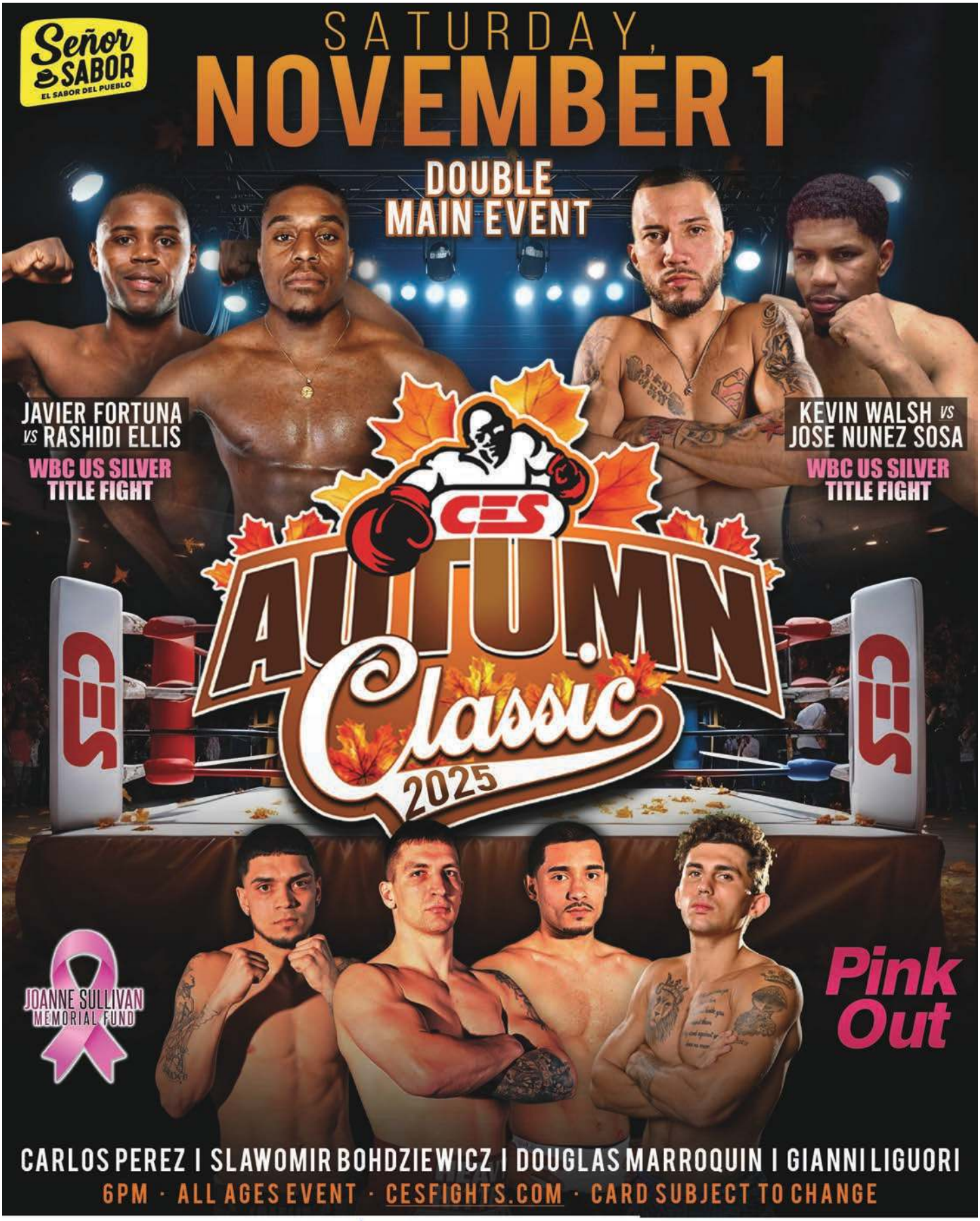

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# President's Message

## Jimmy Burchfield Sr.

Welcome to the CES Autumn Classic 2025 at the world-renowned Mohegan Sun Arena. We have a spectacular night planned that delivers everything we love about boxing – championship bouts, emerging stars, and a worthy cause.



Tonight is memorable not only for the action in the ring, but also because we come together as a boxing family to honor the memory of a very special person: JoAnne Sullivan, beloved mother of our Director of Operations, Patrick Sullivan. A portion of tonight's proceeds will benefit cancer research at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston through the JoAnne Sullivan Memorial Fund. We encourage everyone to wear pink and join us in supporting this important cause – because together, we can overcome anything.

Inside the ring, we've put together an unforgettable double main event featuring two of New England's most exciting champions against top opposition.

In our first main event, Lynn, MA's "Speedy" Rashidi Ellis defends his WBC US Silver Welterweight Title against former two-time world champion Javier "The Hornet" Fortuna of Braintree. Rashidi is on the brink of a world title opportunity and out to prove he's the best welterweight on the planet, but standing in his way is Fortuna, a proud warrior originally from the Dominican Republic whose relentless style and experience make him one of the most dangerous fighters in the division.

In our second main event, Brockton's own "King" Kevin Walsh returns for his fourth bout of 2025, defending his WBC US Silver Featherweight Title against heavy-handed Jesus Sosa of Brooklyn, by way of San Cristobal, Dominican Republic. Walsh has been on an incredible tear since 2024, knocking out six of his last eight opponents, but Sosa comes to spoil the party with knockout power of his own. Don't blink – this one is sure to electrify the building.

Tonight's undercard is stacked from top to bottom with the best talent New England has to offer: from popular Connecticut prospects including Slawomir Bohdziewicz, Douglas Marroquin, Joseph "J-Elite" Chisholm, Carlos Perez, and Gianni Liguori, to Massachusetts puncher Tevin Regis and Rhode Island upstarts William Guilmette, Tyler Macari, and Kevin Mojica – all are hungry prospects eager to climb the ranks and become tomorrow's champions.

Thank you for supporting these incredible athletes and for standing with us in the fight against cancer. Enjoy every moment of tonight's action – and remember, at CES Boxing, we're fighting for something bigger than boxing.

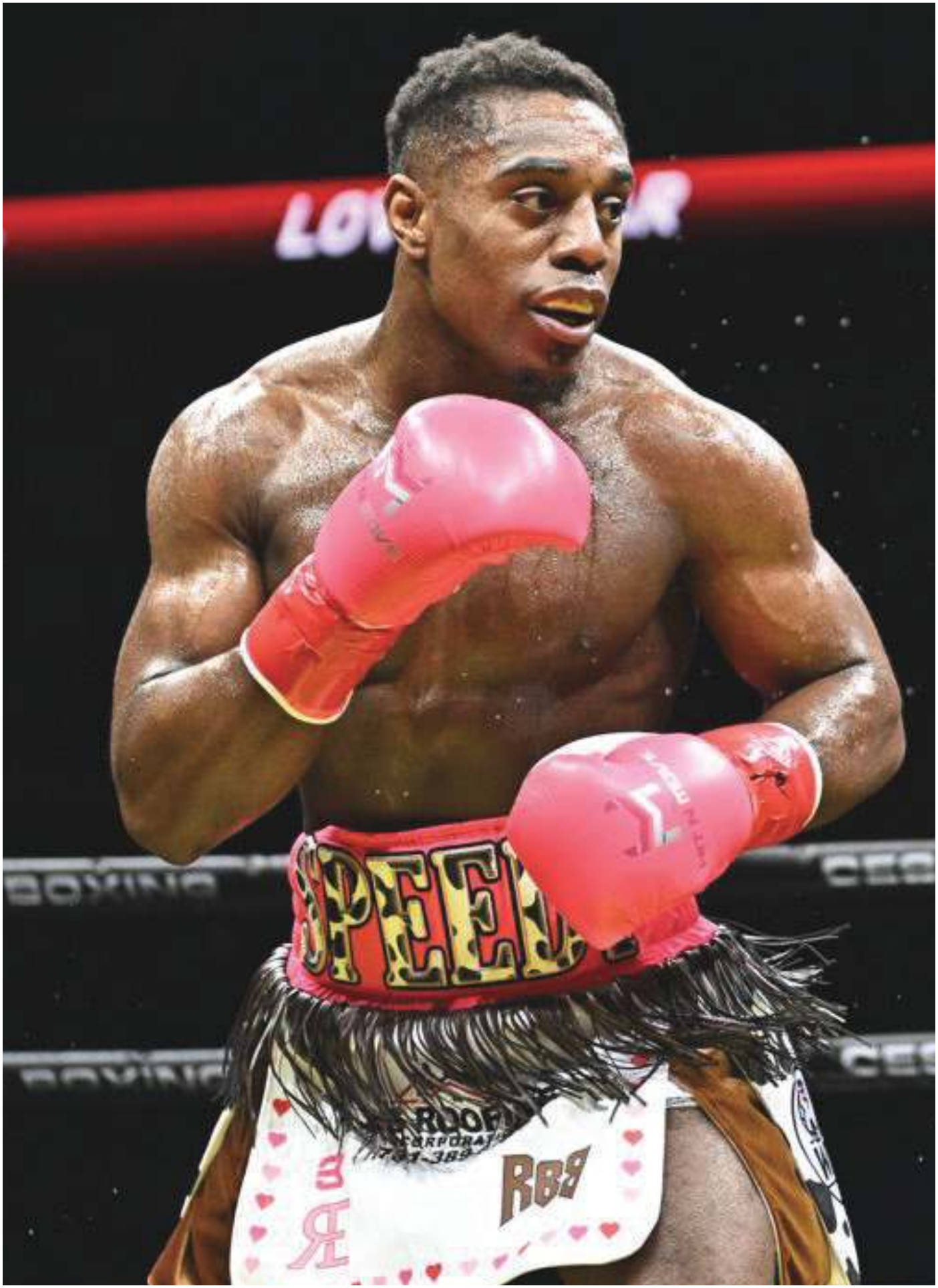
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# Tom Cantone

**President of Mohegan Sports & Entertainment**


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# SPEEDY

## Rashidi Ellis Continues his March towards a Title Shot

**by Mariano Agmi**

"Speedy" Rashidi Ellis (27-1, 18 KOs) continues his march toward a world title tonight, when he defends his WBC US Silver Welterweight Title against former two-time world champion Javier "El Abejon" Fortuna (39-6-1, 28 KOs).

Ellis enters the bout ranked #9 in the world by the WBO while riding a wave of momentum with 3 dominant stoppages since joining CES Boxing last October.

"This is the most active I've been in the last 10 years," said the 31-year-old of the activity that has been missing throughout much of his career. "Before, I was fighting once a year, sometimes every two years. Ring rust is real – all my biggest wins were after long layoffs. Imagine if I was active going into them."

Indeed, Rashidi's biggest wins came in a rematch against Eddie Gomez in 2019 after over a year layoff, and a dominant unanimous decision over Alexis Rocha almost a year later.

Since joining forces with CES Boxing, Ellis is 25-3 over 2 seasons with Team Combat League's Boston Butchers and is preparing for his fourth fight in 12 months. A major opportunity almost came earlier this month, when Ellis was in negotiations to face east coast rival Jaron "Boots" Ennis on October 11 – a potential breakout fight that ultimately fell through. Ennis instead wound up facing the unheralded Uisma Lima, whom he starched in one round in his hometown of Philadelphia.

"I saw the highlights, but the highlights were basically the whole fight," Ellis said with a laugh. "I already knew what was gonna happen. Lima's a good prospect, but he wasn't ready for Boots. He just sat there and got hit. Me and Boots would've been a different story. It would've been a very exciting, technical fight. A lot of skill, a lot of trash talk, a real fight."

Despite missing out on the opportunity, Ellis hasn't closed the door on that elusive matchup.

"If the opportunity comes again, I definitely want to fight him," he said. "147, 154, 160 -- I don't care what weight it is. I'd fight him anywhere."

For now, Ellis' focus is squarely on Fortuna: a dangerous, awkward veteran who's fought at the highest levels for more than a decade. The Dominican native, now based in Braintree, Massachusetts, captured world titles at 126 and 130 pounds with wins over Patrick Hyland and Bryan Vasquez, respectively. 'El Abejon' also boasts wins over former world champion Jesus Cuellar and contender Sharif Bogere.

"I've seen him a lot," said Ellis. "I ran into him years ago when I used to fight in the Dominican Republic. He's based in Boston now, so I see him around when we train there. He's very crafty and awkward. The first 3 rounds are gonna be tricky, but after that, I'm gonna get him."

The matchup pits Ellis' size, speed and power against Fortuna's southpaw style, experience and ring IQ – a perfect test for a fighter eager to go deeper rounds before challenging the elite at 147.

"I get better as the rounds go on," explained Ellis. "I've been blowing guys out early, but I'd actually like to get more rounds under my belt. Fortuna's a good fighter – he's been training, he's motivated, and I want him at his best."

While Ellis prepares for November 1, he's keeping his eyes on the welterweight title picture, particularly the bout between WBO champion Brian Norman Jr. and Devin Haney on November 22 in Riyadh.

"I'd like to fight the winner," said Ellis, "but really, I'd like to fight Norman. I've always wanted to fight him."

In addition to Norman Jr., Rashidi would also welcome an title shot against WBC Champion Mario Barrios.

"They're protecting him," admitted Ellis. "They don't want him to fight somebody like me, but I hope that happens. I doubt it, but I hope so."

The Lynn, Massachusetts native believes his activity and increasing regional fan support will soon make those fights unavoidable.

"People here are finally seeing me fight in person instead of just on TV," said Ellis of his New England fan base. "Before, I was fighting overseas or across the country, so fans didn't get to see me in person. Now they do, and the love's been real."

The 'Savage with a Smile' expects a big crowd on November 1 when he takes on Fortuna at Mohegan Sun Arena.

"If you're in New England, come by and show support," Ellis said. "Fortuna is entertaining and he comes to fight, and I always do too. The undercard is stacked. It's gonna be a great boxing night with good fights all the way through."


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# El Abejón

## Javier Fortuna has Plenty of Sting Left

**by Mariano Agmi**

Javier "El Abejón" Fortuna has Plenty of Sting Left
Former two-time world champion Javier "El Abejón" Fortuna (39-6-1, 28 KOs) is out to prove he still has plenty of sting left when he returns to the ring tonight to challenge "Speedy" Rashidi Ellis (27-1, 18 KOs) for his WBC US Silver Welterweight Title at Mohegan Sun Arena.

'El Abejon,' or 'The Hornet,' is a monicker Fortuna earned in the gym as an amateur. "It's a nickname they gave me when I was a kid because I was fast and strong, and I would swarm my opponents," says Fortuna. That speed and explosiveness carried Javier from an amateur star to two world titles, making him one of the Dominican Republic's most accomplished fighters of his generation.

Fortuna's career began at age 9 in the Dominican city of La Romana, where boxing was practically a family business. "My brother, my uncles and my cousins boxed," recalls Fortuna. "I would fight a lot in the neighborhood and at school, but my brother didn't want me to box, so I started training behind his back. He only realized that I was boxing when my name was announced during my first fight. I lost that night, but I won the rematch and went 6 years without losing."

Fortuna went on to represent the Dominican Republic internationally, earning medals in the Pan American Games before turning professional in 2009. Three years later, 'El Abejon' captured the WBA Interim Featherweight world title against previously unbeaten Patrick Hyland on the Juan Manuel Marquez vs. Manny Pacquiao IV undercard in Las Vegas – an achievement that remains his proudest moment. "That fight opened many doors for me," explains Fortuna. "I thought, 'From here on out we're going to get down to business: I'm leaving my house to my mom, buying myself a house, and I'm taking care of my family.'"

Fortuna lost that title on the scales in his next fight, a one round blowout of Miguel Zamudio. Feeling that he had outgrown the 126 lbs. division, Fortuna set out to conquer 130. Six wins later, Javier defeated Bryan Vasquez by unanimous decision in 2015 to win his second world title, the WBA Super Featherweight Championship.

"Guys like Joan Guzman, Claudio Marrero, Juan Carlos Payano, Lenin Castillo, Felix Guzman and I gave a boost to all the young Dominican boxers who are emerging now," says Fortuna of the next wave of Dominican standouts, including Carlos Adames, the Cedeno brothers, Alberto Puello and Rohan Polanco. "These are fighters who are enthusiastic, committed and extraordinarily focused on winning world titles and taking it to the next level. They know that I always support them and if I was able to win 2 world titles, I hope they win 4, 5, and 6 world titles so that they elevate the Dominican Republic on the world stage. I know the sacrifices that a Dominican boxer makes to get to the United States and win a world title. We have to do twice as much as Americans to stand out and even get a corner feature in a magazine."

One American who has struggled to earn a title shot is Fortuna's opponent on November 1.

Rashidi Ellis is a talented fighter from Lynn, Massachusetts who took the opposite route. Ellis fought several times in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico as a prospect to build momentum in his career before returning to the United States.

"Rashidi is a tremendous boxer," acknowledges Fortuna. "I used to see him in the gyms in the Dominican Republic years ago when I was at 126 and 130. I compare Rashidi with pure boxers I fought like Derrick Wilson and Yoandale Evans. These are boxers I knocked out early, but they are fast and make you think constantly throughout a fight. It's been years, but now that I live in Massachusetts, I see him when I train in Boston. He's an outstanding fighter – he's very fast, but I've seen him fight on several occasions and I know how to beat him. We're working on that game plan and preparing to execute it."

Despite facing a career welterweight, the 5'7 Fortuna shrugs off any size disadvantage. "We're almost the same size," insists Fortuna. "He's 5'8. It isn't a big difference, especially when we're in the ring positioning and exchanging. Besides, I prefer fighting bigger guys."

A veteran of 46 professional fights, the 36-year-old believes experience will be the more important factor on fight night. "I have much more experience than he does," asserts Fortuna. "His best opponent was Romain Villa, which was his only loss. In that fight, Villa used his experience and intelligence to prevail, but that doesn't matter when we fight. I will simply be 100% prepared, he's going to be 100% prepared, and it's going to be a great fight. I'll use my intelligence, my boxing skills, and my experience to put on a good show and leave with the victory."

Fortuna believes that a victory over Ellis will catapult him to one more title shot. "If I win this fight, I'm not going to stay at welterweight for good," he said. "I'm going to go down to 135 or 140, which is my natural weight. I'd like to fight any of the champions at 135 or 140."

Still fierce and focused after 15 years as a professional, Fortuna sees his matchup with Ellis as another chance to remind the world why they call him 'El Abejón':

"Come see a great fight on November 1," concludes Fortuna. "Nothing is written in that ring, but I am 100% focused on winning this fight and after that, I will capture a world title in a third weight class."


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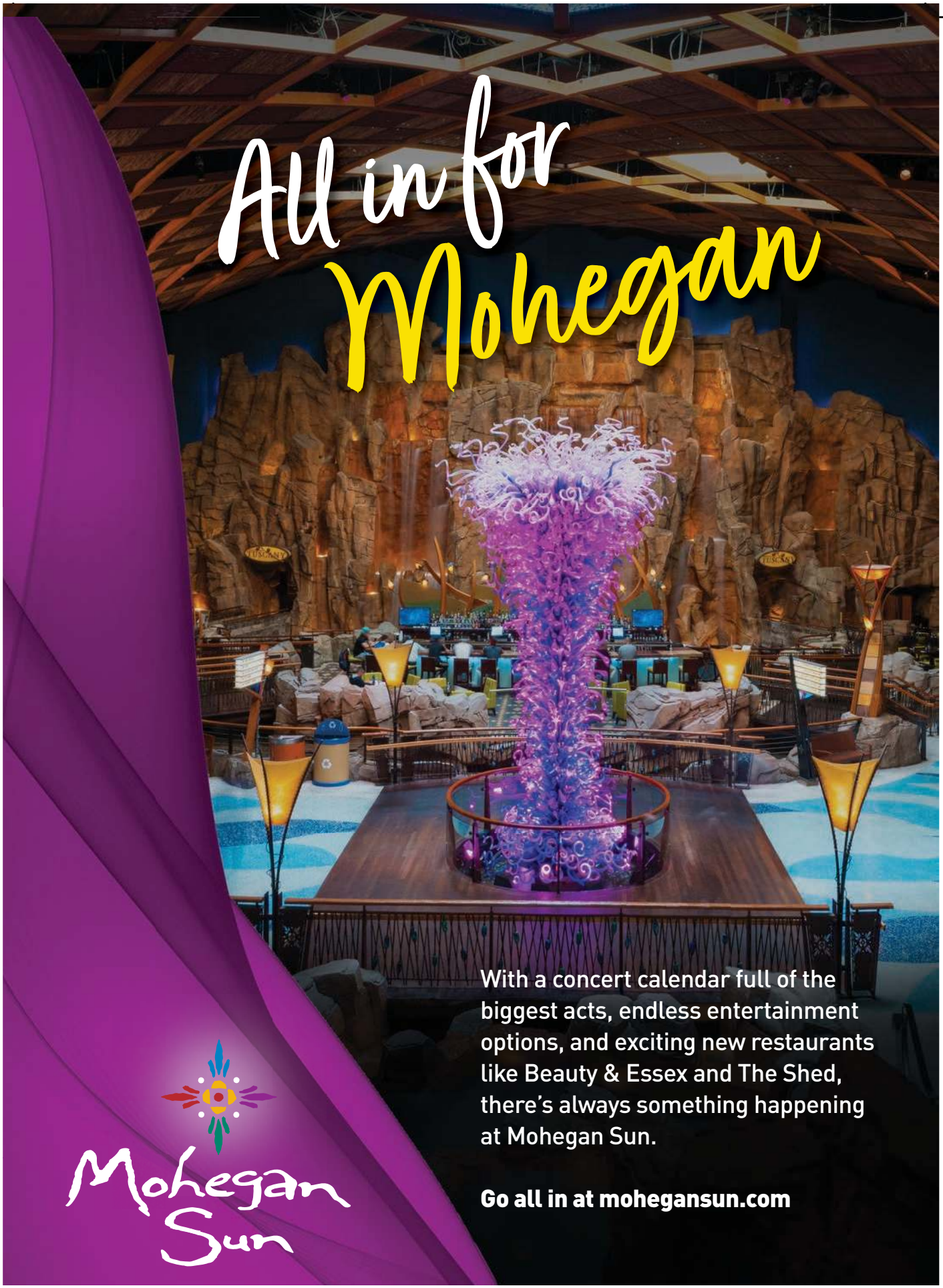



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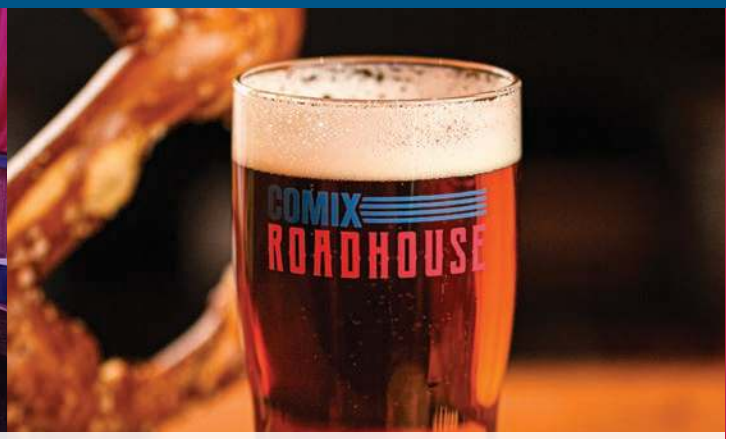
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