

Press Release
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For Immediate
Release
Contact:
Main Events



Ryan Garcia to Face "Ruthless" Romero Duno in Co-Main Event of Canelo vs. Kovalev

Bakhram Murtazaliev to Battle Jorge Fortea in Eliminator Bout for IBF Jr. Middleweight World Title

Seniesa "Superbad" Estrada and Marlen Esparza to Settle Rivalry for Vacant WBA Interim Flyweight Title

**Saturday, Nov. 2 at MGM Grand in Las Vegas
and Streaming LIVE on DAZN**

Tickets Still on Sale!

LAS VEGAS (October 8, 2019) - The **Canelo vs. Kovalev** undercard will be brimming with action as it features the returns of **Ryan Garcia**, **Bakhram Murtazaliev**, **Seniesa Estrada**, **Marlen Esparza** and many others. The event will take place Saturday, Nov. 2 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas and will be streamed live exclusively as one of the most anticipated events this fight season on DAZN.

"We have put a lot of thought into this long-awaited night, and we're eager to deliver one of the best undercards of the year," said **Oscar De La Hoya**, Chairman and CEO of Golden Boy. "This event will feature some of our brightest talents taking on the toughest fights of their careers. With Ryan Garcia, we have a huge star in the making, but he'll need to get past a tough, hard-hitting contender in Romero Duno to secure his path for a world title. We also have Seniesa Estrada and Marlen Esparza, who will look to final end their rivalry in a fight for the Interim WBA Flyweight Title. So, whether in person or live on DAZN, a new chapter in boxing's history will unfold on November 2."

As announced previously, rising superstar **Ryan Garcia** (18-0, 15 KOs) of Victorville, Calif. will look to unify the vacant WBC Silver Lightweight Championship with NABO Lightweight Champion "**Ruthless**" **Romero Duno** (21-1, 16 KOs) of Cotabato City, Philippines in the 12-round co-main event to **Canelo vs. Kovalev**. This will be a fight between two of the hardest-hitting lightweights in the Golden Boy stable.

"This is a big moment for me," said **Ryan Garcia**. "These opportunities don't come often. It's my chance to show what I'm capable of on the biggest stage in boxing. I'm not going to let this opportunity slip. I'm fighting against Romero Duno, the opponent I wanted since the beginning, so I'm going show that I've reached another level on Nov. 2."

"This is the opportunity I've been waiting for," said **Romero Duno**. "I'm so excited to be part of a such a big night as the co-main event of Canelo vs. Kovalev. This fight has been building up for some time. I've had my eye on Ryan Garcia for a while now. I promise to do everything it takes to beat him on Nov. 2 and take home a big victory for the Philippines!"

Undefeated Russian prospect **Bakhram Murtazaliev** (16-0, 13 KOs) will face the biggest test of his young career in a 12-round elimination bout with **Jorge Fortea** (20-1-1, 6 KOs) of Valencia, Spain for the mandatory position in the IBF Junior Middleweight Division. Murtazaliev was originally supposed to fight Jeison Rosario on September 21 for the #1 position but Rosario pulled out due to an injury. This exciting bout will be co-promoted by Main Events and Krusher Promotions in association with Sampson Boxing.

"I have been waiting a long time for this opportunity. I am excited for my first fight with my new trainer, Virgil Hunter. We will be ready on November 2nd to face Fortea and become mandatory challenger. Thank you to my team Main Events, Krusher Promotions, Kathy Duva, Sergey Kovalev, my manager, Egis Klimas and Virgil Hunter for making my dream a reality."

According to Fortea, "It's a moment I have been waiting for whole my life, to be part of the undercard of Canelo vs Kovalev for my US debut is like a dream. I trained 15 years for this. I want to thank Sampson Lewkowicz for making it true, Main Events and Golden Boy for hosting the eliminator. Murtazaliev is indeed a strong and dangerous boxer but I will be ready for that and my skills will prevail. I won't waste the opportunity to fight for a world title"

"Bakhram is a terrific fighter and we are so pleased to be able to give him this great opportunity on such an auspicious night," said Main Events' CEO **Kathy Duva**. "With any luck, Main Events and Krusher promotions will have another world champion soon."

Two of the most exciting and popular female boxers in the sport today will finally settle their heated rivalry as **Seniesa "Superbad" Estrada** (17-0, 7 KOs) of East Los Angeles, Calif. and **Marlen Esparza** (7-0, 1 KOs) of Houston, Texas battle for the vacant Interim WBA Flyweight Title. This clash has been building up for over two years as both fighters have been exchanging words over social media and various interviews.

"Thank you to my promoter Golden Boy, especially Roberto Diaz for making this fight possible," said **Seniesa Estrada**. "I'm happy to give the fans the fight they've been wanting to see. I'm looking forward to representing women's boxing in a positive way. I'm going to put on a great show and demonstrate my skills, showing things that people have not yet seen from me. Thank you to all the people who continue to support me."

"My team and I have been pushing for this fight," said **Marlen Esparza**. "I know this is what the fans want. Now I'm forcing her to back up everything she has ever said. She knows it's going to be a long night for her."

Blair "The Flair" Cobbs (12-0-1, 8 KOs), a fan-favorite native of Philadelphia, will fight for the vacant NABF Welterweight Title against **Carlos Ortiz** (11-4, 11 KOs) of Torreon, Mexico. Cobbs is an exciting, unconventional fighter who has taken the undefeated records of **Ferdinand "Lucky Boy" Kerobyan** and most recently against **Steve "Manos de Oro" Villalobos**.

Rising 17-year-old prospect **Tristan Kalkreuth** (2-0, 2 KOs) of Duncanville, Texas will return in a four-round cruiserweight fight.

Meirim Nursultanov (12-0, 8 KOs) of Merki, Kazakhstan will fight in a 10-round middleweight battle against **Cristian Olivas** (16-5, 13 KOs) of San Ysidro, California for the WBC - USNBC Middleweight Title. Nursultanov is a top prospect in the hot middleweight division and is current ranked #10 in the IBF. Olivas hits hard with power in both hands and has never been stopped. This should be an explosive match-up.

Evan Holyfield, the son of legendary Hall of Famer **Evander "Real Deal" Holyfield**, will make his much-anticipated professional debut in a four-round junior middleweight fight against **Nick Winstead** (0-1) of Abita Springs, La.

Canelo vs. Kovalev is a 12-round fight for the WBO Light Heavyweight World Title presented by Golden Boy, Main Events and Krusher Promotions. The event is sponsored by Tecate, *"THE OFFICIAL BEER OF BOXING,"* Hennessy *"Never Stop. Never Settle"* and Brand-New Grapefruit Crush, *Knockout Flavor*. The event will take place Saturday, Nov. 2 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas and will

be streamed live exclusively on [DAZN](#). The title clash is one of several highlights this fight season on DAZN - an entire fall featuring boxing's biggest matchups in one of the best schedules in boxing history.

Tickets for Canelo vs. Kovalev are on sale and are priced at \$1,754, \$1,254, \$854, \$654, \$404 and \$204, not including applicable service charges and taxes. To charge by phone with a major credit card, call 888-9-AXS-TIX (888-929-7849). Tickets also will be available for purchase at www.axs.com.

For more information, visit www.goldenboypromotions.com, www.MainEvents.com and DAZN.com. Follow on Twitter @GoldenBoyBoxing, @Canelo, @Main_Events, @KrusherKovalev and @DAZN_USA. Become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GoldenBoyBoxing, www.facebook.com/SaulCaneloAlvarez, www.facebook.com/thekrusher/, www.facebook.com/MainEventsBoxing and www.facebook.com/DAZNUSA/. Follow on Instagram @GoldenBoy, @Canelo, @Main_Events, @SergeyKrusherKovalev, and @DAZN_USA. Follow the conversation using #CaneloKovalev.

Photos and videos are available for download by clicking [here](#) or copying and pasting the link <http://bit.ly/CaneloKovalev> to a browser. Credit must be provided to Golden Boy or Main Events where applicable for any photo and/or video usage.

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