

Closing statement

Lundy bounces back to knock out Diaz in NABF title defense

HAMMOND, Ind. (Aug. 19, 2011) – The most feared fighter in boxing’s 135-pound division closed out another stellar season of “Friday Night Fights” on ESPN and, quite possibly, wrote the final chapter of **David Diaz**’s outstanding career.

Philadelphia’s “**Hammerin**” **Hank Lundy** (21-1-1, 11 KOs) defended his North American Boxing Federation (NABF) lightweight title in his first attempt Friday, knocking out Diaz 37 seconds into the sixth round of their scheduled 10-round nationally-televised co-feature at The Venue at the Horseshoe Casino. Friday’s event, promoted by Hitz Boxing in association with Banner Promotions, was the season finale of ESPN’s “Friday Night Fights” series.



After getting knocked down early in the fourth round courtesy of a hard right by Diaz (36-4-1, 17 KOs), Lundy switched back to his traditional southpaw stance and closed out the former world champion with an overhand left that sent Diaz to the canvas and sent Lundy to his third consecutive victory.

“There’s something about those straight punches,” Lundy said. “When you land those straight punches, you don’t even have to look. You know once you connect, it’s done.”

“Everyone can get hurt,” he continued. “Even with gloves on, it doesn’t matter. You can get touched in the right way and go down, but it’s how you finish the fight. Like the scriptures say, ‘We fall down, but we get back up.’ It’s all about how you finish, and God gave me the power to get up and finish.”

Lundy looked sharp in the first three rounds, switching between his southpaw and right-handed stance to keep the 35-year-old Diaz off balance. Lundy jabbed effectively throughout the fight, which allowed him to utilize his overhand lefts and occasional uppercuts to build an early lead entering the fourth.

The fight remained one-sided until Diaz cracked Lundy with an overhand right that sent the defending champion stumbling to the canvas. Diaz picked up the pace in an attempt to finish the fight, but eventually wore himself out instead.

“I think that was my mistake,” Diaz said. “I should’ve been more calm because my legs were still wobbly.”

Toward the end of the fourth round, Diaz suffered a brutal cut over his right eye that left him covered in blood for the remainder of the fight. Diaz claimed an inadvertent elbow from Lundy caused the damage, whereas Lundy attributed the wound to his “stiff, fast, power jab.” The ringside doctor examined the cut at the beginning of the fifth and again midway through the round, but decided to let Diaz continue. Lundy eventually finished the fight himself, catching Diaz with the knockout blow just 37 seconds into the sixth.

“[The cut] got him frustrated,” Lundy said. “I’ve been cut before, so it all depends on your career. Some guys see their own blood and fold under pressure and get a little tentative. I know when I get cut I’m going to see my own blood, but that makes me work harder.”

“It blurred my vision a lot,” Diaz said. “It was just coming down, but you’ve got to push through. That’s what I tried to do.”

The real key to victory for Lundy, aside from finishing the fourth round unscathed, was his decision to switch back to southpaw in the fifth, which slowed Diaz's momentum.

"I broke him down a little bit," Lundy said. "They know I'm a switch hitter so when I turned it right-handed I said, 'OK, I'm going to try to go southpaw and try to land that overhand left.'

"I feigned him with the jab, he clinched, and then the left hand came over the top that he didn't see. He was out. [My trainer] Sloan [Harrison] has been helping me turn those punches over. Everyone on the Lundy team has been working hard and that's what we've been doing – turning those punches over."

"My mistake was going to my right," Diaz said. "I should've gone to my left and stayed away from the left hand that was coming."

Friday's loss will temporarily stall Diaz's comeback attempt as he aims for his second world title in the lightweight division, but he's willing to continue fighting and, perhaps, step back into the ring with Lundy for another shot at the NABF belt.

"I would love to have a rematch if he would accept it," Diaz said. "This is boxing. [Stuff] happens. You get hit, you get hurt, you get cut – if you don't, then it's not boxing. Back in the old days, guys used to get knocked out everyday and come back in a month or two and start fighting again, so it's no big deal."

Lundy, meanwhile, is once again aiming for the top of the 135-pound division, patiently waiting for his opportunity to showcase his talents in front of a worldwide audience. With another impressive win in the books, a shot at a world title might be looming on the horizon.

"You know what? Any guys in the 135-pound division that's willing to fight me – [Robert] Guerrero, any of these top guys – let's go," Lundy said. "If not, I'll go up to 140."

"I was fighting at 140 making a statement. Most of my knockouts came at 140, so I can bang with the big guys. God willing, anybody that comes my way, let's get it. Let's get it."

On the road again ...

NABF champ Lundy seeks first title defense in Diaz's backyard

HAMMOND, Ind. (Aug. 18, 2011) – After catching a glimpse of **David Diaz** in person for the first time, "**Hammerin'**" **Hank Lundy** left Thursday's weigh-in deathly afraid – not for his own well-being, but for that of his opponent.

"He's small!" Lundy said after weighing in at 134.6 pounds in advance of his North American Boxing Federation (NABF) lightweight title defense against Diaz **Friday, Aug. 19th, 2011** in the 10-round co-feature of ESPN's "Friday Night Fights" season finale at the at The Venue At Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Ind., presented by Hitz Entertainment in association with Banner Promotions.

"I'm generally used to fighting bigger guys and this guy is small. I'm scared of what might happen because I'm used to fighting bigger guys. I was thinking before what I've got to do. Now, it's a no-brainer. I'm scared for him!"

Diaz (36-3-1, 17 KOs), 35, a former world champion from Chicago who held the World Boxing Council (WBC) lightweight title from 2006 to 2008 before losing it to **Manny Pacquiao**, weighed in at 134.4 pounds Thursday at the Horseshoe Casino. He's in the midst of his second comeback following a 10-month layoff and

has an extensive resume that includes wins over former five-time world champion **Erik Morales** and former World Boxing Organization (WBO) junior welterweight champion **Ener Julio**.

Asked if his experience will be the deciding factor in Friday's fight against Lundy (20-1-1, 10 KOs), Diaz said, "I hope it is! I feel real good. I did the workouts and did the rounds with the young bucks. We're ready. We feel good. [Friday] will take care of itself."

Diaz is coming off a win against **Robert Frankel** in January while Lundy is in search of his third consecutive victory since losing his North American Boxing Organization (NABO) title to **John Molina Jr.** in July of 2009. He rebounded from that loss with a win over **Omri Lowther** two months later on ESPN and then captured the vacant NABF title with a hard-fought win over **Patrick Lopez**, a two-time Olympian (2000 and 2004) for the Venezuelan national team.

"The only fight I saw of him that I thought was good was the Patrick Lopez one," Diaz said. "He looked awesome in that fight. It's going to be a tough fight and that's what I want. I want a tough fight because I want to see for myself where I'm at and whether or not I belong with the best in the world."

While Diaz might have doubts, Lundy is as confident as ever, especially after standing toe-to-toe with his 5-foot-6 opponent at Thursday's weigh-in. As always, the ultimate goal for the Philadelphia native is to win a world championship, and a convincing win over Diaz on boxing's biggest stage would move him one step closer.

"I'm ready to fight and do what I do – put on a good show and take my title back to Philly," Lundy said. "Whoever wants to step up and fight me for my belt, let's do it. Whoever gets in that ring in front of me is in for trouble, because you're standing in my way."

"Watch out. 'Hammerin'" Hank ain't playing. I'm on a mission and, like I said, 'Hammerin'" Hank is coming to a city and town near you. You never know where I'm going to pop up. I'm always on the road. Poppa is a rolling stone!"

"Hopefully, my experience will help me in this fight," Diaz said. "You have to draw back on your old arsenal to see what happens."

Calling all champs Lundy predicts win over Diaz on ESPN; aims for title shot in 2011

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (Aug. 3, 2011) – He's won 10 of his last 11 fights since 2008, captured two lightweight titles, fought in front of a worldwide audience four times in 16 months and is now ranked among the Top 20 in two major sanctioning bodies, yet Philadelphia's "**Hammerin'" Hank Lundy** still hasn't gotten the call to fight for a world title.

"I'm knocking at the door," said Lundy, who's promoted by Jimmy Burchfield's Classic Entertainment & Sports. "I'll fight anybody they put in front of me. What more do I have to do to show these guys I'm one of the top fighters in the world?"



The answer might come **Friday, Aug. 19th, 2011** when Lundy defends his North American Boxing Federation (NABF) lightweight title against former world champion **David Diaz** in the 10-round co-feature of ESPN's "Friday Night Fights" telecast at The Venue At Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Ind., presented by Hitz Entertainment in association with Banner Promotions.

This will be Lundy's first title defense since capturing the belt in a win over **Patrick Lopez** on April 1st and his fifth consecutive bout on "Friday Night Fights" since April of 2010. A win over Diaz (36-3-1, 17 KOs), whose resume includes victories against former five-time world champion **Erik Morales** and former World Boxing Organization (WBO) junior welterweight champion **Ener Julio** in addition to a grueling battle against pound-for-pound king **Manny Pacquiao**, would boost Lundy (20-1-1, 10 KOs) in the lightweight rankings and possibly lead to a major title shot by the end of the year.

"[World Boxing Association and WBO interim lightweight champion] **Robert Guerrero**, [WBA and WBO lightweight super champion] **Juan Manuel Marquez** – I can beat those guys," Lundy said. "If they will give me a shot and let me prove my talent, I guarantee I will wipe them out with no problem."

Until then, Lundy must deal with Diaz, who's in the midst of his second comeback following a 10-month layoff. Diaz returned to the ring in January with a majority-decision win over **Robert Frankel**. The 35-year-old Chicago native originally left boxing for more than a year following his knockout loss to Pacquiao in 2008, which, at the time, earned Pacquiao his fifth world title in five different weight classes (he's since accomplished the feat in eight separate weight classes).

Lundy is seeking his third consecutive win since losing his North American Boxing Organization (NABO) title to **John Molina Jr.** in July of 2009. He rebounded from that loss with a win over **Omri Lowther** two months later on ESPN and then captured the vacant NABF title with a hard-fought win over Lopez, a two-time Olympian (2000 and 2004) for the Venezuelan national team.

"I feel like Patrick Lopez was the toughest fight I ever had and I handled him well," said Lundy, who won the fight by scores of 99-91, 97-92 and 95-94. "I'm not sleeping on Diaz, but he's 35 years old, has no knockout punch and no defense.

"When he fought Pacquiao, he got hit with everything except the kitchen sink. He comes right at you, but it's not like I'm going to go in there and brawl with him. I'm a smart, intelligent fighter with youth on my side. I'm going to break him down. He's a southpaw, and I plan on fighting southpaw because the one thing I've noticed about southpaws is they don't like to deal with other southpaws."

Lundy is ranked 15th in the International Boxing Federation (IBF), 29th in the International Boxing Organization (IBO) and 16th in the World Boxing Council (WBC), while Diaz is 21st in the WBC, 7th in the WBO and 4th in the IBO. Diaz held the WBC lightweight title from 2006 to 2008 before losing to Pacquiao and then failed in his attempt to recapture the belt in a unanimous-decision loss to **Humberto Soto** (56-7-2, 32 KOs) in March of 2010 – just six months after he beat former world champion **Jesus Chavez** in Chicago.

"My southpaw side is my natural side, and when I hit him he's going to feel it," Lundy said. "I'm going to stick to the game plan and do what I need to do. I know Diaz will try to wear me down. That's what these fighters do today. They let you take the early rounds and try to wear you down, but everyone who's faced me knows I'm in great shape, so I won't be worn down.

"Everyone I've fought, I've exposed. Even in the loss to Molina, I beat myself. That's why he's running from me. Molina is scared of me. If you look at the scorecards, I was beating him every round, and what people don't know is I was sick as a dog and I still fought anyway. That's the heart of a champion. That fight made me even more dangerous. These other champions know it and that's why they won't step in the ring with me."

Lundy's title defense against Diaz is part of a dynamic card featuring the 12-round main event rematch between light welterweight **Ruslan Provodnikov** (19-1, 13 KOs) and **Mauricio Herrera** (18-7, 7 KOs) of Lake Elsinore, Calif., who also fought in the main event of ESPN's first telecast of the season with Herrera pulling off the upset. Tickets are available through www.fanfueled.com or www.thevenue-chicago.com starting at \$30.

"Showtime is back on the 19th," Lundy said, "and 'Hammerin'" Hank is out to prove to the world that I'm one of the most legitimate 135-pounders in the world. I'm not to be played with. Once again, I'm putting my belt on the line and running and ducking from nobody. The champions in my weight class need to do the same."

Jimmy Burchfield's Classic Entertainment & Sports
1052 Charles Street, Suite 1 North Providence, RI 02904
Office: 401/724-2253/2254 Fax: 401-723-2216