

Mumbai Fighters take on Bangkok Elephants in last home match

MUMBAI: The last group match of Venky's Mumbai Fighters on Friday sees them take on Bangkok Elephants at home with one last shot at entering the Quarterfinals of World Series Boxing (WSB) season 2011-12.

The home teams have put forward five foreign boxers in this now-or-never match.

For the first time in this season, the Fighters will enter the ring with all foreign boxers, namely from Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Israel, Belarus and New Zealand respectively in categories from Bantamweight to Heavyweight.

The match against the Bangkok Elephants poses an ideal opportunity for the Fighters to earn much required points to keep its hopes of entering the play-offs. At present, the Venky's Mumbai Fighters is placed 5th in group A with 8 points followed by Bangkok Elephants at the bottom with 1 point. Top four teams from the group will enter the Quarterfinals. At number four is Los Angeles Matadors with 10 points, at number two and three are Astana Arlans and Dynamo Moscow with 16 points each and at number one in the group is Dolce & Gabbana Milano Thunder with 18 points.

The Fighters are looking forward to topple the Matadors from number four. Fighters are still to play three matches, the upcoming against Bangkok Elephants, followed by Los Angeles Matadors on February 13 and Astana Arlans on February 17. Mumbai Fighters had earned walk-over against Bangkok Elephants in the away match.

Bangkok Elephants, on the other hand, have managed to win only 2 bouts so far in the series. Hence, statistically, the Fighters stand better chance of earning points against Bangkok Elephants and Astana Arlans.

The last group match in Mumbai is expected to draw a large crowd of boxing fan followers along with the Bollywood celebrities. Crowd favorite Uaine Fa will enter the ring in the Heavyweight category. Fa has already earned a lot of reputation by winning his debut match for the Fighters in the previous match against Dynamo Moscow in Mumbai.

Uaine Fa said, "I surprised myself in my debut to be honest. This time around I am prepared to make it better."

The Venky's Mumbai Fighters' Team Director, Joe Clough on selection of five boxers for this match said, "It's a mere co-incidence that all boxers fighting are not from India. All of them have made the cut on merit."