

**Exciting Light Heavyweight Star Andrzej Fonfara Takes On  
Hard-Hitting Joe Smith Jr. In Primetime Main Event of  
Premier Boxing Champions on NBC Saturday, June 18  
from UIC Pavilion in Chicago  
(8:30 p.m. ET/5:30 p.m. PT)**

**Plus! Bantamweight World Champion Juan Carlos Payano Battles  
Rau'shee Warren in Rematch of 2015 Thriller  
&**

**Rising Star Erickson Lubin Faces Mexican Brawler Daniel Sandoval in Super  
Welterweight Bout That Rounds Out Action-Packed Tripleheader**

**Tickets on Sale Now!**

**CHICAGO** (May 13, 2016) – Power-punching fan favorite **Andrzej Fonfara** (28-3, 16 KOs) will enter the ring against no nonsense New Yorker **Joe “The Irish Bomber” Smith Jr.** (21-1, 17 KOs) on Saturday, June 18 in a 10-round primetime battle that headlines **Premier Boxing Champions** (PBC) on **NBC** from UIC Pavilion in Chicago.

Televised coverage begins at **8:30 p.m. ET/5:30 p.m. PT** and will feature a bantamweight world title rematch that sees current champion **Juan Carlos Payano** (17-0, 8 KOs) take on three-time U.S. Olympian **Rau'shee “Nuke” Warren** (13-1, 4 KOs) as they rehash their rivalry that began in August 2015 when Payano won a narrow split-decision to retain his title. Also featured on the telecast is rising star **Erickson “The Hammer” Lubin** (14-0, 10 KOs) who faces powerful Mexican **Daniel Sandoval** (37-3, 34 KOs) in a super welterweight contest.

“I think that this fight Smith is a great challenge for me and I do not underestimate him,” said Fonfara. “He is young and hungry and he wants to use this fight and my name to show the world his skills. He’s coming to Chicago for victory and glory. I have to show him that I am stronger, more experienced and most importantly, a smarter fighter. I have to win this fight because it will open the door for me to rematch Adonis Stevenson.”

"I've been working very hard and for many years towards an opportunity like this," said Smith Jr. "I am grateful to Joe DeGuardia and Star Boxing for helping to get me here. This fight is going to change my life and no one is going to keep me from winning."

Payano and Warren first fought in Florida where Payano retained his title via split decision with scores of 113-111 twice for him and 115-109 for Warren. The fight featured consistent action and some controversy. Payano was deducted a point in round three while Warren lost two points in round nine for an intentional foul. At the end of the fight, both men raised their hands believing they had won and now they look to settle the score in Chicago.

"I knew this rematch would be offered and it's been a waiting game since I beat him the first time," said Payano. "I feel like I won convincingly, but some people feel otherwise. I'm very excited about fighting him again and this time I'll beat him even more easily. Fighting on NBC is a great privilege and it's a great place to showcase my talents. I am coming in humbled by this opportunity."

"I've been waiting for this rematch since the moment we got out of the ring the first time," said Warren. "I'm happy it's finally coming up on June 18. Until that day is here, there is nothing else on my mind. I'm real sharp right now. I'm going for the knockout. It didn't go my way last time, but I'm bringing home the belt this time."

"Every fight is big for me, whether I'm televised or not, because I always give it my all," said Lubin. "But fighting in primetime on NBC is a big opportunity for me and I know it will bring something out of me. I have to perform. It's up to me to go out and showcase my talent so I can keep moving up the ladder. Daniel Sandoval is a veteran who can prepare me for a world title shot. I'm more than ready and this fight will put me one step closer."

"This is a very good fight for me and I'm excited," said Sandoval. "I know if I come to the U.S. and beat Lubin, my name will be big and there will be another great Mexican fighter on the map. I know Lubin is the top prospect in the U.S. right now and a very fast southpaw. He is all the things you wouldn't want to go up against, but it's boxing and I'm Mexican. I'll fight anybody, anytime, anywhere."

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Warriors Boxing and Star Boxing, are priced at \$201, \$101, \$61 and \$41, not including applicable service charges, and are on sale now. To charge by phone with a major credit card, call Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000 or UIC Pavilion Box Office at (312) 413-5740. Tickets are also available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by visiting the UIC Pavilion Box Office (Thursday or Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.).

"Warriors Boxing is excited to bring PBC on NBC to the Windy City," said Leon Margules, President of Warriors Boxing. "Chicago's favorite son, Andrzej Fonfara, always thrills fans with his non-stop fighting style. Joe Smith Jr. has been destroying his competition in New York and

also brings a fan friendly 'seek-and-destroy' style to the fight. The main event should be explosive. When you add up-and-coming superstar Erickson Lubin and if Payano vs. Warren II live up to their prior Fight of the Year candidate, it will be a can't miss night of boxing."

"I am truly looking forward to this main event," said Joe DeGuardia of Star Boxing. "Smith and Fonfara are both very exciting fighters and I expect a thrilling war. Their styles will have Chicago rocking with enthusiastic Irish fans for Smith and Polish fans for Fonfara. The electric atmosphere will be a treat to everyone watching on NBC and I expect big things from Joe Smith Jr."

Fonfara returns to the ring after defeating Nathan Cleverly in October at UIC Pavilion in a fight that garnered Fight of the Year consideration and saw a record number of punches landed (936) and thrown (2524) for a light heavyweight fight in CompuBox history. Prior to that, the 28-year-old became the first person to stop Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and lost a decision to world champion Adonis Stevenson in a fight that saw both men hit the canvas. From Warsaw, Poland but training out of Chicago, Fonfara will fight in the Windy City for the 20<sup>th</sup> time when he enters the ring in primetime on June 18.

Representing Long Island, New York, Smith Jr. will bring his heavy hands to primetime as he looks for his 16<sup>th</sup> straight victory on June 18. The 26-year-old was a highly decorated amateur who won the 2008 New York Golden Gloves with a victory over Seanie Monaghan. A member of the Local 66 Laborers Union between fights and the oldest of eight siblings, Smith Jr. picked up his most impressive victory of his career so far when he defeated veteran Will Rosinsky in a hotly contested battle in Brooklyn. He followed it up with a second round stoppage of Fabiano Pena in April and is set for his toughest challenge in June.

The two-time Dominican Olympian Payano will defend his title for the second time since winning a technical decision over Anselmo Moreno in September 2014. The accomplished amateur won gold at the 2006 Central American and Caribbean games with victories over McJoe Arroyo and Yoandris Salinas. The unbeaten 32-year-old defeated Jundy Maraon, Jose Silveria and Luis Maldonado on the way to his title shot.

A three-time U.S. Olympian from Cincinnati, Warren is determined to make the most of his second shot at a world title. The 29-year-old turned pro in 2012 and picked up victories over veterans Jose Luis Araiza, Javier Gallo, German Meraz and Jhon Alberto Molina leading up to the first world title shot. Another fighter in veteran trainer Mike Stafford's stable, Warren was the first member of the 2012 U.S. Olympic team to earn a world title shot and will look again to become the first member of that team to capture a world title.

A highly-regarded prospect with an exciting style, the 20-year-old Lubin has burst onto the scene looking to engage and finish opponents early. Fighting out of Orlando, he has already taken down experienced veterans including Orlando Lora, Ayi Bruce, Michael Finney and Norberto Gonzalez. He was sensational in November 2015 when he knocked out Alexis

Camacho on NBC and in January he headlined his first card and dominated Jose De Jesus Macias in his first 10-round bout.

A winner of 18 of his last 19 fights, Sandoval enters this fight coming off of stoppage victories over Grady Brewer and Francisco Villanueva. The 25-year-old has won his previous two starts in the U.S. with decision victories over Richard Gutierrez in 2014 and Larry Smith in 2012 and will look to take down the undefeated Lubin on June 18.

For more information visit [www.premierboxingchampions.com](http://www.premierboxingchampions.com), [www.nbcsports.com/boxing](http://www.nbcsports.com/boxing) follow on Twitter @PremierBoxing, @Andrzej\_Fonfara, @JC\_Payano, @RausheeWarren, @EricksonHammerL, @WarriorsBoxProm, @StarBoxing and @NBCSports and become a fan on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/PremierBoxing](http://www.Facebook.com/PremierBoxing), [www.Facebook.com/WarriorsBoxingPromo](http://www.Facebook.com/WarriorsBoxingPromo) and [www.Facebook.com/NBCSports](http://www.Facebook.com/NBCSports). Highlights available at [www.youtube.com/premierboxingchampions](http://www.youtube.com/premierboxingchampions). PBC on NBC is sponsored by Corona Extra, La Cerveza Mas Fina.

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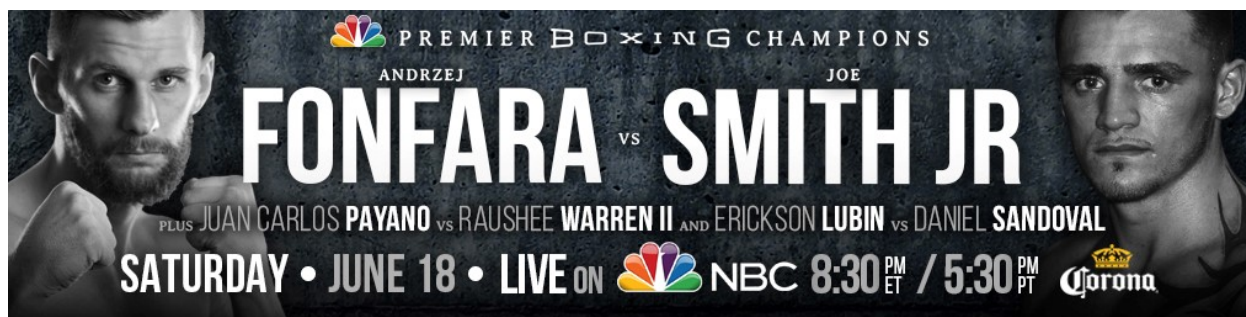
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**Undefeated Contender Hugo Centeno Jr. Battles Unbeaten Polish Contender Maciej Sulecki in Premier Boxing Champions on NBCSN Action On Saturday, June 18 From UIC Pavilion in Chicago at 11 p.m. ET/8 p.m. PT Following PBC on NBC Tripleheader**

**Plus! Top Prospects Alex Martin, Jose Quezada & Ramiro Carrillo Featured On Stacked Undercard**

**CHICAGO** (June 18, 2016) – Unbeaten contenders **Hugo “The Boss” Centeno Jr.** (24-0, 12 KOs) and **Maciej Sulecki** (22-0, 8 KOs) will meet in a 10-round middleweight bout that highlights **Premier Boxing Champions** on **NBCSN** action on Saturday, June 18 from UIC Pavilion in Chicago.

The June 18 event features a primetime **Premier Boxing Champions** on **NBC** tripleheader that is headlined by Polish star **Andrzej Fonfara** against hard-hitting New Yorker **Joe Smith Jr.** Televised coverage begins at 8:30 p.m. ET/5:30 p.m. PT and features the bantamweight world title rematch between **Juan Carlos Payano** and **Rau'Shee Warren** plus undefeated rising star **Erickson Lubin** against Mexico's **Daniel Sandoval**.

PBC action will switch over to NBCSN at 11 p.m. ET/8 p.m. PT. Additional fights airing on NBCSN will depend on which fights fit into the primetime broadcast.

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Undercard action features a bevy of Chicago prospects as unbeaten welterweight **Alex Martin** (12-0, 5 KOs) takes on Dominican **Juan Carlos Abreu** (19-2-1, 18 KOs) in an eight-round bout, **Jose Quezada** (10-0, 6 KOs) competes in a six-round super lightweight bout against Hawaii's

**Cameron Krael** (8-10-2, 1 KO) and **Ramiro Carrillo** (10-0, 7 KO) enters the ring in an eight-round super lightweight bout.

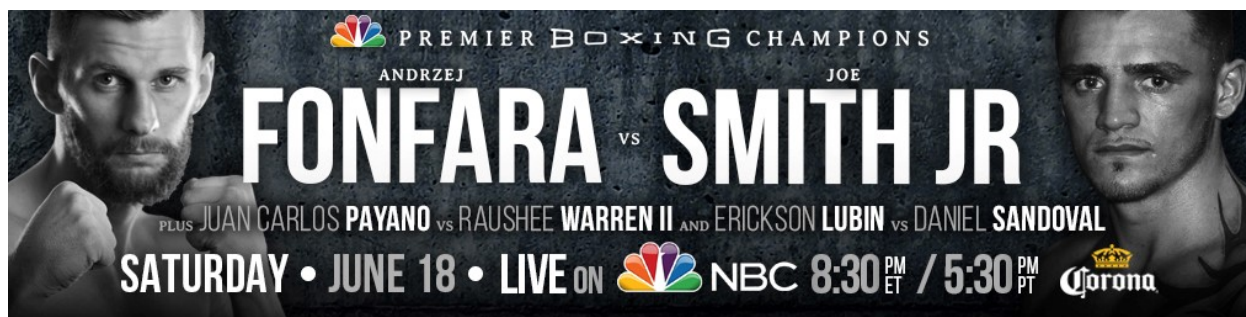
Rounding out the night of fights are two more Chicago prospects as lightweight **Josh Hernandez** (2-0, 2 KO) competes in a four-round showdown against Puerto Rico's **Eric Gotay** (3-3, 1 KO) while Chicago's **Jessica McCaskill** (1-0, 1 KO) faces **Katonya Fisher** in a four round lightweight bout.

Oxnard, California's Centeno had long been one of boxing's top prospects with victories over Ayi Bruce, Keandre Leatherwood, Angel Osuna and Gerardo Ibarra. In December 2014 he faced his stiffest test to date against James De La Rosa and passed with flying colors, scoring a spectacular fifth-round knockout. The 25-year-old has followed that up with victories over Lukasz Maciec and Josue Ovando heading into this June 18 showdown.

Fighting in the U.S. for the fourth straight time, the 27-year-old Sulecki most recently stopped Derrick Findley in the seventh round in January. Before coming to the U.S., Sulecki picked up impressive victories over previously unbeaten Robert Swierzbinski, former world title challenger Grzegorz Proksa and Lukasz Wawrzyczek. The fighter out of Warsaw, Poland was a three-time Polish Junior tournament champion and accumulated a 110-30 amateur record.

For more information visit [www.premierboxingchampions.com](http://www.premierboxingchampions.com), [www.nbcsports.com/boxing](http://www.nbcsports.com/boxing) follow on Twitter @PremierBoxing, @Andrzej\_Fonfara, @JC\_Payano, @RausheeWarren, @EricksonHammerL, @WarriorsBoxProm, @StarBoxing and @NBCSports and become a fan on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/PremierBoxing](http://www.Facebook.com/PremierBoxing), [www.Facebook.com/WarriorsBoxingPromo](http://www.Facebook.com/WarriorsBoxingPromo), [www.Facebook.com/StarBoxing](http://www.Facebook.com/StarBoxing) and [www.Facebook.com/NBCSports](http://www.Facebook.com/NBCSports). Highlights available at [www.youtube.com/premierboxingchampions](http://www.youtube.com/premierboxingchampions). PBC on NBC is sponsored by Corona Extra, La Cerveza Mas Fina.





**Juan Carlos Payano & Rau'shee Warren Talk Bantamweight World Title Rematch & First Fight Ahead of Premier Boxing Champions on NBC Saturday, June 18 from UIC Pavilion in Chicago**

*"I ran him ragged from post to post...I plan on winning even more convincingly this time." – Payano*

*"I clearly won the fight. I felt cheated...I'm way smarter now and a knockout is going to come." – Warren*

Click [HERE](#) to Watch Their First Fight

Click [HERE](#) For Photos From Their First Fight  
From Suzanne Teresa/Premier Boxing Champions

**CHICAGO** (June 2, 2016) – **Rau'shee Warren** is ready. The three-time Olympian and top bantamweight challenger from Cincinnati has spent months preparing for his second showdown against world champion **Juan Carlos Payano**. In August 2015, the two fought ferociously to a controversial split decision, which went in Payano's favor, allowing the Dominican Republic native to retain his title. Warren was less than pleased with the judges' decision, and intends to take what he feels is rightfully his when the two rematch in primetime on NBC on June 18.

"I felt like I clearly won the first fight," said Warren. "I thought the two judges that scored the fight for him were going to give it to him no matter what. The fight was in his backyard. It really hurt me when they raised his hand, I felt cheated."

The first fight between Payano and Warren served as the main event for the first installment of the *PBC: The Next Round* on Bounce TV series on August 2, 2015. One judge scored the bout 115-109 for Warren while the other two had it 113-11 for Payano, leaving the two men to dispute the true winner of the bout. But for Payano, there was no question that he was the rightful winner that night.

"I ran him ragged from post to post," said Payano. "It was the champion chasing the challenger. Normally to win the title, it has to be the other way around. If he had got the decision, there would have been no controversy, he'd be a superstar."

The fight featured solid two-way action throughout but the final scores were effected by a couple of decisions by referee Frank Santore Jr. Payano lost a point in the third round for punches to the back of the head, while Warren was deducted two points in round nine for a foul that was ruled intentional.

For this fight, neither man plans to leave any doubt in the minds of the audience or the judges.

"I watched our first fight about 20 times," said Warren. "I spent a lot of time looking at my mistakes and things I needed to eliminate. I feel like this fight is going to be really easy for me now. Payano is not getting out of this one. I won't be finished until he stops. He's going to try to get away from me, but I'm going to use what I'm doing in the gym to take him out smart. I'm way smarter now and a knockout is going to come."

"I plan to win even more convincingly this time," said Payano. "I'm going to use my ring intelligence and not fight on emotion like I did in the first fight. I'm going to fight smart, but my style is my style. I don't know how to fight any other way, so it will be another great fight. I'm sure he will make adjustments but I know I will win this fight."

The punch stats told the classic tale of the busier fighter versus the more accurate fighter. Payano threw 709 punches to Warren's 439. But it was Warren who out landed Payano 173 to 166, while owning the advantage in connect percentage at 39 percent to 23 percent. Warren was even able to score a knockdown of Payano in the 12<sup>th</sup> round but was unable narrow the scores enough to get the victory.

Now, training camp is in full swing as as both men look to gain an edge and leave the ring with their hand raised on June 18.

"Training has been going great," said Payano. "It's been a very long camp. We were supposed to fight a long time ago and it didn't happen. We've been waiting a long time and I'm ready to go. I'm eating gunpowder and the bomb is going off on June 18, so be ready."

"The first time around it was just me, my brother, personal trainer and my coach out in Colorado," said Warren. "This time I started training back home in Cincinnati and now I'm in Washington, D.C. sparring with Gervonta Davis to get ready. The way I look at it, my sparring partner is better than Payano."



The Payano vs. Warren rematch will open up **Premier Boxing Champions** on **NBC** coverage on June 18 at 8:30 p.m. ET/5:30 p.m. PT that is headlined by light heavyweight bruiser **Andrzej Fonfara** taking on tough New Yorker **Joe “The Irish Bomber” Smith Jr.**

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Warriors Boxing and Star Boxing, are priced at \$201, \$101, \$61 and \$41, not including applicable service charges, and are on sale now. To charge by phone with a major credit card, call Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000 or UIC Pavilion Box Office at (312) 413-5740. Tickets are also available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by visiting the UIC Pavilion Box Office (Thursday or Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.).

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## ANDRZEJ FONFARA

### QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Andrzej Fonfara
- **Height** – 6-2 ½
- **Weight** – 175 (Light Heavyweight)
- **Date of Birth** – November 4, 1987
- **Hometown** – Chicago, Illinois
- **Record** – 28-3 (16 KOs)

### BACKGROUND

- Born in Warsaw, Poland but now lives and trains out of Chicago at the Windy City Gym with Sam Colonna

### PRO CAREER

- Debuted at 145 lbs. with a victory over Miroslav Kubik
- Won 12 of his first 14 fights before debuting at light heavyweight in 2010 against Adan Leal, who he stopped in the fourth-round
- Followed that up with victories over once-beaten fighters Roger Cantrell and Anthony Doughty
- Started 2012 with victories over experienced light heavyweights Byron Mitchell and Glen Johnson
- Added victories over contenders Tommy Karpency, Gabriel Campillo and Samuel Miller
- Lost world title fight against Adonis Stevenson in 2014, but did record a knockdown of Stevenson
- Stopped former world champion Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. in the ninth-round in April 2015 and followed it up with a win over Nathan Cleverly in a Fight of the Year candidate that broke numerous compubox records for his division

### AMATEUR CAREER

- Gold medal at 2005 Polish Junior Championship
- Silver medal at 2004 Polish Junior Cup
- Bronze medal at 2004 Polish Junior Championships
- Bronze Medal at 2003 Nationwide Youth Olympics

### SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Twitter** - @Andrzej\_Fonfara
- **Instagram** - AndrzejFonfara

## **JOE SMITH JR.**

### **QUICK FACTS**

- **Full Name** – Joe Smith Jr.
- **Nickname** – The Irish Bomber
- **Height** – 6-0
- **Weight** – 175 (Light Heavyweight)
- **Born** – September 20, 1989
- **Hometown** – Long Island, New York
- **Record** – 21-1 (17 KOs)

### **BACKGROUND**

- Member of General Building Laborer Local 66 in Long Island
- Oldest of eight siblings (seven boys and one girl)
- Began boxing at age 13

### **PRO CAREER**

- Turned pro in October 2009 with a first round stoppage of David Brown
- Won his first six fights by stoppage before injuring his shoulder in a loss to Eddie Caminero in 2010
- Defeated veterans Michael Gbenga, Otis Griffin and Tyrell Hendrix in 2014
- Victorious four times in 2016 including an impressive victory over Will Rosinsky in December 2015
- Began 2016 with a second round knockout of Fabiano Pena in April

### **AMATEUR CAREER**

- New York Golden Gloves & Empire State Games Champion
- Defeated Sean Monaghan to win 2008 NY Golden Gloves

## **JUAN CARLOS PAYANO**

### **QUICK FACTS**

- **Full Name** – Juan Carlos Payano
- **Nickname** – Baby Pacquiao
- **Height** – 5-5
- **Weight** – 118 (Bantamweight)
- **Born** – April 12, 1984
- **Hometown** – Miami, Florida
- **Record** – 17-0 (8 KOs)

### **PRO CAREER**

- Turned pro in Aug. 2010 with a victory over Aneudy Mesa
- Made his U.S. debut in April 2011 by beating Luis Angel Paneto
- In 2012 he defeated experienced contenders Luis Maldonado, Jhon Alberto Molina and Jose Silveria
- Scored a seventh-round knockout over previously unbeaten Jundy Maraon in June 2013
- Won a bantamweight world title with a technical decision over Anselmo Moreno and defended it against Rau'shee Warren

### **AMATEUR CAREER**

- 2008 & 2004 Dominican Olympian
- 2009 Pan American Championships Bronze medalist
- 2007 Pan American Games Silver Medalist
- 2006 Central American & Caribbean Games Gold medalist
- 2005 Pan American Championships Gold medalist
- 2003 Pan American Games Silver medalist

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

- **Twitter** - @JC-Payano
- **Instagram** – JCPayanoP

## **RAU'SHEE WARREN**

### **QUICK FACTS**

- **Full Name** – Rau'shee Warren
- **Nickname** – Nuke
- **Height** – 5-4 ½
- **Weight** – 118 (Bantamweight)
- **Born** – February 13, 1987
- **Hometown** – Cincinnati, Ohio
- **Record** – 13-1 (4 KOs)

### **BACKGROUND**

- Youngest out of 531 members of the 2004 U.S. Olympic team
- Began training at the age of six at the same gym former world champion Aaron Pryor trained at
- Won his first amateur fight at age eight

### **PRO CAREER**

- Turned pro in Nov. 2012 with a victory over Luis Rivera
- Won three of his first five fights by knockout
- Defeated experienced contenders Jhon Alberto Molina in 2013 and German Meraz in 2014
- Knocked out Javier Gallo in the first round in March 2015
- Came up short in first title fight against Juan Carlos Payano via a controversial split decision

### **AMATEUR CAREER**

- 2012, 2008 & 2004 U.S. Olympian
- 2011 World Championships Bronze medalist
- 2010, 2007 & 2005 U.S. Amateur National Champion
- 2009 U.S. Amateur Bronze medalist
- 2004 U.S. Amateur Silver medalist

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

- **Twitter** - @RauSheeWarren
- **Instagram** - RausheeWarren

## ERICKSON LUBIN

### QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Erickson Lubin
- **Nickname** - Hammer
- **Height** – 5-11
- **Weight** – 154 (Super Welterweight)
- **Date of Birth** – October 1, 1995
- **Hometown** – Orlando, Florida
- **Record** – 14-0 (10 KOs)

### BACKGROUND

- Introduced to boxing as a toddler by his older brother Louis, who had a brief pro career

### PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in November 2013 and stopped previously unbeaten Eric De Jesus and Luis Santiago in the first round of his first two fights
- In July 2014 he defeated experienced Noe Bolanos in his first eight-round fight
- Opened 2015 with a decision over once-beaten Michael Finney
- Defeated previously unbeaten Kenneth Council via first round TKO and knocked out Ayi Bruce in the first round in 2015
- Closed 2015 with victories over veterans Orlando Lora and Alexis Camacho

### AMATEUR CAREER

- Two-time Junior Olympic Champion
- 2013 National Golden Gloves Champion
- 2013 PAL Champion
- 2013 Independence Cup Winner

### SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Twitter** – @EricksonHammerL