasel, TGB Promotions: (773) 592-2986 Merit Tully, Honda Center: (714) 704-2412 Credentials: <u>www.magnamedia.com</u>