

Interview from March 2013 with Jason Marchetti from RIBOXING.NET



I had the chance to sit down with the President and CEO of Big Six Entertainment, Artie DePinho. We talked about his background with professional boxing, the New England boxing scene, and how to develop a fighter.

What's your experience in the boxing industry and professional sports?

I got into pro boxing when I had the opportunity to volunteer with the Contender when they promoted the Peter Manfredo vs. Scott Pemberton fought in Providence. That was a great event that featured Jason Estrada, Matt Godfrey and Matt Remillard on the undercard. The excitement that I witnessed up-close got me

hooked so I decided to get more involved. The next week I started working for CES where I learned a lot of the ins and outs to promoting events. After three and a half years in the New England boxing scene, I received a great opportunity to work for TKO Boxing Promotions out of Las Vegas. With TKO I traveled across the country putting on boxing events. We were promoting 2-3 shows a month featuring some of the best prospects in the world. With TKO I learned how to properly move a fighter up the rankings. I also gained worldwide contacts throughout the boxing industry. Currently I am the President of Big Six Entertainment, a company that I formed with Dr. Roland Estrada.

What's your mission, and how are you promoting that idea?

Our goal is to provide local boxers with opportunities to improve and continue their careers, as well as to provide competitive fights for fans to watch. With some fighters we are helping to guide their career. With other fighters we are simply giving them an opportunity to box on a show without being forced to sign a multiyear contract with a promoter. We strategically look for the right opponents so the hometown guy should be able to win but will be challenged. It is very important for each fighter to be challenged in all of their matches. It is the only way they will improve and it is how the fans will be entertained. Our events have showcased the most competitive fights in New England. At our shows, the fans always get their money's worth and get to see action packed fights.

How difficult is it competing with some of the larger promoters in the industry, and specifically CES Boxing?

I wouldn't say we are trying to compete with any promoter. We are willing to work with any company or fighter. We have a lot of strong relationships and have recently featured some of our fighters on Star Boxing, Dibella Entertainment, and CES shows. There are some disadvantages we face being a newer company. We haven't had the opportunity from the casinos Mohegan, Foxwoods and Twin River to host an event yet. We also lack a lot of sponsorship revenue to support our shows. These difficulties are not going to slow us down. Just like our fighters we welcome a good challenge because that's the only way we will get better. Big Six Entertainment has a different vision than most boxing promotional companies. We are not trying to create a monopoly, we are just trying to improve the local boxing scene and create more opportunities for fighters and fight fans.

Discuss your plans for Jason Estrada. I had reservations whether or not to write about the heavyweight tourney in the first place. It's a lot of money for some guys who are generally unknown and nothing seems to be scheduled yet. It seems like Estrada has the most to gain, and the most to lose here.

We gave Jason the chance to rejuvenate his career. He had four big wins in a one year span including two big KOs. Now he has an opportunity to return to the top tier of the heavyweight division. Whether it's the Great American Heavyweight Boxoff or facing somebody ranked in the top ten, He will be ready to take advantage of whatever comes his way.

Will anybody fight Brian Barbosa?

Brian Barbosa is a feared man. Nobody in New England is willing to fight him. We have tried to match him up with everybody from 168-175 and they all say NO. The reason why so many fighters are scared of Brian is his power, 23 of his 31 wins have come by KO. It looks like Brian is finally getting an opportunity to get back in the ring in April, we will announce all the details as soon as it's finalized.

Discuss some of your prospects and what it's like to promote someone at the beginning of their career.

Two of the prospects that I am currently working with are middleweight Russell Lamour and super middleweight Tylon Burris. Russell had an extensive amateur career compiling 95 fights and was part of the World Series of Boxing. Russell is currently 2-0, 1 KO and will be back in the ring in April. Tylon is 5-0, 3 KOs and holds an impressive KO victory over Kevin Cobbs who was 6-0 at the time. Tylon is looking to fight the best competition out there and will be back in the ring soon. It is a long but rewarding journey bringing a fighter up from the beginning of their career. While the fighter is perfecting his skills it is important for them to learn something new each fight. With each win you want him to face a different style opponent that will present a different challenge. At the same time they have to grow their fan base every day. The most successful boxers are usually stars in and outside of the ring. Some of the prospects that I was with during the initial phases of their careers that are now on the cusp of stardom are Terrence Crawford, Leo Santa Cruz, J'Leon Love, and Mikael Zewski.

What would you change about boxing if you were a local boxing commissioner?

I think the RI Boxing commission is great. Christina Tobiasz is an excellent commissioner and is a pleasure to work with. The main thing that I would like to see changed in RI is pro-am shows. I think if you are able to provide separate locker-rooms you should be able to have a pro-am event. This would help ticket sales for the show and provide the future of boxing with the opportunity to fight in a professional atmosphere. On a more national level, boxing would be more efficient if it had one commission instead of a different one for every state. The medical requirements should be the same everywhere and there should be funds set aside to pay for the tests like New York does.

How do you recruit more fighters?

For the most part they find us. I receive numerous calls, texts, emails, and Facebook messages every day and so does Dr. Estrada. We have a good reputation so a lot of people hear about us through word of mouth. Dr. Estrada is heavily involved with amateur boxing so he gets to see most of the fighters before they decide to turn pro.

Are there any upcoming events in RI, CT, or Mass?

Big Six Entertainment will be announcing our next event in the very near future.