

The Preview: 'The Coronation'

Shervontaigh Koopman will take another step in his blossoming boxing career when he challenges Usman Lima for the IBO Junior Middleweight title under the lights at Emperors Palace, Kempton Park, Johannesburg on Saturday, 31 May 2025, a tournament brought in courtesy of Golden Gloves Promotions.

Koopman, a Germiston born, who turned thirty-one (31) earlier this month (16 May), is undefeated in fifteen (15) bouts vacated his SA Junior Middleweight to focus on his international career. He soon added the IBO Intercontinental title to the IBF Africa title. He would now want to do what his stablemate Roarke Knapp could not do, win the IBO world title.

Koopman knows that Portugal based Angolan, Uisma "Montro" Lima (32), the champion will not be a walk in the park, as he showed back in December when he defended his belt for the first time that he is a force to be reckon with.

Uisma Lima (full name Uisma Dos Ramos Lima) has lost one out of fourteen (14) bouts, his last loss coming against Aaron McKenna in June 2023.

Supporting bout

Mdantsane born, Siyakholwa Kuse will have his first fight under the training of Vusi Mtolo having left East London for Johannesburg earlier this year.

Coincidentally, his new trainer Mtolo was in the opposite corner the last time out when Kuse defeated Mtolo trained Bevan Sibanda in what was an entertaining bout back in December 2024.

The fight gives Kuse an opportunity to consolidate his high WBC rating and to ensure he is next in line to challenge for prestigious WBC world title.

Only three (3) South African boxer have won the WBC title and all three were in the higher divisions, two (2) Supermiddleweight and recently, Kevin Lerena in the Bridgerweight division.

Kuse a top-class amateur boxer represented South Africa at the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2017 where he came back with a bronze medal.

He vacated the SA title on winning the WBC Silver against Bevan Sibanda. He will come up against an aggressive, Samuel Salva from the Philippines.' A winner of the bout will be in the line to fight a final eliminator for Melvin Jerusalem's world title, a chance Kuse is craving for. Kuse is aware that Salva presents his toughest opponent yet.

Other notable bouts on the evening

4 Rounds Featherweight Female Bout

Saarah Karriem vs Zwidofhelangani Millicent Nemutandani

4 Rounds Featherweight Female Bout 2

Tyla Promnick vs Zanele Masilela

4 Rounds Featherweight Bout 3

Senele Sogcwayi vs Siphesihle Nkoma

6 Rounds Middleweight Bout 4

Darrin Rossouw vs Morgan Hunter

8 Rounds International Heavyweight Bout 5

Juan Alberts vs Denzel Onyango Okoth (Kenya)

Best wishes to all the fighters!

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