



## DAVID BENAVIDEZ VS. DAVID LEMIEUX VIRTUAL PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES

*“This could be the Fight of the Year...We’re two bulls going in there to see who has the most heart,” – Benavidez*

*“I have the style to hurt Benavidez and I’m training hard to beat this guy,” - Lemieux*

**Unbeaten Two-Time World Champion and Phoenix-Native David Benavidez Battles Former World Champion David Lemieux Headlining Live on SHOWTIME<sup>®</sup> Saturday, May 21 from Gila River Arena in Glendale, Ariz. in Premier Boxing Champions Event**

**GLENDAL, AZ. – April 26, 2022** – Unbeaten two-time world champion **David “El Bandera Roja” Benavidez** and former world champion **David Lemieux** previewed their 12-round showdown for the vacant Interim WBC Super Middleweight Title with both knockout artists forecasting fireworks during a virtual press conference Tuesday before headlining live on SHOWTIME Saturday, May 21 from Gila River Arena in Glendale, Arizona in a Premier Boxing Champions event.

The SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast begins at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT headlined by Benavidez returning to fight in his home state of Arizona for the second straight outing after delivering a knockout victory over Kyrone Davis in November 2021 on SHOWTIME. He will be taking on a hard-hitting former champion in Lemieux, making May 21 a clash of power punchers, as the two fighters have combined for 58 knockouts in their 68 wins (85% KO rate).

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

Here is what the fighters had to say Tuesday:

**DAVID BENAVIDEZ**

“I’m very excited to go into this fight against Lemieux, because he’s a guy I’ve watched for a long time and I like his style. We both have similar styles because we go for the knockout. That gets me very excited and motivates me a lot.

“We’re also fighting for the interim title and that makes the stage that much bigger. I’ve been training hard in camp for about three months getting ready for this fight. I’m just ready to go back home and win that title.

“If you win the interim title that means the next fight has to be for the title. I don’t think it should be any difference in this case. If Canelo Alvarez wants to fight at light heavyweight, then he’s going to have to vacate. It’s only fair.

“I train extremely hard to make sure I get the knockout. I just feel like I’m at my peak right now. I have a lot of skills, power and great experience. I know it won’t be easy, but I’ve done everything right in the gym.

“I see flaws in David’s game and I’m sure he sees flaws in me. I know he wants to stop me, and I want to stop him. This is going to be a great fight for the fans. This could be the Fight of the Year because of what’s at stake and because of the type of fighters we are. We’re two bulls going in there to see who has the most heart.

“I just want everyone to see that I’m the best in this weight class. I’m only looking at the fight in front of me. I have to win this fight before I can win anything else. But I do feel like everyone knows where I stand in this division. I’ve been calling out the best and I respect Lemieux for stepping up to take this fight.

“I wanted to fight back in Arizona again because we had a great event in November. This is my first title fight back at home and it’s a dream come true for me. Everything has fallen into place for me. I’ve had an amazing camp and I’m preparing for a great opponent. This has all the makings for a great fight. The energy is right. This is one of the biggest fights of my life and that’s how seriously I’m taking it.

“We’ve been in camp for a long time and we’ve been feeding off of each other’s energy. I’ve been putting in the work and getting my miles in. Seeing Jose Valenzuela and Diego Pacheco have great victories gives me even more energy. We’re all like brothers and we all push each other.

“The main goal for myself is to become unified champion at 168-pounds. It’s not just about me. I have a lot of fans that support me, and I’m doing it for them. They’ve supported me so much, so I want them to know that I’ve put 110% into training camp every time they come to a fight.

“I feel like I deserve the biggest fights. I’ve paid my dues and I’ve been here for a long time. But I have plenty of fuel in the gym solely because of how big this fight is. I think the other top guys

are making a mistake not giving me the fight now, because the more I'm in the ring, the more I'm learning. It's going to turn around and bite them when it's time to get in the ring with me. Everything is going to be through the roof."

### **DAVID LEMIEUX**

"I'm expecting a great fight. David Benavídez is a very tough fighter. We've been watching him for a while. He's always very exciting. His style of fighting – he comes to fight – there's no messing around with him. That's my style too. Two bulls going in there and may the best man win this title. We want that WBC belt around my waste and I'm planning on having it on fight night.

"I know it's a difficult fight. I'm training very hard and doing everything I need to do inside the gym. I don't want to lose this opportunity. I know Benavídez is a great fighter. I'm going to work very hard and bring the best that David Lemieux can bring. I'm leaving with the WBC title on fight night.

"I do believe that my power will translate at 168 pounds. I've been working a lot to integrate into the 168-pound division and I believe my power will be at its peak on fight night. Benavídez is a big guy. We know that. But we're preparing and we have the right sparring partners. I'm going to go in there and be very strong. It's been a long time since I've had an opponent like Benavídez, but I'm excited. I'm very hyped up about this fight. I know what a victory will do for my career and I won't miss my shot.

"I'm not looking past this fight. I'm just concentrated on Benavidez. This is a big fight ahead of me. Canelo chooses a lot of his fights but there are rules in boxing that you have to respect. The winner of the interim belt has to fight the champion so if he follows the rules, the rules are the rules. That's it.

"It's definitely a big task in front of me. When I sat down with my team and Benavídez's name came up, we knew it was a tough fight. He's a tough fighter and a big guy, but we're preparing and getting ready for him. It's all in the preparation. Styles make fights. I have the style to hurt Benavídez and I'm training hard to beat this guy.

"Anything can be done, you just have to go out and do it. David Benavídez is a very good fighter but everybody is beatable. Nobody is invincible. That's what we have to prove. There's no cheating boxing. You train hard for a fight. You don't underestimate your opponent and surprises can happen. I'm planning on bringing that title back home to Montreal.

"Regardless of your age, it's really now or never in every fight in the boxing ring. You don't get many chances to leave a good mark in the game, so every fight needs to be taken very seriously, especially a fight of this magnitude. There's a lot at stake for me. I know I'm the underdog, but I don't care. I'm just going in there to fight, underdog or not. I've been the underdog in the past and I've won the fights. It doesn't really bother me.

“The eight pounds makes a world of a difference. 160 pounds was very difficult to make, especially towards the end. I feel great training at 168. I’m very comfortable making that weight. I’m training very hard, building strength and muscle and not worrying about cutting weight. I’m feeling great.

“I feel like I’ve been underestimated during my career. But the only way to come back is with a strong victory against an opponent of an elite level. That’s what I’m planning on doing on May 21.”

#### **ABOUT BENAVIDEZ VS. LEMIEUX**

Benavidez vs. Lemieux will see unbeaten two-time world champion and Phoenix-native **David “El Bandera Roja” Benavidez** look to thrill the fans in his home state once again when he takes on former world champion **David Lemieux** in a 12-round showdown for the vacant Interim WBC Super Middleweight Title headlining live on SHOWTIME Saturday, May 21 from Gila River Arena in Glendale, Arizona in a Premier Boxing Champions event.

The SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING® telecast begins at 10 p.m. ET/7 p.m. PT and will see hard-hitting Cuban prospect **Yoelvis Gómez** taking on Mexico’s **Jorge Cota** in the 10-round super welterweight co-main event.

For more information visit [www.SHO.com/sports](http://www.SHO.com/sports), [www.PremierBoxingChampions.com](http://www.PremierBoxingChampions.com), follow on Twitter @ShowtimeBoxing, @PremierBoxing and @TGBPromotions on Instagram @ShowtimeBoxing, @PremierBoxing and @TGBPromotions or become a fan on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/SHOBoxing](http://www.Facebook.com/SHOBoxing).

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