

# Inside the Maskaev Camp!

Peter fight confirmed for March 8th

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By [Matt Richardson](#)

In seven weeks WBC heavyweight champion Oleg Maskaev and his team will get on a plane, fly down to Cancun, Mexico and weigh-in for Maskaev's second title defense against Samuel Peter. The next night Maskaev will climb the stairs to the ring, listen to the referee's final instructions and proceed to get knocked out by Samuel Peter.



Photo: Matt Richardson

Or at least that seems to be the general consensus.

But Maskaev doesn't seem to have got the message. Neither, for that matter, has his trainer, Victor Valle Jr. or his promoter Dennis Rappaport. Ditto for Maskaev's manager, Fred Kesch.

As Maskaev trains daily in the mountains of the Pocono's in Pennsylvania a quiet confidence radiates from the boxer and his team. Maybe it's because Peter looked so susceptible last October in a win over Jameel McCline. Maybe it's because Maskaev is healthy, a serious concern after herniated and bulging discs in his back forced him to pull out of an earlier date. Or maybe it's because, at 38 years old, Maskaev is finally coming into his own as a fighter and as a champion.

It doesn't hurt that he finally knows when and where he will be fighting too.

"It was confusing for me," Maskaev, 34-5, 26 KO's said about the myriad attempts to re-schedule the bout post-injury. "But once again I was training, sparring, doing my job as I always do and I'm alright. I told Dennis, 'Don't tell me anything that's happening right now because I know you're staying on top of it. I'm going to do my job; you're going to do your job. This way, we're going to perform. If something comes up, we're going to sit down and decide.'"

According to Maskaev his back is now feeling better. This, Maskaev says, is due to New York-based doctor David Cuccia and the "Extentrac Elite," a machine specially designated to deal with the type of back pain Maskaev encountered. "It's a miracle machine," Rappaport said. "I've never seen anything like it. It's

done wonders for Oleg.

"It works beautiful," said Maskaev. "I have no complaints."

"He's a hundred percent now," said Rappaport. "He was having problems for a while then he injured himself running and we took him for the MRI. The MRI showed two herniated discs and a bulging disc. And we didn't even say this, so most people don't even know, but he had a bruise on his ankle also. There was just no time. He wanted to fight but there was no way we could've done it. He couldn't have sparred; he couldn't have done anything for that matter of time."

Now that Maskaev has recuperated he is back training full time at the Fernwood resort, the usual site for his training camps. He is a hard critic of his own work, despite boxing well over five, four minute rounds with his sparring partners. Maskaev has been training on and off for the fight for over a year but has been back in camp steadily since December 5. Kesch, meanwhile, is busy trying to secure a new training camp site to acclimate the fighter to conditions he will encounter once he reaches Mexico.