

## "Fight Night" boxers to weigh in today before Country Showdown

2009-08-31

Sneak peek of contenders open to the media and the public



Professional boxers participating in **Fight Night at the Fair** - which includes a world title bout featuring women's boxing legend **Christy Martin** - will officially weigh in for the Sept. 2 event at 6 p.m. Tuesday on the Mohegan Sun Grandstand Stage.

The weigh-in is FREE and open to all Fair visitors. It will be held immediately before The **Colgate Country Showdown**; the FREE live music event scheduled to kick off at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday on the grandstand stage.

Visitors will have an opportunity to get a sneak peek at the Fight Night participants, including Martin, a two-time world champion; **Jason "Big Six" Estrada**, a former US Olympian; and **James McGirt Jr.**, the son of former world champion **James "Buddy" McGirt**, and 11 other professional boxers.

Tickets are still available for Fight Night. Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. Sept. 2 event are available at the Fair Box Office or through Ticketmaster.

Tickets cost \$20 and \$15, and include the price of the Fair. That means people who had planned to go to the Fair anyway can pay an extra \$5 or \$10 and see an historic professional boxing match.

Fans who save their ticket stubs also get free admission to **the International Boxing Hall of Fame Museum** in Canastota.

Fair visitors interested in the weigh in should go to the track seating area of the grandstand before 6 p.m. Once the weigh-in is concluded, those Fairgoers are invited to stick around for the Country Showdown, a nearly 30-year-old version of "American Idol" featuring some of the best amateur country musicians in New York State.

On Wednesday, **Christy "The Coal Miner's Daughter" Martin** will battle **Dakota Stone** for the currently vacant WBC female junior middleweight championship. Co-headlining will be **Jason Estrada** fighting **Zuri Lawrence**, a heavyweight upset specialist from Wappinger Falls, NY. **James McGirt Jr.**, the son of former world champion **James "Buddy" McGirt**, will fight **Anthony Pietrantonio**.

Fighters for the four under-card bouts will also be weighing in. Most of these professional boxers are from New York, including super middleweight **Aleem Whitfield** of Geneva; female featherweight **Jackie Trivolino** of Plattsburgh; junior welterweights **Damian Rinaldi** of Syracuse and **Manny Cotrich** of Utica; and junior lightweight **Jayme Resnick** of Rochester.

**Fight Night at the Fair** - the first professional boxing event ever held in the Mohegan Sun Grandstand - will also give boxing fans an opportunity to meet many big-time boxing celebrities. They include Canastota native **Carmen Basilio**, who won the world welterweight championship from Sugar Ray Robinson; **Emile Griffith**, a former welterweight and middleweight world champion; **Carlos Ortiz**, a three-time world boxing champion; **Vito Antuofermo**, the former world middleweight champion; **Livingstone Bramble**, the flamboyant former world lightweight champion; **Dickie DiVeronica**, a welterweight professional boxer and former protégé of Basilio; **Vinny Paz**, two-title world boxing champ also known as "The Pazmanian Devil"; **Joe Mesi**, the former undefeated, number one-ranked heavyweight contender; and **George Chuvalo**, the heavyweight boxer who went the distance with Mohammad Ali, Joe Frazier and Joe Foreman and was never knocked down during a 93-fight career.