



GYM signs Canadian Olympian Custio Clayton To make pro debut Dec. 19 in Quebec City

MONTREAL (Nov. 28, 2014) -- The best amateur boxer in Canada for more than five years, Custio Clayton, has signed a long-term agreement with Groupe Yvon Michel Inc. (GYM).

The leader of the Canadian National Team in recent years, Clayton captured six national titles. He represented Canada at many international tournaments including the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi and in 2014 in Glasgow, in 2013 World Championships in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and 2011 in Baku, Azerbaijan, highlighted by his participation in the 2012 Olympics in London.

Clayton is best remembered for becoming first Canadian boxer to win two Olympic matches since silver-medalist David Defiagbon at 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. After disposing of Oscar Molina, of Mexico, and Cameron Hammond, of Australia, Clayton lost a 14-14 tiebreaker to the eventual silver medalist, Welsh Fred Evans, depriving Clayton of an Olympic medal by the tiniest margin. In 2013, the AIBA ranked him the No. 6 welterweight (152 lbs., 69 kg.).

Bernard Barré, head of recruitment at GYM, has only the highest praise for Clayton. "Since the inception of our organization, he said, "we made a point to sign the greatest Canadian boxers. Clayton is part of this group that, before him, includes Adonis Stevenson, Jean Pascal and Andrew Kooner. Custio Clayton developed into the star of the Canadian National Team during his amateur career at a small gym with limited Nova Scotia resources. In this context his amateur trainer, Gary Johnson, did miraculous works. We are convinced that, in his new framework, Clayton will develop his full potential and achieve great success."



Clayton, 27, is delighted to join GYM: "Signing with GYM, led by Yvon Michel, is what I've always wanted," Clayton commented. "I am very proud he has given me this opportunity. I had six concrete offers, including two from the US, but I am convinced that my chances of success are best with GYM, one of the best and proven organizations in the world."

Team Clayton also includes his manager, Dougy Berneche, and Canadian National Team coach Daniel Trépanier. They will provide Clayton with all of the required specialists for his professional career. He recently moved to Montreal and his family will join him there in early 2015.

His first professional fight will take place December 19 at the Quebec City Coliseum. His opponent will be announced shortly. He will fight as super welterweight (154 lbs.) division.

"Custio is already a very mature boxer who will quickly go through the steps and end up in the world elite of his division before long," Berneche added. "Making his pro debut on a program headlined by world champion Adonis "Superman" Stevenson defending his crown, also featuring future superstar Artur Beterbiev and Andre Dirrell on the same card being televised by the prestigious boxing network, Showtime, will be inspiring for Custio to start his pro career in style."

The next GYM event will take place Dec. 19 at the Pepsi Coliseum in Quebec City. Tickets are on sale at Pepsi Coliseum box office in Quebec (418-691-7211) or by calling 1 (800) 900-7469, GYM at (514) 383-0666 and Champion Boxing

Club (514) 376-0980, and online at www.billetech.com, Ticket prices range from \$25 to \$ 250 on the floor.

ABOUT GROUPE YVON MICHEL, Inc. (FYM): GYM was founded in 2004. The organization's mission is the development of high-level boxers by supportive coaching and especially by management competition. To achieve its objectives GYM actively recruits talent and organizes major events. Since its founding 10 years ago, GYM produced 118 events, including two history making in terms of ticket sales and PPV viewers, Pascal vs. Hopkins I and II. GYM has produced more than 300 hours of TV Canal Indigo, Bell TV, Shaw TV, TVA Sports, VOX, TVA, CBC, RDS and V, Canada, as well as HBO, Showtime and ESPN in the USA. A total of seven different GYM boxers have participated in 21 world title fights. Under the tutelage of GYM, Joachim Alcine captured the WBA super welterweight in 2007 and two years later, Jean Pascal captured the WBC Light Heavyweight title. Since June 2013, Adonis "Superman" Stevenson has held the WBC and The Ring Magazine light heavyweight title and he remains the lineal 175-pound division champion. Stevenson was also selected appointed as the 2013 Fighter of the Year by "The Ring", Sports Illustrated and many other publications.

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