

UNDEFEATED STAR VERGIL ORTIZ JR. TO FACE TOP CONTENDER BRIAN MENDOZA IN BENAVIDEZ VS. CIESLAK CO-MAIN EVENT OF PBC PAY-PER-VIEW EVENT AVAILABLE ON DAZN THROUGH PRIME VIDEO

Keith Thurman Out With Injury

Mexican Superstar & Unified WBA & WBO Cruiserweight World Champion David Benavidez Faces WBC Cruiserweight World Champion Michal Cieslak Saturday, December 5 Headlining Five-Fight PBC Pay-Per-View Event Available on DAZN Through Prime Video from Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale, Arizona

LAS VEGAS – November 25, 2026 – Undefeated star **Vergil Ortiz Jr.** will face top contender **Brian "La Bala" Mendoza** in the 10-round middleweight co-main event of the Benavidez vs. Cieslak PBC Pay-Per-View event available on DAZN through Prime Video on Saturday, December 5 from Desert Diamond Arena in Glendale, Arizona.

Ortiz had originally been scheduled to face former unified champion Keith Thurman, who was forced to withdraw due to injury.

The five-fight pay-per-view card is headlined by undefeated Mexican superstar and unified WBA and WBO Cruiserweight World Champion **David "El Monstro" Benavidez** making his Arizona homecoming in a high-stakes unification clash against WBC Cruiserweight World Champion **Michal Cieslak.**

The pay-per-view will also see a trio of rising stars enter the ring in separate bouts as unbeaten phenom **Emiliano "El General" Vargas** competes in a 10-round super lightweight fight against contender **Omar Juarez**, plus unbeaten Australian star **Nikita Tszyu** makes his U.S. debut in a 10-round super welterweight fight against **Roberto Valenzuela Jr.** and rising middleweight star **Marco "El Tiburon" Romero** returns to action dueling **Cruse Stewart** in the eight-round opening bout at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT.

Tickets for the live event are on sale now and available through **Ticketmaster.com.**

The event is promoted by Sampson Boxing and TGB Promotions. Ortiz vs. Mendoza is co-promoted by Golden Boy Promotions. The Vargas vs. Juarez fight is co-promoted by Top Rank. The Tszyu vs. Valenzuela fight is co-promoted by No Limit Boxing and the Rose Brothers.

****VERGIL ORTIZ JR. VS. BRIAN MENDOZA****

Trained by the renowned Robert Garcia, Ortiz (24-0, 22 KOs) has dominated his competition on his way to becoming one of the sport's most highly-acclaimed rising stars. The 28-year-old Ortiz began his career fighting at 140 and 147 pounds, scoring a series of impressive victories over top contenders including Mauric Hooker, Egidijus Kavaliauskas and Brad Solomon. The Dallas-native moved up to super welterweight in 2024 and originally captured his WBC interim title with a 12-round decision over top contender Serhii Bohachuk. He followed up that triumph with the two most impressive victories of his young career, first earning a unanimous decision over top contender Israil Madrimov, before most recently blasting out longtime contender Erickson Lubin in the second round of their November 2025 matchup.

Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico and now fighting out of Las Vegas, Mendoza (23-5, 17 KOs) earned the WBC Interim Title with a highlight-reel knockout of reigning world champion Sebastian Fundora in April 2023, and still holds the distinction as the only fighter to best Fundora. He followed up that win by traveling to Australia to challenge then WBO 154-pound world champion Tim Tszyu, eventually losing by decision. After the Tszyu fight, he stepped in on short notice and dropped a decision to top 154-pounder Serhii Bohachuk in 2024, before stopping Jesus Antonio Rojas in July 2025. Led to the ring by renowned trainer Ismael Salas, the 32-year-old most recently stepped in for a last-minute challenge of top contender Yoenis Tellez in March.

For more information visit www.PremierBoxingChampions.com, follow #BenavidezCieslak, follow on Twitter @PremierBoxing & @DAZNBoxing, on Instagram @PremierBoxing & @DAZNBoxing, or become a fan on Facebook t www.facebook.com/PremierBoxingChampions & https://www.facebook.com/DAZN/.

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