

Puriste Premium Vodka And INTO Energy Drinks Co-Title Sponsors For Aug.24 Heavyweight Factory Card At Hard Rock Live

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By: Sharon Robb

The Heavyweight Factory will have two co-title sponsors for the first time in the history of the promotions company.



Puriste Premium Vodka and INTO Energy Drinks will co-sponsor the fourth “Rise of the Heavyweights” pro boxing show Tuesday, Aug 24 at Hard Rock Live.

During a press conference at Renegade Barbeque on Thursday at Seminole Paradise, Wolfgang Tweraser, CEO of Puriste USA Inc. was introduced to the crowd.

Tweraser talked about his involvement with the Heavyweight Factory and “what a pleasure it’s been to work with them and I am looking forward to the fights.”

And so is everyone else.

Three title fights and special presentation to honor teenager Josie Lou Ratley and her courageous battle back from near-death after a savage schoolyard beating on March 17 are expected to be the highlights of the star-studded evening.

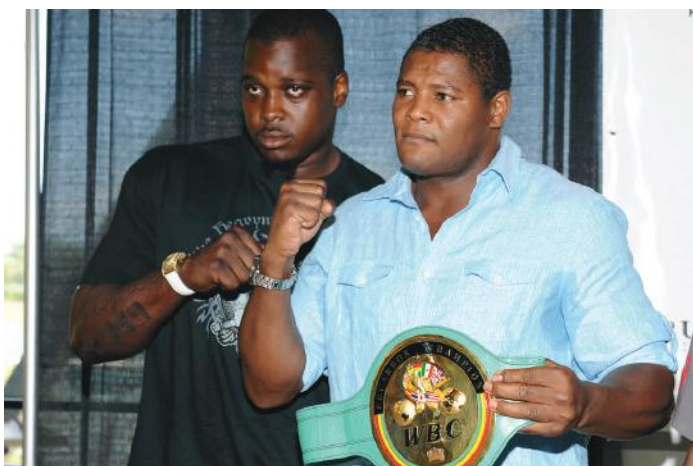
Ratley touched the hearts of the boxing community that has followed her remarkable progress. The Heavyweight Factory will present Ratley and her family with a check to help defray medical expenses and other gifts.



In the main event, newly-crowned NABA heavyweight champion Timur Ibragimov of Hallandale Beach (28-2-1, 15 KOs) will try to add a second belt to his collection when he takes on Gurcharan Singh (20-0-0, 11 KOs) of Atlantic City, N.J. for the vacant WBO Intercontinental heavyweight title in the main event.

Ibragimov, promoted by the Heavyweight Factory and ranked No. 12 in the WBA, is coming off an impressive 12-round unanimous decision victory over former WBC heavyweight champion Oliver McCall on June 15 at Hard Rock Live. Singh is the first heavyweight contender from Punjab State, India. It will be his first U.S. fight since October 2007.

“It’s going to be a great night,” Ibragimov said during the press conference. “I will take care of business. I want to thank the Heavyweight Factory for doing a great job with me.”



In a co-main title event, Cuban southpaw heavyweight Luis Ortiz (2-0-0, 2 KOs) of the Heavyweight Factory will fight Kendrick Releford (22-13, 10 KOs) for the vacant WBC FECARBOX heavyweight title.



In the other co-main title fight, undefeated welterweight sensation Brad (King) Solomon (12-0, 4 KOs), the newest fighter added to the Heavyweight Factory, known for his speed and quick hands, will fight Wilfredo Negrón (26-14-1, 19 KOs) for the vacant WBA international welterweight and WBC Latino belts.

"I am something special, one of the old-time fighters in the ring," Solomon said. "I am unique. Do not turn your head or blink your eyes because you will miss the fight. I am happy to be with the Heavyweight Factory and this is going to be the beginning of a great journey for all of us."

Also on the card is former University of Miami football player James Bryant, who will put his unbeaten record (3-0, 3KOs) on the line.

Heavyweight Factory stablemate Ray Tillman, a Stranahan High School graduate, will make his pro debut against Watson Pierre.



Ten action-packed fights are scheduled. The show begins 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The weigh-in is Monday, 5 p.m. at the Heavyweight Factory, 5440 South State Road 7 in Hollywood.

Individual tickets are still on sale at \$105, \$55 & \$30. All seats are reserved and available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office, open Tuesday – Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. and on Sunday & Monday – only open on event days at noon. Tickets also are available at all Ticketmaster outlets online at www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000.