



**Leo Santa Cruz Defends Title Against Chris Avalos;  
Abner Mares Takes On Andres Gutierrez in Title Match as  
Pair of Featherweight Showdowns Set the Stage for  
Santa Cruz vs. Mares Rematch**

**Presented by Premier Boxing Champions Live On FOX &  
FOX Deportes from StubHub Center in Carson, Calif., On  
Saturday, October 14**

**Tickets on Sale Now!**

CARSON, CALIF. (September 5, 2017) – Sensational three-division champion Leo “El Terremoto” Santa Cruz will defend his featherweight world title against Chris Avalos, while four-time world champion Abner Mares defends his 126-pound championship against once-beaten Andres Gutierrez at StubHub Center in Carson, Calif. on a show presented by Premier Boxing Champions live on FOX and FOX Deportes on Saturday, October 14. Televised coverage begins at 7:30 p.m. ET/4:30 p.m. PT.

If Santa Cruz and Mares win their respective matches, they have both agreed to terms to meet in a highly anticipated rematch for the WBA featherweight title in early 2018. Santa Cruz won a hard-fought, narrow decision against Mares in a 2015 Fight of the Year candidate that saw the two men go toe-to-toe for 12 fast-paced rounds and combine for over 2,000 punches thrown.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by Ringstar Promotions and TGB Promotions, are priced at \$30, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$150, and \$250 and are on sale now. To purchase tickets, visit AXS.com [HERE](#).

“Leo Santa Cruz and Abner Mares are two of the best featherweight champions in boxing and to have them both fighting on the same card is a treat for boxing fans,” said Tom Brown, President of TGB Promotions. “Against Avalos, Santa Cruz will have the opportunity to demonstrate why he’s considered one of the most skilled and durable

fighters in the division and in his first defense since winning the title Mares can expect a rugged challenge from Gutierrez, who has only lost once in his career and by a close decision.”

“This is going to be a jam-packed afternoon of can’t-miss action for boxing fans in Southern California,” said Richard Schaefer, Chairman & CEO of Ringstar Sports. “StubHub Center brings out the best in fighters and I expect that to continue when Leo Santa Cruz and Abner Mares defend their titles against two hungry challengers in Chris Avalos and Andres Gutierrez. Ringstar Sports, along with TGB Promotions, are looking forward to putting together an exciting card full of future stars and compelling bouts for the great fans at StubHub Center and watching on FOX and FOX Deportes.”

Santa Cruz (33-1-1, 18 KOs) established himself as one of the top featherweights in the world in matches against Mares and Carl Frampton. Cruz lost a close decision to Frampton in 2016 and avenged the loss with a decision victory on Jan. 28 in Las Vegas. The 29-year-old was unbeaten in his first 33 pro fights on his way to world titles at 118, 122 and 126-pounds. With a victory over Avalos, Santa Cruz, who fights out of Los Angeles, will cement his hold on featherweight supremacy and stay on the path to that showdown with Mares.

“I’m excited to get back in the ring,” said Santa Cruz. “I’ve been working hard in camp and it’s great to be back in the gym. Chris Avalos is a tough contender who’s fought the best in the division. I love my fans and I’m planning on giving them a great show. I never overlook any opponent, but my plan is to put on a great performance, and then give fans more exciting fights against Abner Mares and Carl Frampton. I’m ready to prove I’m the best featherweight in the world.”

Fighting out of Lancaster, California, Avalos (27-5, 20 KOs) will be vying for a featherweight title for the first time. He came up short in his other world championship bout, losing the 122-pound world championship Carl Frampton via knockout in 2015. In his most recent bout, Avalos scored a TKO victory over Miguel Flores when the fight was stopped on cuts in the fifth round on July 18 in the main event on FS1 and FOX Deportes.

“I grew up with Leo Santa Cruz, so I know how to fight him,” said Avalos. “We did a lot of sparring wearing headgear as amateurs, and I put a hurting on him back in the day. I’m not scared. I’m ready to fight. I know in the back of his mind, he’ll be thinking about that. I know I’m the underdog, but I’m not scared. I have a game plan and I know I’m going to win. I’ve fought two champions and lost to Carl Frampton and Oscar Valdez, but I’m a much better fighter and I’m more focused now than I was for those fights. I’ve got the opportunity I’ve been waiting for and I’m going to take full advantage of it.”

Mares (30-2-1, 15 KOs) has fought some of the best competition between the 118-126 pound divisions and has claimed world titles in three different weight classes during his pro career. The 31-year-old climbed back into the championship ranks in December of 2016 by dropping featherweight Jesus Cuellar in a hard-fought, narrow decision victory. Born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico and fighting out of Robert Garcia's gym in Riverside, Calif., Mares has taken down former champions Daniel Ponce De Leon, Joseph Agbeko and Anselmo Moreno in a career that dates back to his time representing Mexico at the 2004 Olympics.

"I'm excited to be getting back in the ring on October 14 at StubHub in Los Angeles on FOX and FOX Deportes," Mares said. "My fans will once again see the boxing style and strength that won me my WBA Featherweight title in December. I'm stronger, faster and committed to keeping that title and taking the others. My opponent is a strong challenger and we will bring an action filled fight for boxing fans. I am the people's warrior and a boxer they can believe in. You don't want to miss this fight."

The 24-year-old Gutierrez (35-1-1, 25 KOs) suffered the first loss of his career when he dropped a narrow decision to tough veteran Cristian Mijares last year. That interrupted a 16-fight win streak that included nine knockouts and began after he fought to a draw with Jesus Ruiz in 2011. Gutierrez, of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, was set to fight Carl Frampton in a title eliminator in July, but the fight was called off when Gutierrez fell in his bathroom in Belfast, Ireland and broke his nose, lost two teeth and cut his chin.

"I am coming to destroy Abner Mares," said Gutierrez. "I am in great shape and I'm very hungry to get in the ring and prove I'm one of the best in the world. I will be world champion and reach my dreams on October 14."

## **Leo Santa Cruz**

Nickname - Terremoto

Height – 5-7

Weight – 126 (Featherweight)

Date of Birth – August 10, 1988

Hometown – Los Angeles, CA

Pro Record – 33-1-1 (18 KOs)

28-year-old Leo “El Terremoto” Santa Cruz reached a high point of his young career on August 29, 2015 when he defeated fellow Mexican-American star Abner Mares in a thrilling scrap in front of a lively STAPLES Center crowd in Los Angeles.

After suffering his first defeat in July 2016, Santa Cruz reclaimed his WBA featherweight title in his rematch with Irish superstar Carl Frampton in January 2017. The two put on another thrilling bout at MGM Grand in Las Vegas after their July bout at Barclays Center immediately garnered “Fight of the Year” buzz.

The crushing puncher had sent 15 of his last 19 opponents down to knockout defeats prior to the Mares that fight. In his first world title defense at 126-pounds, he stopped former champion Kiko Martinez in the fifth-round in February of this year.

In March of 2011, Santa Cruz earned his first pro title when he knocked out 20-2 Stephane Jamoye with a body shot in the sixth round to win an interim youth world bantamweight crown, and on June 2, 2012, he became a world champion when he decisively defeated Vusi Malinga for the bantamweight world title, the first of two divisional crowns he has earned thus far.

The younger brother of former interim world lightweight champion Jose Armando Santa Cruz, “Terremoto” followed his sibling into the gym, and his talent was evident almost immediately. Add in his power and work ethic, and it was clear that Santa Cruz had the right stuff to make it big in the fight game.

Turning pro on October 13, 2006 with a second round knockout of Pedro Silva, Santa Cruz was extended to a draw in his second bout three months later against Rodrigo Hernandez, but since then, no one has come close to beating him.

Willing to test himself against the best available competition, Santa Cruz put together a string of wins over veterans like Jose Bernal and Juan Beltran, as well as fellow prospects Jonathan Velardez and James Owens. This on the job training put him in good stead when he faced Jamoye in Veracruz, Mexico, on March 26, 2011, as he fought like a seasoned pro in winning his first pro title.

But he was just getting started, as he knocked out longtime contender Jose Lopez in just five rounds three months later, and followed that defining victory up with stoppages of Everth Briceno (TKO 11), Jorge Romero (TKO 3), and Alejandro Hernandez (TKO 4). But one of his most impressive outings was yet to come, as he scored a near-shutout win over Malinga to earn his first world title.

On September 15, 2012, Santa Cruz was at his ferocious best against former world champion Eric Morel in Las Vegas, and he stopped the Puerto Rican star in five rounds,

not just successfully defending his title, but handing Morel the first knockout loss of his career.

Santa Cruz returned to action on November 10 with another ultra-exciting outing, as he dropped courageous challenger Victor Zuleta three times before finishing him off in the ninth round. But the young champion's year wasn't over yet, as he won a 12 round unanimous decision over unbeaten Alberto Guevara in a December 15 bout televised on CBS network television.

The successful title defense, his third, would also be his last at 118 pounds, as Santa Cruz moved four pounds north to the super bantamweight class on May 4, 2013, stopping Alexander Munoz in five rounds at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

That impressive victory earned Santa Cruz a shot at a second divisional world title on August 24, 2013 at the StubHub Center in Carson, California and he took the super bantamweight championship with his third round knockout of Victor Terrazas.

He made the first defense of his title on December 14, 2013, winning a hard-fought 12 round unanimous decision over Puerto Rico's Cesar Seda, a performance he followed up on March 8, 2014 with a wide unanimous decision victory over veteran Cristian Mijares.

More knockouts followed for Santa Cruz as he demolished Manuel Roman in the second round when "Terremoto" fought as the co-main event on the pay-per-view undercard for MAYHEM: Mayweather vs. Maidana 2. He followed that up by earning an eighth-round knockout over Jesus Ruiz in January 2015 and a victory over Jose Cayetano on the Mayweather vs. Pacquiao pay-per-view undercard in May.

## CHRIS AVALOS

### QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Christopher Matthew Avalos
- **Height** – 5-7
- **Weight** – 126 (Featherweight)
- **Date of Birth** – November 5, 1989
- **Hometown** – Lancaster, California
- **Record** – 27-5-1, (15 KOs)

### BACKGROUND

- Began boxing at age 11 in Lancaster with the encouragement of his father Felipe

### PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in February 2008 with a stoppage victory over Juan Guerrero
- Unbeaten in his first 16 pro fights including 13 by stoppage
- Won six straight fights, including title eliminator against Yasutaka Ishimoto, before challenging Carl Frampton for 122-pound title in February 2015
- Defeated Rey Perez before challenging Oscar Valdez for a featherweight title in September 2015
- Beat once-beaten contender Miguel Flores by stoppage on cuts in their July 2017 bout

### AMATEUR CAREER

- 96-14 amateur record
- Silver Gloves, Golden Gloves, PAL, Ringside & Junior Olympic Champion as an amateur
- Lost in finals of Olympic trials while trying to qualify for 2008 Mexican Olympic team

## ABNER MARES

### QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Abner Mares Martinez
- **Height** – 5-5
- **Weight** – 126 (Featherweight)
- **Date of Birth** – November 28, 1985
- **Hometown** – Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico
- **Record** – 30-2-1, (15 KOs)

### BACKGROUND

- One of 11 brothers
- Began boxing at age seven, his father fought professionally

### PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in January 2005 with a second-round TKO over Luis Malave
- In 2010, fought to a draw with Yonhhy Perez in his first world title fight
- Defeated Joseph Agbeko in 2011 for the IBF Bantamweight World Title
- Defeated Erik Morel in 2012 to win the WBC Super Bantamweight World Title
- Defeated Daniel Ponce De Leon in 2013 to win the WBC Featherweight World Title
- Suffered his first loss to Jhonny Gonzalez in 2013, but has bounced back beating Jonathan Oquendo and Jose Ramirez since
- Defeated Arturo Santos Reyes in 2015 before dropping a close and thrilling contest to unbeaten Leo Santa Cruz
- Won a world title by dropping and winning a unanimous decision over Jesus Cuellar in December 2016

### AMATEUR CAREER

- 112-8 amateur record
- 2004 Mexican Olympian
- 2004 World Junior Championships Silver Medalist
- 2003 Pan American Games Silver Medalist
- 2002 Central American & Caribbean Games Gold Medalist
- 2002 World Cadet Championships Gold Medalist

### SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Twitter** - @AbnerMares
- **Instagram** – AbnerMares
- **Facebook** – Facebook.com/Abner.Mares1

## ANDRES GUTIERREZ

### QUICK FACTS

- **Full Name** – Andres Gutierrez Vera
- **Height** – 5-6
- **Weight** – 126 (Featherweight)
- **Date of Birth** – July 8, 1993
- **Hometown** – Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico
- **Record** – 35-1-1, (25 KOs)

### PRO CAREER

- Turned pro in January 2009 with a victory over Victor Orozco
- Scored stoppage victories in 12 of his first 14 pro fights
- Stopped veteran Genaro Camargo in the fifth-round of their May 2011 bout
- Made his U.S. debut in September 2012 with a decision victory over Carlos Valcarcel
- Has won eight fights since the start of 2014 including victories over Mario Antonio Macias, Jhon Gemino and Daniel Diaz
- Most recently delivered a sixth-round stoppage of Wallington Orobio