



**FORMER WORLD CHAMPION MARIO BARRIOS PROMISES
ACTION FOR HOMETOWN FANS IN SAN ANTONIO ON
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT THE ALAMODOME**



**San Antonio's Barrios Battles Jovanie Santiago in Co-Main Event
Live on SHOWTIME® in Event Presented by
Premier Boxing Champions**

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LAS VEGAS – February 1, 2023 – Former world champion and San Antonio's own **Mario "El Azteca" Barrios** shared insights into his training camp with top trainer Bob Santos and promised fireworks for his hometown fans when he takes on **Jovanie Santiago** on Saturday, February 11 live on SHOWTIME from the Alamodome in an event presented by Premier Boxing Champions.

Barrios (26-2, 17 KOs) will face Puerto Rico's Santiago in the 10-round co-main event of a SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® telecast beginning at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT. The action is headlined by undefeated two-division world champion **Rey Vargas** dueling top 130-pound contender **O'Shaquie Foster** for the vacant WBC Super Featherweight World Championship.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by TGB Promotions, are on sale now and are available through [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com).

A former champion at 140-pounds, the 27-year-old Barrios returns to the ring after dropping his welterweight debut to former unified champion Keith Thurman in a February 2022 action fight. Following the fight, Barrios reunited with former trainer Bob Santos, who has recently trained Hector Luis Garcia and Alberto Puella to world titles. As he looks to restart his ascent in the star-studded 147-pound division, he will return to the Alamodome, where he previously scored an October 2020 KO of Ryan Karl.

Here is what Barrios had to say about training camp, Santiago and more:

On fighting at home in San Antonio, Texas:

"I'm always excited to give my fans back home an entertaining fight. I love where I'm from and I'm always proud to step in the ring representing San Antonio. I'm very thankful for another opportunity to fight in front of the San Antonio fans. It's going to be an explosive night of boxing and I'm promising an action packed fight."

On his recent training camp:

"I have relocated my training camp to Las Vegas, Nevada, and am back working with Bob Santos. It's been a change of pace, and coming off a bit of a lay-off, after some really big fights, it's been refreshing resting my mind and body after two hard camps back-to-back. The change is one I think that's going to elevate my career these next few years, because I'll be training in the fight capital of the world.

"I think a lot of fighters lose motivation once they have fought on pay-per-view, but being around so many fighters who are in their prime at the Pound4pound boxing gym out here has been pushing me every day. I am thrilled with how the camp has gone, and I think people will see everything I've been working on come fight night. I also have my sister Selina working in my corner as well. We started this sport together and I'm thankful to still have her input in the corner. Everything has been great leading up to this fight."

On his opponent, Jovanie Santiago:

"I think he's a quality fighter. He had a close fight with Adrien Broner that many say he should have won. I thought he struggled with Gary Antuanne Russell, but Gary is a great fighter. I personally think Santiago is a guy that if you take him lightly, he can make you look bad. In no way am I intending to disrespect him, but I am going to show why I have been featured on two

pay-per-view main events and am a former world champion. This fight is about me ending this lay off and proving that I am at a different level, and a threat in this division. I think you will see a clear separation between us in this bout."

On what a win does for his career:

"A win puts me in the position I want to be in, which is competing for a world title. A lot of titles have become vacant as of late, and I think with a strong showing I could get in the mix with any of the world champions in the division. My goal right now is to become a two-time world champion, and that is what I am set on doing. A win essentially gives me that next step to get close to a title eliminator or the bigger names in the welterweight division. I want to perform in a way that makes my city and my team proud and continues to make the networks want to see me in bigger fights."

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ABOUT VARGAS VS. FOSTER

Vargas vs. Foster will see undefeated two-division world champion Rey Vargas battle top 130-pound contender O'Shaquie Foster for the vacant WBC Super Featherweight World Championship in a showdown that headlines action live on SHOWTIME Saturday, February 11 from the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas topping a Premier Boxing Champions event.

The SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® telecast begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and also features former champion and all-action San Antonio-native Mario "El Azteca" Barrios returning to the ring in a 10-round welterweight duel against Jovanie Santiago that serves as the co-main event. Kicking off the action, hard-hitting unbeaten heavyweights go toe-to-toe as Cuba's Lenier Peró takes on Ukraine's Viktor Faust in a 10-round attraction.

For more information visit www.SHO.com/sports, www.PremierBoxingChampions.com, follow #VargasFoster, follow on Twitter @ShowtimeBoxing, @PremierBoxing and @TGBPromotions, on Instagram @ShowtimeBoxing, @PremierBoxing and @TGBPromotionss or become a fan on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/ShowtimeBoxing.

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