

Gerald “JP” Woods — “Hillyard Hammer”

Record: 3-1-0

Gym: BoxFit — Spokane, WA

Coach: Jacob Ruffin

Started Boxing: Age 23

Amateur Experience: 1 bout

Family: Married/with his wife for 12 years; father of three, ages 8, 3 and 1

Former Occupation: Concrete construction for 7 years; now fully committed to boxing

Boxing Background

JP considers himself a **late bloomer** in boxing. He was athletic growing up but didn't begin boxing until age 23, when he was looking for something new to challenge himself.

He had just **one amateur fight**, which he lost, before eventually pursuing the professional side of the sport.

He now trains under **Jacob Ruffin at BoxFit in Spokane** and has fully committed himself to boxing after spending seven years working in concrete construction.

Fighting Style

JP describes himself as an **entertaining midrange fighter** who likes to sit down on his punches and stalk his opponent.

He draws inspiration from **Roy Jones Jr. and Ben Whittaker**, incorporating elements he's picked up from watching both fighters.

For this matchup, however, JP says fans shouldn't expect him to immediately turn it into a brawl. His intention is to **box his opponent first** and let the fight develop.

Training Camp

JP had approximately **four weeks of confirmed preparation** after some initial uncertainty about whether he would make the card.

He says camp itself has gone smoothly without significant setbacks. Rather than making major changes, the focus has been on **filling gaps in his game, making adjustments and continuing to perfect his craft**.

He estimates completing approximately **90 rounds of sparring** in preparation.

JP began around **175 pounds**, was approximately **166 pounds** during camp and says this will be his **first time competing at 160 pounds**.

Last Fight

JP describes his previous appearance at **Legends Casino** as one of the most exciting fights he's been part of and the biggest show he's experienced.

His strategy was to match his opponent's energy initially and eventually **outpace him as the fight progressed**. Instead, both fighters slowed down and absorbed damage as the bout developed.

That experience appears to be influencing his approach this time: he wants to demonstrate that he can **box intelligently rather than immediately relying on a brawl**.

What He Thinks of His Opponent

JP has personally met his opponent and says he has **studied extensive film** on him.

He respects his opponent's **heart and durability** and believes there are some quality wins on his record.

JP sees the matchup as an opportunity to establish himself among the notable fighters in the Northwest. He believes he brings advantages in **power, skill and determination**.

The Loss That Changed Him

JP's loss to **Mike McMillan in April 2026** became a major turning point.

Rather than blaming the result on outside circumstances, JP says he simply **didn't do enough to win** and that his style wasn't effective that night.

The loss forced him to question how much he was willing to sacrifice for boxing and whether he could truly make a career out of it. He describes it as an **ego check and wake-up call**, saying he learned more from that defeat than from any of his victories.

He would eventually like the opportunity to **rematch McMillan**.

Fighting for His Family

JP says he's ultimately **fighting for his three children**.

One of his biggest challenges hasn't happened inside the ring—it's been learning how to prioritize boxing while remaining present for his wife and children.

He wants his kids to see through his example that they can **do difficult things and pursue ambitious goals**. He also hopes boxing can eventually provide greater financial security for his family.

Career Ambitions

JP isn't looking for an overly protected path.

He wants to fight approximately **four times per year**, including another bout before the end of 2026, and ultimately wants promotional backing.

He says he **doesn't want cherry-picked opponents** and would rather challenge himself and attempt to advance quickly.

He specifically mentioned that working with **Roy Jones Jr. Promotions** would be an opportunity he'd welcome.

What a Win Means

For JP, winning this matchup would be about more than adding another victory to his record.

He believes a strong performance would help demonstrate that he belongs at a higher level and establish himself as a serious professional boxer.

Outside the Ring

Despite the “**Hillyard Hammer**” nickname, JP describes himself as **funny and goofy 24/7**.

And his food of choice?

Seafood boils.

Carlos Villanueva — “El Torro”

Record: 8-3-0

Hometown: Yakima, Washington

Gym: Tequani Boxing — Yakima, WA

Coaches: Juan Vaca, Wicho, Chirris, Gabe Gutierrez & Blanca

Style: Aggressive counterpuncher

Boxing Inspiration: Julio César Chávez

Amateur Experience: 8 fights; first amateur bout at age 11

Occupation: Supervisor in the shipping department of an apple warehouse

Family: Father of three — ages 8, 3 and 7 months

Representation: Currently self-represented

How He Got Into Boxing

Carlos's boxing story started at just **10 years old**, when he weighed approximately 198 pounds and was looking for a way to lose weight.

A library book changed the direction of his life.

Carlos checked out a book about **Muhammad Ali**, became fascinated with him and started looking for somewhere he could learn to box. That search eventually led him to **Reid Goyette at YPAL Boxing**.

By 11, Carlos was competing in his first amateur fight. He went on to have eight amateur bouts before eventually turning professional.

Fighting Style

Carlos describes himself as an **aggressive counterpuncher** and draws inspiration from Mexican boxing legend **Julio César Chávez**.

But there's been a significant emphasis on changing his approach for this fight.

Rather than sitting back and waiting for counterpunching opportunities, Carlos says he's been working on **letting his hands go and creating those opportunities himself**.

His mentality:

"I'm going to be the first one to punch and the last one to punch."

Carlos considers his **heart and ability to perform under pressure** among his greatest strengths. Instead of being overwhelmed by the lights and crowd, he believes the bigger the atmosphere becomes, the better he performs.

His team also describes him as extremely coachable—someone who listens to his coaches and follows instructions without questioning them.

The Rematch

Carlos is facing **Theo Dokas**, an opponent he has already shared the ring with.

Carlos respects Dokas for getting into the ring with him, although he is critical of Dokas's overall ability. At the same time, Carlos acknowledges that Dokas has made major changes since their previous meeting, including **moving states to pursue training**, and believes his opponent will enter the rematch highly motivated.

Carlos has studied their first fight extensively.

In fact, he says he has watched it **repeatedly while running on the treadmill** throughout camp.

Looking back, Carlos sees several mistakes in his own performance. He believes he didn't take advantage of his body effectively, dealt with ring rust, spent too much time head hunting and allowed Dokas to land too many punches.

And his message to Dokas is simple:

“He has no room for mistakes.”

A Completely Different Carlos

Carlos entered this matchup following approximately a **two-year layoff**, and his physical transformation has become a major part of his return.

He says his weight reached approximately **294 pounds** before beginning the process of returning to competition.

He was around **250 pounds at the beginning of this camp** and is now approximately **239 pounds**.

Although Carlos says he currently feels strongest around 185 pounds, his long-term goal is considerably lower: he wants to eventually compete around **165–168 pounds** and hopes to reach 165 before the end of the year.

His team says his days competing at heavyweight are over.

For this fight, Carlos says he completed a full **eight-week camp** with no major setbacks beyond several changes in opponent.

He estimates approximately **40 rounds of sparring**, working with Jesus, Cesar and other fighters, including sparring at Ryan Bailey's and with **Nomad Boxing Club in Seattle**.

Carlos says he's **never worked this hard for a fight**.

Coming Home to Yakima

Getting the opportunity to fight in his hometown adds another layer of significance.

Carlos says he's entering this fight **calm and confident**, supported by a coaching team and community that have played a major role in his return.

And he isn't shy about how he views the matchup.

“Theo is in danger.”

The People Behind His “Why”

Carlos identifies his **girlfriend, children and parents** as his biggest supporters.

His parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico, and their experience has become one of his primary sources of motivation. Carlos says he watches how hard his parents work and how they have always made sure he has what he needs. When

boxing becomes difficult, he thinks about what they endured to create a life in the United States.

His mentality is that **if his parents could overcome what they did, he can overcome what's in front of him.**

They're his “why.”

Carlos is also deeply proud of being **Mexican-American** and says he intends to continue representing and fighting for the people of Yakima.

His Biggest Challenge

It's been his **mental health.**

He describes boxing as an incredibly lonely sport and says managing his mental health has been one of the greatest challenges he has had to overcome during his career.

His return after a lengthy layoff represents more than getting himself physically back into fighting condition. he sees himself as mentally different as well.

Learning From His Losses

Carlos's three professional losses have each become part of his development.

He lost to **Alberto Rivas**, a defeat he later avenged at Legends.

Another came against **Marqueice Weston**, when Carlos accepted a fight against an opponent who already had considerably more professional experience.

His third loss came against **John Peaks**, a decision Carlos believes should have gone his way.

Those experiences haven't made him interested in safer matchmaking.

Quite the opposite.

“I'm not scared of anyone.”

Carlos says he's willing to fight anyone.

Where He Wants to Go

Carlos has ambitious plans for the next stage of his career.

First, he wants to continue dropping weight and reach approximately **165 pounds before the end of the year.**

He wants to chase a title and win a belt.

Carlos is currently **self-represented** and is interested in finding promotional or managerial representation that can help advance his career.

He's willing to travel for fights and says he's interested in opportunities scheduled for **six or eight rounds or more**.

His dream stages include **T-Mobile Arena and Madison Square Garden**.

Outside the Ring

There are a few things fans probably wouldn't guess about "El Torro."

Carlos loves **The Office**.

Before boxing took over, **soccer was his first love**.

He's a Seahawks fan but also has love for the **New England Patriots**.

One of his favorite books is **Mi Vida Loca**.

And he's a huge **Spider-Man** fan.

Although, according to Carlos, there's one problem with Spider-Man:

Carlos thinks he could beat him.

Why Watch Carlos Villanueva?

Carlos describes himself as a good guy outside of the ring.

Once he steps through the ropes, he says he's a completely different person.

His description of that mentality is intense:

"I'll die in that ring before losing."

For Carlos, that switch—from the father, boyfriend, son and warehouse supervisor outside the ropes to "El Torro" inside them—is part of what he believes makes him worth watching.

Carlos's Perspective on Professional Boxing

If Carlos could change something about boxing, he'd like to see **more equal access to opportunities**. He doesn't believe financial resources should determine who gets a chance to compete. His example is simple: a talented fighter training in **\$20 gloves** shouldn't be overlooked simply because another fighter has \$400 gloves, financial

backing and an established team. Carlos wants ability and work ethic to matter more than money or connections when opportunities are handed out.

Theo Dukas — “The Grizzly Bear”

Record: 0-1-0

Nickname: “The Grizzly Bear”

Combat Sports Background: Approximately 20 MMA fights; no amateur boxing bouts

Current Training: Jackson’s Professional Boxing Gym — Lewiston

Coach: Richard Jackson

Style: Pressure fighter

Outside the Ring: Published author and chef

Goal Weight: 220 lbs.

A New Camp After His Pro Debut

Following the loss in his professional boxing debut, Theo Dukas decided he needed a change.

He went to **Lewiston to train with Richard Jackson at Jackson’s Professional Boxing Gym**, committing himself to a much more traditional, old-school approach to boxing.

Theo entered professional boxing without an amateur boxing career, but he wasn’t new to combat sports. Before stepping into the professional boxing ring, he accumulated approximately **20 MMA fights**.

Now he’s working to turn that fighting experience into a style better suited for boxing.

And he believes the fighter coming into this rematch with Carlos Villanueva will look very different from the one fans saw the first time.

“0 to Grizzly Bear”

Theo’s description of his fighting style fits his nickname perfectly:

“0 to Grizzly Bear. Once I get a scent, I come straight in.”

In his first meeting with Carlos, Theo says he **wasn’t the pressure fighter**.

This time, that’s exactly what he intends to be.

His game plan is to get inside on Carlos while punching, establish himself in the center of the ring and progressively **drive Carlos toward the ropes and keep him there**.

Theo understands what he's walking into. He acknowledges that Carlos beat him in their previous meeting and describes Carlos as a **counter-boxer with quick hands**.

But rather than allowing Carlos the space to counter, Theo wants to take that space away.

Fans, he says, should expect:

“Relentless pressure for four rounds.”

A Physically Grueling Camp

Theo describes this training camp as **physically grueling**.

He's training six days per week and spending approximately **two hours per day working with Richard Jackson**.

One of the more unusual pieces of his conditioning has been repeated climbs up a **17-percent-grade hill nine times in a session**.

Theo says the work has produced noticeable physical changes, including losing approximately **two inches from his chest**. His team says his calves have increased roughly an inch since incorporating the hill climbs.

His weight has also dropped.

Theo began around **242 pounds**. On August 3, he was approximately **229 pounds**, with an eventual goal of reaching **220**.

Sparring hasn't been easy, either—and that's intentional.

Theo says he's been put in with tough sparring partners and has been **“tore up in sparring”** as part of the learning process. He estimates completing approximately **47 rounds of sparring** in preparation for the fight.

After watching the transformation through camp, his trainer's assessment was simple:

“We created a nightmare.”

No Mystery About the Game Plan

There isn't much secrecy surrounding what Theo intends to do against Carlos. He's coming forward. Theo plans to **get inside behind punches, control the center, push Carlos toward the ropes and keep him there**.

It's a significant tactical change from their first meeting.

Where Theo believes he allowed Carlos to dictate too much of the action previously, he now wants to force Carlos to fight at his pace and under constant pressure.

He says he's prepared mentally and physically to maintain that approach for the entire four-round fight.

His Greatest Strength

Ask Theo about his biggest strength and he doesn't start with punching power.

He starts with **dedication**.

Theo describes himself as honest, straightforward and intelligent both inside and outside of the ring, but it's his refusal to quit that he believes separates him.

His description of that determination is blunt:

“I'll die before I'll quit.”

That mentality has carried over into a camp built around hard sparring, demanding conditioning and six-day training weeks.

An Old-School Boxing Education

Theo takes particular pride in the boxing lineage surrounding his new training environment.

He describes Richard Jackson's program as **old-school boxing**, with connections to generations of fighters and trainers who came before him.

According to Theo and his team, Jackson's father trained **Jimmy Grow Sr.**, crossed paths with figures including **Muhammad Ali**, and had **Archie Moore** coaching in his gym.

For a fighter transitioning from an MMA background into professional boxing, Theo believes being immersed in that traditional boxing environment has accelerated his development.

He considers himself unique on this card because of that approach.

In his words, what fans are going to see is **“a guy who came from old-school boxing.”**

What He's Fighting For

Theo says he's fighting for **his wife and his values**.

The dedication he talks about inside the gym is connected to something larger than simply changing the result on his professional record.

But there's no denying what defeating Carlos would mean.

After losing their first meeting, Theo says winning the rematch would be **“amazing” for his career.**

More Than “The Grizzly Bear”

Theo's life outside the ring doesn't necessarily match the image his nickname creates.

He's a **chef.**

He's also a **published author.**

Those are two things he believes people watching him charge forward in the ring probably wouldn't expect.

Inside the ropes, however, subtlety isn't really what he's selling.

His team describes him simply as **“straight power.”**

And Theo has made his intentions for the rematch equally uncomplicated.

He's going forward.

For four rounds.

Isaac Russell —

Record: 1-0-0

Stance: Southpaw

Nickname: None officially — Isaac says he's “waiting for the crowd to give him one.” (“Showtime” has been considered, I also came up with “The SouthPaw Outlaw” since he's from texas.)

Gym: BoxFit — Spokane, WA

Coach: Jacob Ruffin

Amateur Experience: Approximately 60 fights

Amateur Accomplishments: Competed at the 2019 Oxnard PAL Nationals and Junior Olympics

Heritage/Community: Kalispel Tribe

Style: Aggressive pressure fighter

Boxing Inspiration: Joe Hipp

Preferred Weight: 126 lbs.

From Street Fighting to the Boxing Gym

Isaac started boxing at just **8 years old while living in Texas**, but his introduction to the sport came through a fight outside the ring. After an older kid was picking on his brother, Isaac got into what he remembers as a particularly tough street fight. The experience ultimately helped lead him into a boxing gym. Isaac was born in Washington, moved to Texas as a child and returned to Washington around age 10. What followed was an extensive amateur career of approximately **60 fights**, including appearances at the **2019 Oxnard PAL Nationals and the Junior Olympics**.

Now 1-0 as a professional, Isaac says he prefers the professional style.

Amateur boxing felt extremely fast-paced to him. In the pros, he enjoys the different style of fighting—and especially **the gloves and absence of headgear**.

Fighting Style

Isaac is a **southpaw** who describes himself as an aggressive, slipping pressure fighter.

And he isn't particularly interested in hearing the final bell.

“I don't like my fights going the distance.”

Isaac compares aspects of his style and mentality to **Joe Hipp**, whom he looked up to as a child. Hipp's strength and prominence as a Native American heavyweight particularly resonated with him.

Isaac considers his greatest strength to be his **determination in the face of adversity**.

That determination was tested far beyond boxing.

“When Can I Box Again?”

Isaac was involved in a serious car accident and says he was told he might **never walk again**.

His first thought?

“When can I box?”

The experience could have ended his boxing ambitions. Instead, Isaac says his dream of becoming a **world champion** continued pushing him forward.

That ability to keep going when circumstances turn against him is what Isaac now considers one of his defining characteristics as a fighter.

A Seven-Week Camp — With a Late Setback

Isaac has completed approximately a **seven-week training camp** for this fight.

He began camp around **145 pounds**, with managing his weight being one of his biggest challenges. Isaac says the weight cut became “**a little too sharp**,” something he and his team are working to improve.

He believes he feels strongest at approximately **126 pounds**. Technically, the early portion of camp went well, with an emphasis on improving his combinations. But approximately two weeks before the fight, Isaac encountered a significant setback.

He became sick roughly a week and a half ago with an illness serious enough that his sister was hospitalized. Isaac reports that he has had **fluid in his lungs** and says the illness has affected his cardio.

Despite that disruption, he remains scheduled to compete.

Breaking Down His Opponent

Isaac is preparing for another **southpaw**, something he admits has presented challenges in the past.

He has studied his opponent's use of a **Philly shell/guard** and believes positioning will be important.

His plan includes stepping outside the opponent's jab and finding ways to attack over and around the guard.

Isaac isn't predicting a cautious tactical affair.

His expectation is a **one-sided fight with no room for the judges to decide the outcome**.

He wants his performance to make a statement.

Fighting in Front of the Kalispel Tribe

This fight carries additional significance because Isaac will be competing with considerable support from the **Kalispel Tribe**.

He says the tribe has helped sponsor travel for elders, including providing rooms and tickets so they can attend the fight.

That means a great deal to him.

Some of those elders are getting older, Isaac explained, and he recognizes that there may only be so many opportunities for them to watch him compete in person.

“I feel so lucky to have such a giant support system.”

For Isaac, getting the opportunity to perform in front of his tribe is an opportunity to **make them proud**.

The Loss That Changed Him

One of the most formative experiences of Isaac's amateur career came during a three-fight series against a fighter named **Diego**.

Isaac lost their first meeting. He came back and beat him in the second. Then Isaac lost again in their third meeting. That rivalry taught him what losing actually felt like. He remembers feeling the **weight of the loss** and the determination it created inside him to never experience that feeling again.

Fighting for the Kid Who Started It

When asked who he's fighting for, Isaac's answer goes all the way back to where his story began.

Himself.

More specifically, he's fighting for **the little kid inside him who first walked into a boxing gym at eight years old**. That kid has now gone from street fights, to approximately 60 amateur bouts, to recovering from a serious car accident, and finally into the professional ranks.

Leaving Old Habits Behind

Isaac is also candid about changes he wants to make outside the ring.

He describes having developed **bad habits in Spokane**, including smoking marijuana, drinking and vaping, and says those are things he wants to leave behind as he takes his professional career more seriously. Isaac wants to become a **world champion**.

He would eventually like an opportunity to sign with **Benavidez's team** and wants another fight before the end of the year, preferably in his hometown.

He also isn't asking for an easier opponent next time.

"I want to fight a harder opponent."

He specifically mentioned **Jehael Brito** out of Britos Boxing as a fighter of interest.

What Fans Should Expect

Isaac isn't interested in building his professional career around cautious performances.

He says people should watch him because:

“I never have a boring fight.”

Outside the Ring

One thing boxing fans might not expect about Isaac?

He loves playing basketball.

And while most fighters arrive in the professional ranks with a nickname already attached to them, Isaac is taking a different approach.

He's **“waiting for the crowd to give him one.”**

Perhaps “Showtime.” or “The SouthPaw OutLaw” considering his Texan roots?

Perhaps something entirely different.

Isaac's Perspective on Professional Boxing

If Isaac could change one thing about boxing, he'd change what he sees as **the politics surrounding the sport**, particularly the relationships between local gyms. He remembers those divisions being especially pronounced during his amateur career. Isaac also believes boxing's obsession with undefeated records has hurt competition. He points to **Floyd Mayweather's 50-0 record** and believes other fighters have become so focused on protecting their own “0” that they're unwilling to take meaningful risks early in their careers. In Isaac's view, some fighters build undefeated records against limited opposition, only to encounter a much different level of competition when they finally reach championship fights.

Put simply, Isaac wishes fighters and fans **“didn't idolize the 0.”**

Micah Mitchell — “Black Sheep”

Record: 0-2-0

Age: 32

Stance: Southpaw

Height: 5'7"

Reach: 71½ inches, according to Micah

Gym: Portland City Boxing — Portland, OR

Combat Sports Background: Pro MMA 0-2; BKFC 1-1; no amateur boxing experience

Occupation: Works at LA Fitness and is working toward his personal-training certification

Style: “Wildcard” / outside fighter

Boxing Inspiration: Roy Jones Jr.

A Newcomer to Boxing — But Not Fighting

Micah Mitchell has only been boxing since **October**, making him one of the least experienced pure boxers on the card. But “Black Sheep” isn't new to fighting. Before entering professional boxing, Micah competed professionally in **MMA**, where he went 0-2, and in **bare-knuckle fighting**, where he went 1-1. He entered professional boxing without any amateur boxing experience. That unconventional background is fitting for a fighter who describes his style with one word: “**Wildcard**.” Micah likes working from outside angles, staying mobile and making opponents follow him rather than standing directly in front of them. **One of his biggest boxing inspirations is Roy Jones Jr.**

Micah considers his **stamina and movement** his biggest strengths.

“I always stick and move.”

At 5'7", Micah says he has a **71½-inch wingspan**, giving him a physical tool he believes could be particularly important against Isaac Russell. Micah has watched footage of Isaac and noticed something interesting despite initially thinking Isaac would have the longer range, he believes **he actually has the reach advantage**.

Micah says he wants to **keep Isaac on the outside**, use movement and force the pressure fighter to chase him. From the footage he's studied, Micah believes opponents who remain mobile have created some of the most problems for Isaac.

Micah says fans should expect him to **throw a lot of punches** while applying pressure of his own.

His ideal scenario is having Isaac chase him. That's when Micah believes he has the upper hand.

One Month to Prepare

Micah received approximately **one month's notice** for this matchup.

He had just competed in Miami on a **Jon Jones/IBA event** when he received the call about this opportunity. His preparation has included approximately **30 rounds of sparring**, although boxing hasn't been his only combat-sports activity during the camp.

Micah says one of his primary focuses has been learning to **slow himself down mentally inside the ring** by taking his time rather than allowing adrenaline to take over and cause him to burn through his energy too quickly.

From MMA to Bare Knuckle to Boxing

One of Micah's biggest technical challenges has been changing his **stance**.

His MMA background taught him to fight from a relatively squared-up position. In boxing, he's had to learn to become more bladed and protect his body differently.

Transitioning from **bare-knuckle fighting into traditional professional boxing** has presented another adjustment.

Rather than hiding those differences in experience, Micah sees himself as a fighter who is still actively learning the sport.

A Difficult Setback Three Weeks Out

This wasn't a perfectly clean training camp.

Approximately **three weeks before this fight**, Micah competed in an MMA bout and was submitted, forcing him to tap.

Micah acknowledges that he's been on a **losing streak across his recent combat-sports appearances**.

Rather than avoiding the subject, he's looking at this fight as an opportunity to change the direction of his career.

He believes this could be the fight that **“turns it all around.”**

Returning to Familiar Territory

This card also brings Micah back to an area that once felt like home.

He previously lived in the **Tri-Cities**, so fighting in the region means people who haven't previously had the opportunity to watch him compete will finally be able to see him in person. That support makes the matchup particularly exciting for him.

His strongest support system throughout his fighting career has been his **siblings**.

They help sell tickets, show up to his fights and, most importantly to Micah, continue supporting and loving their brother regardless of the outcome.

Comfortable at the Weight

Micah has previously competed as high as approximately **160 pounds**, but says his natural weight is closer to **125–130 pounds**. Because of that, he feels physically strong competing around his current weight

He says Roy Jones Jr. may not remember the interaction, but during an event in **July**, Roy pulled Micah aside as he came out of the ring and gave him some pointers. he says he **took the advice to heart and has been actively working on what Roy told him**.

Now he gets an opportunity to show that development on another card connected to one of the fighters who inspired his own style.

What Comes Next?

Micah doesn't plan on slowing down after this fight.

He has potential opportunities with **Arena Wars in November** and possibly **WFC in December**, although he hasn't committed to either yet.

There's a reason he likes keeping fights on the horizon. Micah admits that if he doesn't have something to prepare for, he can get lazy..

Outside the Ring

He's also a **dog trainer**.

And there's one dog in particular he loves. his boxer/Lab named **Cash**.

What He Would Change About Boxing

If Micah could change something about professional boxing, it would be **the way fights are scored and the incentives that scoring creates**. He believes modern fighters can sometimes benefit too much from playing it safe rather than pursuing a knockout or taking risks to create an entertaining fight. Micah specifically points to **Shakur Stevenson** as an example of a style he doesn't personally enjoy watching.

In Micah's view, some of today's biggest fights have become too cautious.

His assessment:

“Nobody has that dog in them anymore.”

His Message to Isaac Russell

Micah knows he's entering against an undefeated opponent while carrying an 0-2 professional boxing record himself.

He doesn't want Isaac making assumptions based on those numbers.

His message:

“We finna have fun. Don't count me out like the last guy you had.”

Johnny Magaña — “Alazán”

Record: 2-0-0

Boxing Since: 2020

Amateur Experience: Approximately 10 fights

Gym: Righteous and Chosen Boxing Club — Pasco, WA

Style: Inside counterpuncher

Boxing Comparison/Inspiration: Terence Crawford

Combat Sports Background: Lifelong wrestler

From the Wrestling Mat to the Boxing Ring

Johnny Magaña has been boxing since 2020, but his competitive background stretches much further back. Before boxing, Johnny was a lifelong wrestler and built an accomplished high-school résumé in Washington. He says he was a four-time district champion, four-time regional champion, twice a state finalist and twice placed third at the state tournament. His wrestling ability brought opportunities to continue the sport in college, but Johnny says he passed on scholarship opportunities to pursue professional boxing instead. He believes wrestling gave him a strong foundation for fighting, the work ethic, physicality and competitive mentality all carried over when he transitioned to boxing. After approximately 10 amateur boxing matches, Johnny is now 2-0 as a professional.

Fighting Style

Johnny describes himself as an inside counterpuncher and draws comparisons to Terence Crawford.

Interestingly, one of the weapons he considers most important is his **jab**.

Johnny considers the jab one of his greatest strengths because it allows him to control the pace of a fight, slow things down when necessary and keep an opponent on the outside until he's ready to work. He also considers his **work ethic** one of his defining strengths.

Back to the Fundamentals

Johnny says training camp has gone extremely well. Rather than attempting to reinvent his style, his team has emphasized **returning to the fundamentals** and sharpening the skills already responsible for his success. Sparring has been a major component of the preparation. Johnny estimates he's completed **more than 50 rounds** during camp.

No Shortage of Confidence

Johnny isn't particularly subtle when discussing how he sees this matchup.

Asked where he believes he has an advantage over his opponent, his answer was essentially: **Everywhere**. He believes he does everything better than the man standing across from him.

And his prediction is equally confident:

“He's about to get slept.”

Still, Johnny says he isn't planning on recklessly hunting for the knockout from the opening bell.

He wants to **showcase his skills, get rounds in and enjoy the opportunity to perform again**.

Injuries Put the Career on Hold

Johnny's path to 2-0 hasn't been uninterrupted.

In **2021**, he suffered a torn labrum that required surgery and kept him out of competition for approximately a year.

Then came another significant setback: **two bulging discs**, which Johnny says cost him roughly another year.

For an athlete who had already made the decision to walk away from wrestling opportunities to pursue boxing, those injuries forced him to spend considerable time away from the sport he had chosen. Now healthy and active again, staying busy is one of his biggest priorities.

Fighting for His Bloodline

Johnny says he's fighting for his **“bloodline.”** His ultimate motivation is creating **financial freedom for his family**.

Johnny has always considered himself an athlete, and rather than settling into a traditional 9-to-5 path, he wants to see how far his athletic ability can take him. In simple terms, he wants to **fight for his money**.

“Line 'Em Up”

At 2-0, Johnny doesn't have a particular opponent he's calling for next. He just wants opponents. Asked who he'd like to fight, his response captured his mentality:

“Line 'em up. I'll knock anyone down.”

Johnny wants to remain active and hopes to fight **at least once more before the end of the year**. A victory on this card, he says, would simply represent **another stepping stone toward his larger goals**.

Eventually, he'd love the opportunity to sign with **Top Rank**.

His Perspective on Professional Boxing

If Johnny could change one thing about professional boxing, he'd change **fighter compensation**. His reasoning comes down to the risk every boxer accepts when entering the ring.

Johnny believes fighters at all levels are **putting their lives and health at risk** while dedicating enormous amounts of time to training. Whether they win or lose, he believes fighters are working extremely hard and should have greater financial incentives for doing so.

Brandon Sly - ?

Brandon Watley — “The Protagonist”

Record: 1-6-1

Based in: Spokane, Washington

Pro since: Began boxing in 2020; competed in a couple of smokers before turning professional

Current gym: Eaglestone Boxing Club

Coaches: Coral & Nicole Devereaux

Previous gym: BoxFit

Occupation outside boxing: Flooring/remodeling

Fighting Style

Brandon describes himself as a **counterpuncher and outside fighter**. During this camp, he has been focused on increasing his punch output and bringing more aggression into his style.

He considers his biggest strengths to be his **resiliency and determination**—particularly his willingness to continue developing his craft despite a difficult start to his professional career.

Training Camp

Brandon took this fight on approximately **four weeks' notice**, but says he stays ready between fights and that the weight cut has been easy.

He has trained **5–6 days per week**, incorporating technical work, strength training and extensive sparring. He estimates completing **80+ rounds of sparring** during camp, including work with **Kia Stewart**, 7x BKF 145lb Champion as well as fighters from other teams around Spokane.

Career & Development

Brandon says a major turning point in his career came when he joined **Eaglestone Boxing Club**. The move required him to change his mentality and approach toward both coaching and boxing.

Although his record doesn't tell the whole story he wants told, Brandon takes pride in accepting difficult opposition. He says he has continued to learn from each loss rather than allowing those losses to end his career.

His goal is to remain active and **fight again before the end of the year**.

Personal Story

Brandon says he's ultimately **fighting for himself**.

He describes coming from a challenging upbringing without much of a safety net and sees boxing as an opportunity to create his own future and build a legacy for himself.

Outside of boxing, he works in **flooring and remodeling**.

Roy Jones Jr. Connection

Brandon grew up **idolizing Roy Jones Jr.**, making this card particularly meaningful to him.

A victory in front of Jones, along with his friends, teammates, coaches and Spokane boxing community, would, in Brandon's words, **"mean everything."**

What to Expect

Brandon says fans should expect **"fireworks" and "a banger."**

Asked why people should tune in to his fight, Brandon's answer was:

"To see my first knockout ever."

VS

Abel Lucas — "The Liberian King"

Record: Professional Debut

Hometown: Yakima, Washington

Amateur Experience: 10 USA Boxing bouts + approximately 10 smokers

Training: PDA in Philadelphia; also travels regionally for sparring/training

Main Coach: Santos, based in Yakima, WA

Athletic Background: Competitive CrossFit

How He Got Into Boxing

Abel was introduced to boxing around **age 16 or 17** after meeting Andrew and attending some of his fights. That exposure ultimately inspired him to begin boxing himself.

Before pursuing boxing professionally, Abel competed at a high level in **CrossFit**, including international competition. He says he competed at the CrossFit Games on ESPN, placing **8th in the world**, and later competed in a Rogue Fitness event where he placed **2nd in the world**.

Fighting Style

Abel describes himself as a **pressure fighter and counterpuncher**, drawing some stylistic inspiration from **Errol Spence Jr.**

He considers his **physical strength for his weight class** one of the attributes that separates him from other fighters and believes his fights have an entertainment factor.

In his words, he has the **“it factor.”**

Training Camp

Abel has had approximately **one month to prepare** specifically for this fight. However, he was already actively training when the opportunity came, so he says the shorter camp hasn't been a major concern.

He currently trains with **PDA in Philadelphia** while traveling regionally for additional training and sparring. Santos, based in Yakima, is his main coach.

His Assessment of Brandon Watley

Abel describes Brandon as somewhat of a **“wildcard.”** He believes Brandon likes to box but doesn't move extensively.

Abel believes his own advantages are his **composure, footwork and overall boxing ability**, and he feels Brandon may be nervous entering the matchup.

Overcoming Adversity

One of Abel's biggest challenges was spending approximately **two years training without a coach or team**. He says that period caused him to develop bad habits, and he has spent the past year correcting them and working his way back toward the level he expects from himself.

He also dealt with a significant **shoulder labrum injury** during his amateur career. Abel says the shoulder could painfully come out of the socket when he missed punches, making training extremely difficult until he eventually underwent surgery. Interestingly, Abel says the doctor who repaired his shoulder had also worked with the **Seattle Seahawks**.

A Fight That Changed Him

One of Abel's defining experiences came against an **Irish national champion** whom Abel recalls having more than 400 fights.

Abel describes the bout as a war and believes it was extremely competitive despite officially losing. More importantly, the experience forced him to be brave, trust his fundamentals and step up against an exceptionally experienced opponent after spending significant time away from competition.

Pro Debut & Roy Jones Jr.

Making his professional debut on this card feels like a **full-circle moment** for Abel. He's especially excited to make that debut in front of **Roy Jones Jr.**, whom he describes as a legend.

While a victory would mean a great deal, Abel says he's deliberately trying **not to become overly attached to the outcome**. He believes putting too much pressure on the result interferes with his clarity, so his goal is to remain present and experience the moment.

What Fans Should Expect

Abel's description:

“Expect boxing, but it may turn into a fight.”

He believes his combination of boxing ability, physical strength and entertainment value will make him someone fans want to watch.

What's Next?

Abel isn't interested in rushing his professional career.

His goals for the next year are to **continue training, develop patiently and earn another opportunity on a Legends card**.

Outside the Ring

Abel **grew up in Yakima**. Having since lived and traveled in different places, he says those experiences have actually made him more appreciative of his hometown.

He loves Adam Sandler movies.

Abel's Perspective on Professional Boxing

If Abel could change something about professional boxing, he'd like to see a **more streamlined competitive ladder**, where fighters who consistently perform and put in the work have clearer opportunities to earn difficult fights.

He also doesn't believe a fighter's amateur résumé should define their professional potential. In his view, fighters need something distinctive that makes people remember them—and he believes **his unusual strength for his weight class is part of his own identity**.

Devonte McDonald — “Glory”

Main Event

Occupation: Delivery Manager

Started Boxing: Age 24

Amateur Experience: 3 fights before turning professional

Training: Primarily Purpose Boxing for this camp; frequently travels to RC Boxing in the Tri-Cities

Style: Pressure fighter

Boxing Inspiration: Marvin Hagler

Family: Father of six — five boys and one girl, ages 10, 9, 8, 7, 3 and 7 months

A Main Event With History

For Devonte “Glory” McDonald, It's a chance to settle something he's been thinking about since the first time he shared a ring with his opponent, **Andrew Murphy**. Devonte believes he won their first meeting and disagrees with the judges' decision. This time, he says he doesn't intend to leave the outcome open to interpretation. He's looking for the knockout. Devonte says he has **called Andrew out four or five times** since their previous meeting and is surprised Andrew ultimately accepted the rematch. In Devonte's assessment, Andrew has been selective about his opposition and hasn't challenged himself enough. He describes Andrew's approach as resembling the amateur style: **score points and get out**. Those are Devonte's views, but he also gives his opponent credit where he believes it's due. He openly acknowledges **Andrew is the better technical boxer**. Where Devonte believes the matchup changes is in pressure, power and mentality.

Pressure vs. Technique

Devonte describes himself as a **pressure fighter**, drawing inspiration from the legendary **Marvin Hagler**. He considers his **power punching** his greatest physical weapon. Against Andrew, Devonte believes he has advantages in his ability to pressure an opponent and land harder power shots. While he considers Andrew technically superior, Devonte believes he brings **more heart and less to lose**.

In his mind, that combination makes him dangerous. He already knows what Andrew wants to do. And Andrew already knows what's coming from him. There isn't much mystery. Devonte plans to **pressure him and hurt him**.

“Expect Round 9”

Devonte isn't coming into the rematch looking for another close decision. The first fight left him believing the judges got it wrong. His goal this time is to eliminate that possibility entirely.

Asked what fans should expect from the main event, Devonte's answer was remarkably specific:

“Round 9.”

He's predicting the fight ends there.

Devonte sees this matchup as an opportunity to show people his talent and prove that what happened the first time was, in his view, **a mistake on the judges' end**. This time, he says there will be **no room for interpretation from the judges or the fans**.

Four Weeks to Get Ready

Devonte had approximately **four weeks to prepare** for the main event. Because of the shortened preparation period, conditioning has been a major focus. He's incorporated significant cardio work while balancing camp with a **full-time job as a delivery manager**. Sparring didn't begin until approximately two weeks into camp, but Devonte says he has accumulated around **40 rounds of sparring** during that period. For this fight, much of his training has taken place at **Purpose Boxing**, although he also frequently travels to **RC Boxing in the Tri-Cities**.

Fighting From Wenatchee

One of the biggest obstacles throughout Devonte's career has simply been **where he lives**. Being based in Wenatchee has made consistent access to high-level coaching and sparring difficult. Devonte has had to travel in search of the work he needs while simultaneously trying to compete at what he considers an elite level.

It's one reason this camp has required considerable effort outside the ring: working full time, traveling for training and finding sparring while preparing for a main event in only four weeks.

Fighting for Six Kids

Devonte didn't begin boxing until he was 24. Today, his motivation extends far beyond himself. He's the father of **six children—five boys and one little girl**, ranging from 10 years old to just 7 months. They're why he fights.

The message he wants his children to learn from watching his career is simple:

“No matter how hard life hits you, you gotta keep fighting.”

Devonte lives that message outside the boxing gym as well.

Despite having six children of his own, he also gives his time to other kids as a **youth basketball coach**, something he's now done for three consecutive years.

What Would Winning the Rematch Mean?

For Devonte, beating Andrew would provide something he's wanted since their first meeting: validation. He believes a victory would **solidify his belief that he deserved to win their first fight**. Devonte also says Andrew's reluctance to rematch him over the past two years has strengthened his belief that he's the better competitor.

At the same time, Devonte isn't sure how much credit he'll receive for the victory. He argues that Andrew hasn't faced strong enough opposition for beating him to automatically transform Devonte's career. What Devonte hopes it *will* do is create opportunities against bigger names and highly regarded prospects. He sees himself as someone who can **test fighters whose records haven't yet been tested against significant opposition**.

Already Another Fight Waiting

Devonte isn't planning on disappearing after the main event. He says he is scheduled to fight **McMillan in November**. But he's deliberately refusing to look beyond what's directly in front of him. Right now, he says his **only focus is getting past Andrew**.

What Fans Might Not Know

Outside the ring, Devonte is a full-time delivery manager and father of six.

He's also entering his **third year coaching youth basketball**.

That combination—working, parenting, coaching and fighting—is part of why his limited access to training resources has been such a recurring challenge.

Where He Wants His Career to Go

Devonte would eventually like to sign with **Zuffa Boxing**. What appeals to him is the infrastructure surrounding the fighters.

He likes the idea of an environment where athletes have access to **meal preparation, accommodations, a full gym, sparring and other resources needed to prepare**, reducing outside distractions and leaving fighters responsible for doing the work. For someone who currently balances a full-time job with travel for sparring and coaching, that type of structure is particularly appealing.

What He Would Change About Boxing

If Devonte could change one thing about professional boxing, he'd make it harder for fighters to build impressive records without facing meaningful opposition. His philosophy is straightforward:

The best should fight the best.

Devonte believes that if boxing consistently operated that way, fans would see many more losses on fighters' records—but those records would also provide a more meaningful picture of whom a fighter had actually faced. He has little interest in the idea that a loss automatically diminishes a fighter. He'd rather see fighters **prove themselves against one another**.

Faith

Devonte also carries his faith with him into his career. One verse in particular represents him:

John 8:12 — “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness.”

For a fighter nicknamed “**Glory**,” it's a fitting connection between his identity inside and outside the ring.

Andrew Murphy — “White Lightning”

Record: 13-0-0

Knockouts: 10

Hometown: Yakima area, Washington

Started Boxing: Age 15

Amateur Experience: Approximately 35 fights

Amateur Accomplishments: Ranked as high as #4 nationally; Junior Golden Gloves experience; Washington State Golden Gloves champion

Training: Has trained with Roy Jones Jr. in Pensacola, Florida

Style: Boxer-puncher

Influences: Roy Jones Jr., Sugar Ray Leonard, James Toney and Pernell Whitaker

From Backyard Boxing to 13-0

Andrew Murphy's introduction to boxing started **in the backyard at 15 years old**.

From there, Andrew found his way to **BoxFit in Selah** and developed into a nationally competitive amateur through **Reid Goyette of YPAL Boxing**. He accumulated approximately **35 amateur fights**, reached as high as **#4 in the national rankings**, competed in Junior Golden Gloves and won a **Washington State Golden Gloves title**. Andrew also competed in the Olympic qualification process and many believe he was “**robbed**” **at the Olympic qualifiers**. His path eventually took him considerably farther than Washington—to **Pensacola, Florida, where he trained under Roy Jones Jr.** Today, “White Lightning” enters the main event with a professional record of **13-0 with 10 knockouts**.

A Boxer-Puncher With Options

Andrew describes himself as a **boxer-puncher** and sees elements of Roy Jones Jr.'s approach in his own style. Andrew has studied fighters including **Sugar Ray Leonard, James Toney and Pernell Whitaker**, pulling pieces from technically and stylistically distinctive fighters rather than trying to fit himself into a single mold.

That connects directly to what Andrew considers his greatest strength:

Creativity.

He believes his ability to analyze what's happening in front of him and **make adjustments inside the ring** separates him from other fighters. Rather than relying on one way to win, Andrew wants options.

Building the Toolbox, Not Training for One Man

Andrew had approximately **five weeks' notice** for the Devonte McDonald rematch, but says he was already several weeks into training. His philosophy toward camp is somewhat different from fighters who build an entire strategy around a particular opponent. Andrew says he **doesn't tailor his camps specifically to whoever he's fighting**. Instead, the focus remains on himself.

He's continually trying to evolve his game, improve his existing skills and **“add to his toolbox.”** Andrew estimates he's completed approximately **80 rounds of sparring, give or take**, during his preparation.

Respect for Devonte — With History Attached

Andrew and Devonte McDonald aren't strangers. They've already shared the ring once, and Devonte has made it very clear that he believes the decision should have gone the other way. He describes Devonte as a **“tough guy”** who enters the rematch with **“a chip on his shoulder.”**

Andrew respects the fact that Devonte wanted another opportunity against him, but he also believes the first fight was difficult for Devonte. Still, Andrew isn't dismissing what his opponent might bring this time.

“I'd be stupid to think he isn't getting ready for this fight.”

Because of that, Andrew says he's coming into the rematch **100 percent prepared**.

Technique and Experience

Asked where he believes his advantages lie, Andrew points toward **technique and experience**. That's consistent with the contrast between the two fighters. Devonte himself acknowledges Andrew as the more technical boxer, while believing his own advantages lie in pressure, power and heart.

Andrew sees his experience—both from his amateur career and his 13 professional victories—as another advantage he can draw upon when the fight changes.

One question, however, clearly didn't sit well with him.

When asked which fighter was entering the more dangerous position in the rematch, Andrew rejected the premise entirely.

His response:

“Don't poke the bear.”

He followed that by calling the question **“stupid.”** It was a brief glimpse of the intensity surrounding a matchup both men clearly take personally.

The Rematch

Andrew says he's **excited** to run it back. In the first meeting, he knew Devonte was coming in with something to prove. Now Devonte gets another crack at him And Andrew understands exactly what that means.

His opponent has spent the time since their first fight believing he deserved the decision. Devonte has repeatedly called for the rematch and is now openly predicting that he won't allow the judges to decide it again. Andrew isn't interested in debating what happened before. He's preparing for what happens next.

A Challenge Bigger Than Boxing

One of the hardest periods of Andrew's life came outside the ring when **his mother was diagnosed with cancer**. Andrew had to balance his developing boxing career with something considerably more important: **being there for his mother**.

Showing up for her while continuing to pursue his own career became one of the greatest challenges he has had to navigate. That experience also adds perspective to what he's trying to represent through boxing.

Fighting for Yakima

Andrew says he's fighting for **Yakima and the people who have believed in him**. He wants his career to represent something positive for his community and says he's trying to provide an example of what a champion should look like.

For Andrew, that means more than maintaining an undefeated record. He wants to **bring positivity to the people supporting him**.

Nothing Exists Beyond October 3

Ask Andrew what comes after this fight and there isn't much of an answer. Not because he doesn't have ambitions. Because he doesn't want to discuss them yet. He doesn't know exactly what the remainder of the year will look like, and right now he doesn't particularly care.

Everything has been narrowed down to one opponent and one night.

"The world stops on October 3rd. That's what I'm focused on."

There is no next opponent in Andrew's mind until Devonte is behind him.

What Would a Win Mean?

Andrew believes another victory over Devonte would make an important statement about his position within Northwest boxing. In his view, winning this main event would help **prove he's the best fighter in the area**. It would also move "White Lightning" to **14-0** and allow him to continue building on a professional career in which 10 of his first 13 victories have come by knockout.

Outside the Ring

There is at least one side of Andrew that fans watching "White Lightning" fight probably wouldn't immediately guess. He's a **huge Star Wars fan**.

Why Watch Andrew Murphy?

Andrew believes people should pay attention because he doesn't look like everybody else. His creativity and willingness to improvise are central to how he views himself as a fighter. And when the fight is finished, he wants people discussing what they just watched. In Andrew's words, he **"leaves people with something to talk about."**

