

Alvarez to fight at Sovereign Bank Arena

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

TRENTON — Philadelphia has long been a fertile breeding ground for some of the world's best fighters, both real and fictional — boxers like "Smokin'" Joe Frazier and Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins, not to mention Sly Stallone's Rocky Balboa.

The "City of Brotherly Love" is also home to one of America's toughest mixed martial arts fighters, Eddie Alvarez, of the Kensington section of Philadelphia. Alvarez will fight Matt Lee at the Sovereign Bank Arena on Saturday, July 14 at 7:30 p.m.

With lightning fast hooks, Alvarez, the 23-year-old product of Philadelphia's Fight Factory, is one of the most marketable young fighters on the MMA scene.

"I think I was born to fight," said Alvarez. "I grew up in Kensington, which is a working-class neighborhood in Philly known for fighting, so it's been around me my whole life."

Alvarez, who began his pro career in December, 2003, first entered a Bodog Fight with an undefeated record of 7-0 with six KOs in December of 2006. At Bodog Fight: USA vs. Russia in Vancouver, Canada, Alvarez battled Aaron Riley for the vacant Bodog Fight Welterweight Title.

Riley succumbed to the powerful strikes of Alvarez in just 65 seconds as Alvarez became Bodog Fight's welterweight champion.

Alvarez's first setback came in St. Petersburg, Russia, at Bodog Fight: Clash of the Nations, where he was matched up against Nick "The Goat" Thompson. Thompson, using his reach advantage to keep Alvarez at bay, floored the champ with a left hand late in the second round to take the title from Alvarez.

In addition to the headline fight between Alvarez and Lee, the event card also features two cham-

pionship bouts — a middleweight title fight between Trevor Prangley and Yuki Kondo, and a women's 135-pound championship bout between New Jersey's Tara LaRosa and New York's Laura D'Auguste.

