

# LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT STARS SET FOR EXPLOSIVE BATTLE OF UNBEATENS!

MEXICAN STAR & TWO-TIME WORLD CHAMPION DAVID BENAVIDEZ MEETS CUBAN SENSATION & TWO-TIME CHAMPION DAVID MORRELL JR. HEADLINING A PBC PAY-PER-VIEW EVENT ON PRIME VIDEO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 FROM T-MOBILE ARENA IN LAS VEGAS

Action-Packed Pay-Per-View Undercard Features WBC Featherweight World Champion Brandon Figueroa Facing Former Unified Champion Stephen Fulton Jr. In Co-Main Event Rematch

Star Fan-Favorite Isaac "Pitbull" Cruz Battles Hard-Charging Contender Angel Fierro in All-Mexican Showdown &

Rising Mexican Star Jesus Ramos Jr. Duels Former Unified Champion Jeison Rosario in Pay-Per-View Opener at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT

Tickets Go on Sale TOMORROW, Wednesday, November 20 at 10 a.m. PT

Pre-Sale Tickets AVAILABLE NOW Until 10 p.m. PT with Code: PBC

**LAS VEGAS – November 19, 2024 –** Interim WBC Light Heavyweight Champion **David "EI Monstro" Benavídez** and WBA Light Heavyweight Champion **David Morrell Jr.** will meet in a battle of unbeatens that pits two of the sport's most exciting fighters against each other in the primes of their careers headlining a PBC Pay-Per-View event on Prime Video taking place Saturday, Feb. 1 from T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas.

The co-main event will see WBC Featherweight World Champion **Brandon "The Heartbreaker" Figueroa** defend his title against former unified world champion **Stephen Fulton Jr.** in a rematch of one of 2021's best fights.

The pay-per-view will also feature Mexican star and former world champion **Isaac "Pitbull" Cruz** facing the hard-charging contender **Angel Fierro** in an all-Mexican super lightweight duel, plus rising Mexican star **Jesus "Mono" Ramos Jr.** battles former unified champion **Jeison Rosario** in a 10-round middleweight fight that opens the pay-per-view at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT.

This lineup features a bevy of the sport's top talent, all topped by a showdown years in the making as Benavídez and Morrell meet with a chance to not only establish themselves as the future of the light heavyweight division, but as a potential force on pound-for-pound lists and one of the faces of the sport for years to come.

In addition to the PPV being available for purchase on Prime Video, regardless of Prime membership, fans will also be able to continue to access the telecast through traditional cable and satellite outlets as well as PPV.com.

Pre-sale tickets are AVAILABLE NOW until 10 p.m. PT through <u>AXS.com</u> by using the code: PBC. The public on sale is scheduled for TOMORROW, Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. PT with tickets available through <u>AXS.com</u>.

The event is promoted by Sampson Boxing and Warriors Boxing.

"I'm very proud to help deliver this fantastic super fight to the fans," said Sampson Lewkowicz of Sampson Boxing. "The boxing world has been anticipating the David Benavidez vs. David Morrell Jr. showdown between these two heated rivals who don't like each other at all, and now it is here on February 1. The stakes will be high and both fighters will be in great shape, as the winner will be an interim unified light heavyweight champion, as well as the final mandatory for the WBC and WBA titles. T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas will be packed for this Mexico vs. Cuba matchup for the ages."

"These are two great fighters going against each other in their primes, what could be better?" said Luis DeCubas Sr. of Warriors Boxing. "This is a fight Morrell has wanted for years and we're very happy that these two great young guys are fighting each other now. It's gonna be the aggressive boxer in Benavídez against the boxer-puncher in Morrell. It could very easily turn into a Hagler vs. Hearns type of fight, because both guys can punch and aren't afraid to trade."

## \*\*DAVID BENAVIDEZ VS. DAVID MORRELL JR.\*\*

The two-time super middleweight world champion **David "El Monstro" Benavídez** will step in to face the toughest opponent of his career in the undefeated Cuban sensation **David Morrell Jr.** in the 12-round main event that will be contested for both Benavidez's Interim WBC Light Heavyweight Title and Morrell's WBA Light Heavyweight Championship belt.

The 27-year-old undefeated Benavídez (29-0, 24 KOs) followed up a standout 2023 campaign by moving up to light heavyweight in 2024 with a dominant unanimous decision victory over the former world champion Oleksandr Gvozdyk in June that earned him his interim title. Benavidez's 2023 began with him besting longtime rival Caleb Plant via unanimous decision in a March slugfest before stopping the previously unbeaten two-division champion Demetrius Andrade in six rounds in November. A Phoenix-native who now trains in Miami, Benavidez became the youngest-ever 168-pound world champion at just 20-years-old when he defeated Ronald Gavril by split decision for the vacant WBC title in 2017. When he was 15 years old, Benavídez went from weighing 250 pounds to a boxing prodigy under the watchful eye of his father and trainer, Jose, Sr., and his brother and veteran contender Jose Jr., as he famously held his own in sparring against middleweight champions Gennady Golovkin and Peter Quillin as a teenager. Benavídez rode a string of six straight knockout victories heading into the bout against Plant, including KOs of former world champions Anthony Dirrell and David Lemieux.

"I can't wait for this challenge on February 1 at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas," said Benavídez. "David Morrell Jr. is a great boxer, but come fight night, I will be the better man and show the world why I'm an elite fighter. I always take on the toughest opponents that are willing to step into the ring with me, because I know that I have to prove myself each and every time. When that bell rings, everyone will see that I'm the best fighter in the world."

A Cuban-native who came to Minneapolis to begin his pro career in 2019, Morrell (11-0, 9 KOs) has quickly shown off the talents that made him a standout in Cuba's storied amateur scene. The 26-year-old also debuted in the light heavyweight division this year after an extended and successful run at super middleweight, defeating Radivoje Kalajdzic by unanimous decision in August to capture his WBA title. Morrell had scored seven-straight knockouts before that fight, including a violent first-round stoppage of Olympic Bronze medalist Yamaguchi Falcao in April 2023 and a second-round destruction of Sena Agbeko in December of that same year. During his super middleweight run, Morrell won an interim title by dominating the then-unbeaten Lennox Allen in August 2020 in just his third pro fight. Now trained in Stafford, Texas by the legendary trainer Ronnie Shields, Morrell will finally get the opportunity to face a top-flight opponent after calling for the opportunity against Benavídez ever since he arrived stateside and began his professional boxing journey.

"This is the fight the fans have been waiting for, and I'm ready to give them a show they'll never forget," said Morrell. "This is two undefeated fighters in their prime, stepping into the ring and giving everything we've got. That's what boxing is all about. Everyone should be getting this pay-per-view, because you're going to see something special. I believe this will go down as one of the most memorable fights in boxing history and I'm excited to make it happen. I'm knocking David Benavídez out!."

### \*\*BRANDON FIGUEROA VS. STEPHEN FULTON JR.\*\*

The 12-round co-main event will see the much-anticipated rematch of a memorable 2021 clash as WBC Featherweight World Champion **Brandon Figueroa** takes on former unified world champion **Stephen Fulton Jr**. Their first showdown was a super bantamweight world title unification that pitted the relentless forward attack of Figueroa against the slick skills of Fulton, with the bout ending in a majority decision for Fulton (116-112 twice and 114-114).

The 27-year-old Figueroa (25-1-1, 19 KOs) was recently elevated to world champion after former champion Rey Vargas was declared champion in recess. Figueroa won the Interim WBC Featherweight Title in a 2023 Fight of the Year contender that saw him score a unanimous

decision over former champion Mark Magsayo. He returned this May to successfully defend his interim title with a ninth-round knockout of former champion Jessie Magdaleno, increasing his winning streak to three straight since the first Fulton fight. A native of Weslaco, Texas, Figueroa's relentless pressure and youthful enthusiasm helped him become the first person to defeat former two-division champion Luis Nery in their May 2021 championship clash, as he stopped Nery with a body shot in round seven. Figueroa added to his family's legacy by capturing the WBC 122-pound world title against Nery, joining his brother Omar Figueroa Jr., who previously held the WBC Lightweight World Championship.

"Training is going great and I'm very excited to return on another big fight card against a championship caliber opponent," said Figueroa. "I expect Fulton to be at his best, but I will go into that ring very prepared to convince everyone who really won the first time. I don't plan on letting it go to the judges this time around."

Born and raised in West Philadelphia, Pa., Fulton (22-1, 8 KOs) made a successful featherweight debut in September, rising from an early knockdown to defeat all-action contender Carlos Castro by decision. It was Fulton's first fight since a July 2023 challenge that saw him travel to Japan to take on undefeated Japanese superstar Naoya Inoue, eventually dropping the road contest in round eight. In his previous 14 professional fights before facing Inoue, the 30-year-old had established himself on pound-for-pound lists by beating eight previously undefeated fighters. Fulton first became a world champion by taking the super bantamweight title from Angelo Leo in January 2021, before unifying against Figueroa. Trained in his hometown, Fulton has displayed sublime boxing skills that have allowed him to dominate opponents of varying styles and control fights from start to finish.

"I'm feeling strong and ready to return to the ring on a wonderful pay-per-view card to win my third world title in my second division," said Fulton. "I expect Figueroa to make it a rough fight, just like he did in the first fight. But everyone saw what happened the first time, so I predict I'll become three-time world champion and a two-division champion come fight night. Whatever I have to do to get my hand raised, I'll be ready."

#### \*\*ISAAC CRUZ VS. ANGEL FIERRO\*\*

One of the most popular active fighters from Mexico, **Isaac "Pitbull" Cruz** will return to action to face the hard-charging **Angel Fierro** in a super lightweight duel that marks Cruz's first appearance in the ring since he lost his WBA Super Lightweight World Championship to Jose Valenzuela via split-decision in August.

Buoyed on by his passionate fan base, Cruz (26-3-1, 18 KOs) became a world champion in March as he hurt Rolando Romero badly in round one before eventually ending the fight in round eight via TKO to claim the WBA title. A native of Mexico City, Cruz shot up the rankings in 2020, announcing his presence with an electrifying first-round knockout over veteran Diego Magdaleno in October before adding dominant decisions over Francisco Vargas and Jose Matias Romero. This rise led to the 26-year-old challenging undefeated superstar Gervonta Davis in December 2021, a fight that saw Cruz lose by decision to become just the second fighter to see the final bell against Davis. Trained by his father Isaac Cruz Sr., Cruz also owns stoppage wins over former champion Yuriorkis Gamboa and veteran contender Eduardo Ramirez, in addition to a 12-round decision over the then-unbeaten Giovanni Cabrera.

"I'm very happy to be back in the ring on February 1 and in the fight capital of the world in Las Vegas," said Cruz. "I'm facing a real Mexican warrior like myself and I'm excited to give fans the

type of fight that they love. It will be a lot more entertaining than my last fight, when my opponent ran all night long and the judges made a terrible decision. This time, I will not leave it up to the judges, because I'm going for the knockout. Fierro and myself are going to show what Mexican style is all about and go toe-to-toe until someone gets knocked out."

Originally from Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, Fierro (22-2-2, 17 KOs) now fights out of San Diego and has made a name for himself with his aggressive style and power punching prowess. The 26-year-old has fought professionally since 2015 and was undefeated in his first 17 outings. He announced his presence as a world contender in 2021 with a career-best victory as he rose from the canvas to stop former world champion Alberto Machado in round six. Most recently, Fierro had a three-fight winning streak snapped when he lost a June decision against Alfredo Santiago, with the only other loss of Fierro's career coming via split-decision in January 2020 against Alex Martin. February 1 will mark Fierro's third career fight stateside, and his first since a majority draw against Juan Carlos Burgos in March 2022.

"Ever since I turned professional, my dream was to fight in Las Vegas," said Fierro. "Spending time training with my mentor and idol Erik Morales really taught me how to fight under pressure and now I have the perfect opponent to display those skills against in 'Pitbull' Cruz. I'm from Tijuana and we love facing fighters from Mexico City, it's a tremendous rivalry. On February 1, the fans will be the winners, because I won't take a step back. I'm coming to knock out 'Pitbull' and prove who is the best 140-pounder in Mexico."

## \*\*JESUS RAMOS JR. VS. JEISON ROSARIO\*\*

Rising Mexican star **Jesus "Mono" Ramos Jr.** will look to make it back-to-back victories when he faces his most accomplished opponent to date in the former unified world champion **Jeison Rosario**, as they meet in a 10-round middleweight fight that opens the pay-per-view action.

After coming up on the wrong end of a contested decision against top contender Erickson Lubin in September 2023, Ramos (21-1, 17 KOs) returned to the ring in style this May, stopping Johan Gonzalez in round nine to reaffirm his status as a world championship contender. A native of Casa Grande, Ariz., Ramos had worked his way up the rankings by defeating a slew of contenders including Brian Mendoza, Javier Molina, Vladimir Hernandez and an emphatic stoppage of the then-unbeaten Joey Spencer. Trained by his father Jesus Sr., and the nephew of veteran contender Abel, the 23-year-old Ramos entered the Lubin fighting having stopped seven of his last 10 opponents.

"I'm grateful to be back in the ring on February 1," said Ramos. "I'm facing an experienced opponent in Jeison Rosario who's got nothing to lose, and that makes him dangerous. He wants to get back in the mix and I'm preparing to make sure that doesn't happen. It's exciting to have this platform to display my talent and show how much I've grown since my last fight. This is going to be a great card from top to bottom and I can't wait to take my place on that big stage."

Having faced a who's-who of top contenders throughout his career, Rosario (24-4-2, 18 KOs) will once again go toe-to-toe with a highly touted foe when he takes on Ramos on February 1. Born in the Dominican Republic and fighting out of Miami, Rosario captured the WBA and IBF 154-pound belts by stopping Julian Williams in his hometown in one of 2020's biggest upsets, earning the title opportunity by defeating a litany of contenders including Jamontay Clark, Marcos Hernandez and Jorge Cota. After beating Williams, Rosario would go on to lose a three-belt unification against Jermell Charlo in 2020 before also challenging top contenders Erickson

Lubin and Brian Mendoza. Most recently, Rosario squared off against former unified champion Jarrett Hurd in August as the two fought to a split-draw.

"I'm very thankful to my team for getting me this opportunity and I feel blessed to be in this position," said Rosario. "With Bob Santos in my corner, I'm extremely motivated to get back on top. Ramos is a good fighter, but I've faced the best in this sport and I'm going to use all that experience to get my hand raised on February 1."

# # #

For more information visit www.PremierBoxingChampions.com, follow #BenavidezMorrell, follow on Twitter @PremierBoxing, on Instagram @PremierBoxing or become a fan on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/PremierBoxingChampions

#### **CONTACTS:**

Tim Smith, PBC: (702) 843-3400

Swanson Communications: (202) 783-5500, contact@swansonpr.com

Harrison Raboy, Prime Video; hraboy@amazon.com

Andre Courtemanche, Sampson Boxing: <a href="mailto:bigmediabuzz@msn.com">bigmediabuzz@msn.com</a>
Emily Pandelakis, David Benavidez PR: <a href="mailto:emilyk610@gmail.com">emilyk610@gmail.com</a>

Warriors Boxing: Leon@warriorsboxing.com

Scott Ghertner, MGM Resorts International: <a href="mailto:sghertnr@mgmresorts.com">sghertnr@mgmresorts.com</a> Katharine Sherrer, MGM Resorts International: <a href="mailto:ksherrer@mgmresorts.com">ksherrer@mgmresorts.com</a>

Media Credentials: www.magnamedia.com