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Bam on Boxing

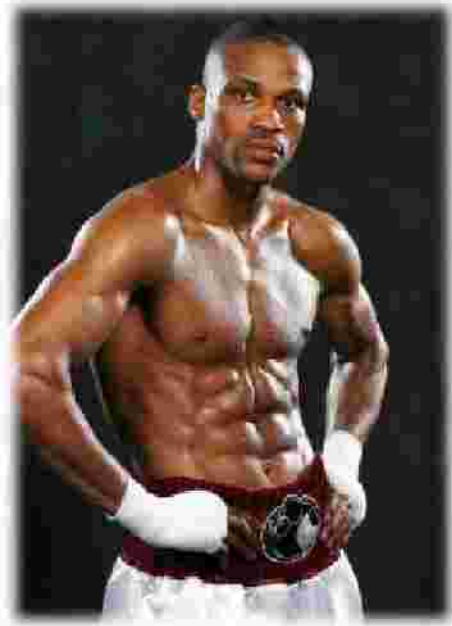
## Philadelphia's Opportunity



How often do Manny Pacquiao, Victor Ortiz, Shane Mosley, Andre Berto or other world-class boxers fight in their hometown?

Not often!

Philadelphia can take advantage of an opportunity to support Mike Jones (pictured below), rated No. 1 in the world at 147 pounds behind WBO champion Manny Pacquiao. Jones returns home in less than three weeks after more than two years on the road. Once fighters attain national exposure they rarely risk their status by fighting on smaller hometown cards. We are fortunate to have a welterweight contender who acts otherwise.



**Mike Jones boxes Raul Munoz, of Mexico, on June 25 at the South Philly Arena.**

Jones is a true craftsman looking to keep his tools razor sharp by staying active. He knows each fight is crucial to his career. Jones understands with more experience, he will learn and grow.

Future Hall-of-Famer Bernard Hopkins returned to Philly on Dec. 2, 2009 when he defeated Mexico's Enrique Ornelas at the 11,000-seat Liacouras Center at Temple University. That fight should have been sold out; it was not. There were less than 6,000 people in attendance; more than half of them were given tickets free. Undefeated local junior welterweight Danny Garcia appeared to have the biggest following that evening.

As Philly boxing fans, it would be nice to say that we knew more about the infamous Hopkins. He had little fan base here until last month when he made history as the oldest fighter (46 years) to win a world title (in his 59<sup>th</sup> fight). Jones is looking to build his fan base now, not later.

Jones is a loving father who will do anything to see his two young daughters smile. He puts his girls before everyone and everything. Tomorrow evening (June 8), Jones will take his two girls to the Phillies game at Citizens Bank Park. He will hang out with the Philly Phanatic! This game will give him a breather from his training and allow him to focus on fun and family.

A training and conditioning fanatic, Jones also has a passion for nutrition. You can learn more about Mike Jones by following his twitter@BoxerMikeJones or on his website <http://www.mikemachinegunjones.com>.

There are other local fighters to watch on the June 25<sup>th</sup> card.



Lightweight Anthony Flores (pictured right) has a record of 9-3-1 (6 KOs), though he is only 1-3-1 in his last five fights. I believe a couple of these fights could have gone either way. So what's next for Flores? An easy fight? Not at all! Flores steps in against Osnell Charles, of Atlantic City, NJ, who is unbeaten in his last seven fights and 8-2 overall. Charles gained a majority decision win over Philadelphia favorite Victor Vasquez earlier this year. Flores vs. Charles should be entertaining; both men are quick and come to fight.

Young bantamweight Miguel Cartagena (1-0) will also be on the card against Puerto Rico's Jaime Gonzalez. Cartagena is a fighter to watch. His amateur record was 114-11, which is impressive. Cartagena has more ring experience at the age of 18 than most fighters do at 30! Check this guy out; he will be a star!

The right atmosphere can help make a fight more exciting and the South Philly Arena is as good as it gets. Make a night of it! There are several well-known eateries nearby. Bring friends and family and enjoy a great night of Philly fights!

This fight will be televised on Fox Sports Net beginning at 10 pm. Prelims begin at 8pm. This card is part of the *Top Rank Live!* series which will be promoted by Top Rank, Inc., Peltz Boxing Promotions, Inc., and Joe Hand Promotions.

**In Other Boxing News:** Joey Eye Boxing and David Feldman put on an exciting card last Friday at Harrah's Chester. Lightweight Victor Vasquez scored a fourth-round KO over southpaw Gustavo Dailey in an all-Philadelphia contest. Light-heavyweight Tony Ferrante, of Northeast Philadelphia, rebounded from two straight losses by earning a KO over Joe Park, of Florence, SC. Lightweight Angel Ocasio brought his entourage as well as his unbeaten record which stayed intact against lanky Randolph Scott, of Sailsbury, MD. Ocasio is someone to watch. I found the opening bout to be the most entertaining. Junior welterweight Naim Nelson out-pointed Kywayne Hill in another all-Philly matchup. I look forward to seeing Nelson develop. He did a good job of *cutting off* the ring. This kid's got talent!...Saturday night in Atlantic City, England's Carl Froch earned a lot of respect and a 12-round majority decision over Florida's Glen Johnson in the semifinals of the Showtime-televised Super Six (super middleweight) Tournament... Across the state in Hamilton, NJ, lefty super middleweight Derrick Webster, of Glassboro, NJ, KO'd Louis Robinson, of North Philadelphia, in the fifth round. Also on that show, light-heavyweight Charles Hayward, of South Philadelphia, stopped Phillip Hannah, of the Bronx, NY, in two rounds. North Philly heavyweight Bryant Jennings beat Mike Miller, of Akron, OH, over four rounds.

*The author is a senior in sport and recreation management at Temple University. She recently joined Peltz Boxing as an intern. This is the fourth in a series of weekly columns. Follow Peltz Boxing on [twitter](#) @PeltzBoxing and our intern @bamrogers.*