



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 3, 2011

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## **JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET AND SHARK FIGHTS PRESENT SHARK FIGHTS 18**

Reno/Sparks, Nev. -- John Ascuaga's Nugget announces their first professional Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fight, Shark Fight 18 on August 19, 2011. The main event pairs popular Ultimate Fighter and UFC vet Shane Nelson (13-5) against former King of the Cage Champion Aaron Wetherspoon (8-3).

Ultimate Fighter 8 contestant Shane Nelson, coached by two-time UFC Champion BJ Penn, holds notable wins over George Roop and a 44- second TKO over Aaron Riley in the UFC. Nelson is coming off a 15-month layoff with a submission victory over Jai Bradney in Australia.

Former KOTC Champion Aaron Wetherspoon spent his past two years away from the sport and made his return with a decision victory over Nick Reale. Wetherspoon was the longest reigning KOTC Welter Weight Champion and holds notable victories over Jeremiah Metcalf, Laverne Clark, and Thomas Kenny.

The co-main event features 6'6 BJJ black belt sensation Ricky Shivers (10-5-1) against hard hitting Kings MMA star Emanuel Newton (15-6-1). In Shivers last fight, he finished KOTC vet Tony Lopez with a first round arm bar. Both fighters are on a three fight win streak. Shivers has finished his last three opponents via submission and Newton is coming off a hard fought decision victory over Ilir Latifi at Shark Fights 17.

Shark Fights 18 also features BJJ World Champion and Blackhouse Team Nogueira fighter Adriano Camolese (4-1), King of the Cage vet Ruben "Warpath" Villareal (19-21-3), and knockout artist Dave Huckaba (15-4). Camolese is the training partner of UFC superstars Antonio Nogueira, Anderson Silva, and Junior Dos Santos. Warpath and Huckaba have made their names synonymous with knockouts. Warpath has finished eleven of his nineteen fights via knockout and Huckaba has thirteen knockouts in fifteen victories.

Shark Fights 18 will take place on Friday, August 19, 2011 at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel and Casino Resort in Sparks, Nevada and will be broadcast via tape delay on Fuel TV beginning September 2. Doors Open at 6pm PST. Fights start at 7pm PST.

Tickets are \$60 for ringside, \$45 for front floor and \$35 for floor seats. Visit [janugget.com](http://janugget.com) or call 800-648-1177 for tickets and information.

Tickets are also available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) and all Ticketmaster retail locations, IFC Gym, and [carnaldammage.com](http://carnaldammage.com). For more information, or current Shark Fights news, please visit [www.sharkfights.com](http://www.sharkfights.com) or [www.facebook.com/sharkfights](http://www.facebook.com/sharkfights). Fight card subject to change. This fight is presented by Richard Steele Promotions, Inc. in association with Shark fight Promotions, LLC.

John Ascuaga's Nugget is one of the few family-owned casino resorts left in the country. Founded as a coffee shop with a few slot machines on March 17, 1955, John Ascuaga has built the Nugget into a world-class, full-service gaming resort destination.