



BAM on Boxing

Critiqued

Looking back on my debut as a boxing promoter on Sept. 30 at the National Guard Armory, it turned out to be the most important experience of my life. The fights were exciting. Some ended in ways I expected, others did not, and that is what I love about boxing--the unknown. There was a little bit of everything on my card--a blistering knockout, a controversial decision, a toe-to-toe battle and a steady beat-down.

With six of the eight fights going the distance, it was nice that the casual fans as well as the first-timers were able to feel the energy in the crowd when there was a clean knockout. This happened when welterweight **Chase Checkmate Corbin**, of Philadelphia, knocked out **Mario Alexander Blanco**, of Mexico, in the first round.

I missed parts of some of the fights--practically the entire six rounds between welterweights **Grayson Blake**, of State College, PA, and **DeCarlo Perez**, of Atlantic City, NJ—because there was work to be done. Of the ones I watched from beginning to end, I agreed with the judges' scorecards.



You couldn't ask for a better fight—if I must say so myself—than the six-rounder between super middleweights **George Armenta**, of Silver Spring, MD, and **Charles Hayward**, of Philadelphia (pictured). That was the disputed one but I agreed with the split decision favoring Armenta. What about the six rounds of toe-to-toe

punching between junior middleweights **Julian Williams**, of Philadelphia, and **Eberto Medina**, of Newark, NJ? I also agreed with the judges' scorecards which showed Williams winning clearly.

I enjoyed watching my friend, welterweight **Ray Robinson**, return to action by stopping **Manuel Guzman**, of Lancaster, PA, in seven rounds in the main event.

The most stressful part of promoting the card was the weigh-in the night before. We hit a bump in the road when two fighters were over the weight limit for their respective matches. I remembered saying early in the week that things were running too smoothly and I almost expected there to be a dilemma or two at the weigh-in. Eventually, everybody *made weight*.

I have been receiving feedback and it appears the fans were impressed with the show. Things ran exactly the way I had hoped. I am thankful to have had the best staff I could have asked for and for many of them it their first live boxing event.

Since there is always room for improvement, I can promise that as time goes on that is exactly what Bam Boxing Promotions Inc. will be doing—improving.

It was a pleasure to work with those involved with the show. As a company, we are happy to donate money to the Fox Chase Cancer Center as well. By giving back to the community I hope to increase the company's brand image to show the importance of giving back.



There were two fighters introduced to the crowd at the event—heavyweight **Fast Eddie Chambers** and lightweight **Hammerin' Hank Lundy**. There were others who I got a chance to talk to, including ex-world junior middleweight champs **Robert Bam Bam Hines** (pictured), **Buster Drayton**, as well as former middleweight contender **Bobby Boogaloo Watts**, the first man to beat **Marvelous Marvin Hagler**. There were several current fighters in the crowd who helped to support me.

This process has been harder than I had expected because not only did I promote a show, but also I built a foundation for Bam Boxing Promotions Inc. This was just *The Beginning*. I want people to know that I am here to stay!

I had planned to run another card in 2011, but have decided to shoot for January due to the upcoming holidays and the fact that Philadelphia's welterweight contender **Mike Jones** is fighting Dec. 3 at Madison Square Garden on the **Miguel Cotto-Antonio Margarito** card and I will be there to support him. Good luck Mike! Make us proud!