



FAST EDDIE CHAMBERS

One off the biggest fights in the Asylum Arena's history takes place Saturday, Jan. 21, when local heavyweight **Eddie Chambers** takes on Vitebsk, Belarus native **Sergei Liakhovich** over 10 rounds, or less.



Chambers has fought 18 of his 38 bouts in North Philadelphia, all at the Legendary Blue Horizon on North Broad Street. This fight, in South Philadelphia, is a homecoming for Chambers, who has not boxed here since Oct. 3, 2008, when he beat Livin Castillo, of Ecuador.

I met Chambers' brother, junior welterweight **Steven Upsher-Chambers**, when I worked at the Blue Horizon in 2009. I have always thought highly of the Chambers brothers. I always thought Steven, the younger brother, was the nicer one, until I met Eddie, who is possibly one of the nicest people I have known.



The brothers train out of the James Shuler Memorial boxing gym in West Philadelphia. The gym has some of the richest talent in the city. Chambers has recently changed trainers and is now working with **James Ali Bashir**, an associate of legendary trainer **Emmanuel Steward**.

It will be interesting to see Eddie Chambers (left) at this point in his career with a change in his corner. Chambers is a skilled fighter and is known for having hands quicker than most fighters from middleweight on up, hence the nickname, Fast Eddie .

With the speed and skills that Chambers has, he makes for intriguing fights. It's rare to find a modern heavyweight with such skills and they are noticeable to the casual fan. Chambers has faced solid opposition, unlike many other heavyweights. and he has earned himself a record of 36-2, 18 KOs. His opponents include **Derric Rossy**, **Alexander Povetkin**, **Samuel Peter**, **Alexander Dimitrenko** and **Wladimir Klitschko**.

Chambers is originally from Pittsburgh but has been fighting out of Philadelphia since 2002. Even though he still does not officially reside here, Philadelphia always will be considered his backyard. It reminds me of former heavyweight champion **Joe Frazier**, who moved here from South Carolina and made Philadelphia his home. Former light-heavyweight contender **Richie Kates**, who lived in Millville, NJ, fought out of Philadelphia in the 1970s and early 1980s. So did Hall-of-Famers **Ike Williams**, the world lightweight champion from Trenton, NJ, and **Jersey Joe Walcott**, the Hall-of-Fame heavyweight champ from Camden, NJ. That was back in the 1940s and 1950s.

Rooted in boxing at a young age, Chambers got interested in the sport through his father, who was a fighter in the 1970's. Boxing was built around loyalty and trust, and many fighters fall in love with the sport because boxing is in their blood. Such is the case with the Chambers brothers.

Chambers always puts on a good show and I for one and very excited about this homecoming.

Philly Steps Up The undercard that night is filled with grueling fights but there are two fights in particular that jump out at me when looking at the undercard.

Junior Middleweight **King Gabriel Rosado** will face off with **Jesus Soto-Karass**, Sinaloa, Mexico. Now Rosado has stepped up time and time again and has the reputation of fighting anyone at anytime, but this fight is different. The last time Soto-Karass stepped in the ring it was with Philadelphia welterweight **Mike Jones**.

A lot of the time Philadelphia fighters in the past have fought strictly for bragging rights and not only will this fight make or break Rosado's (18-5, 10KOs) career but it weighs even higher on the Philadelphia fight fans radar due to his recent bouts with Jones. Here is Rosado's chance to prove not only to the nation (NBC) but more importantly to his city that he belongs to be recognized as a legitimate contender in the junior middleweight division. Good luck to him!

There are fighters who are protected throughout their entire career, and then you have your true Philadelphia fighter. A true Philadelphia fighter has that mindset where they would rather be tested day in and day out than to have a walk over fight time and time again.

Welterweight **The New Ray Robinson** is just that. Taking a look at his record shows that Robinson 12-2, 5 KOs will fight anyone and is risking it all again by taking on **Doel Carrasquillo** who has recently knocked out two up and coming prospects and NJ natives, **Denis Douglin** as well as **Shamone Alvarez**.

Carrasquillo is a very dangerous fight because is the type of fighter that jumps at the opportunity to use his opponents mistakes. Personally he reminds me of a cobra, a fighter who sits and waits, yet has such a heavy right hand will always be considered a huge risk.

Robinson and his trainer have a game plan for that heavy right hand and he has been looking stronger then ever in the gym, it is going to be a great night of fights for these three guys (Chambers, Rosado, and Robinson).

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