



## HEAVYWEIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA KICKS OFF 2022 WITH NEW YEAR'S DAY SHOWDOWNS!

Headlined by Top Heavyweight Luis Ortiz Battling Former World Champion Charles Martin In IBF Heavyweight Title Eliminator Saturday, January 1 from Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida

Featuring Rising Star Frank Sanchez Dueling Puerto Rican Olympian Carlos Negrón in Co-Main Event

Stacked Five-Fight Lineup Also Includes:  
Jonnie Rice vs. Michael Coffie 2  
Gerald Washington vs. Ali Eren Demirezen  
Viktor Faust vs. Iago Kiladze

**Live on FOX Sports PBC Pay-Per-View at Special Price of \$39.99  
Tickets Go on Sale Monday, November 22 at 10 a.m. ET**

**HOLLYWOOD, FL.** (November 17, 2021) – The new year will kick off with a heavyweight bang, as five exciting heavyweight matchups take center stage on a jam-packed FOX Sports PBC Pay-Per-View on New Year's Day live from Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida.

The main event will see top heavyweight Luis “King Kong” Ortiz take on former world champion Charles Martin in a 12-round IBF Heavyweight Title Eliminator. In the co-main event, unbeaten rising heavyweight star Frank “The Cuban Flash” Sanchez will square off against Puerto Rican Olympian Carlos Negrón in a 10-round attraction.

The pay-per-view telecast begins at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT and will also see heavyweight contenders Jonnie Rice and Michael Coffie battle in a 10-round rematch, former title challenger Gerald “El Gallo Negro” Washington in a 10-round showdown against Turkish Olympian Ali Eren Demirezen and unbeaten Viktor Faust facing Iago Kiladze in a 10-round attraction to open the pay-per-view.

“Heavyweight boxing is always must-see, and we’ll be kicking off the new year with nothing but titanic sluggers looking to impress in FOX Sports PBC Pay-Per-View showdowns,” said Tom Brown, President of TGB Promotions. “This is a stacked lineup of fights available for fans at an affordable price of \$39.99. Luis Ortiz and Charles Martin are both amongst the top of the heavyweight contender ladder and will be able to solidify their position for a world title shot with a win on January 1. One of the most active rising heavyweights, Frank Sanchez will return to action after a career-best victory in October for a tough duel against Carlos Negron. With five fights in all, New Year’s day will be non-stop action with gargantuan duels taking place live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida.”

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by TGB Promotions, go on sale Monday, November 22 at 10 a.m. ET and can be purchased at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). Pre-sale tickets go on sale this Friday, November 19 at 10 a.m. ET.

With exceptional power and sublime technical skills, Ortiz (32-2, 27 KOs) has been a fixture atop heavyweight rankings for years, with his only defeats coming in memorable contests against former longtime heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder. Born in Camaguey, Cuba and trained by longtime coach Herman Caicedo in Miami, Ortiz won three bouts between Wilder contests, defeating Travis Kauffman, Christian Hammer and Razvan Cojanu. Prior to that run, Ortiz picked up victories over the likes of Bryant Jennings, Tony Thompson and Malik Scott to build up his heavyweight resume. Most recently, Ortiz blasted out Alexander Flores in the first round of their November 2020 bout.

"I can't wait to give my fans in South Florida a great show on New Year's Day and earn another shot at the heavyweight title," said Ortiz. "Charles Martin is a good fighter, but he's standing in my way. The only thing on my mind is getting in the ring and making a big statement in this fight to show again why I'm feared by the heavyweight division."

The 35-year-old Martin (28-2-1, 25 KOs) became heavyweight champion in January 2016 when he won by TKO against then unbeaten Vyacheslav Glazkov. After losing his title to Anthony Joshua, Martin has won five of his last six fights, with all of his wins coming inside the distance. Originally from St. Louis, now living in Las Vegas and currently training in Southern California with Manny Robles, Martin bounced back from a narrow decision defeat to Adam Kownacki in 2018 to earn three-straight victories, including most recently knocking out Gerald Washington in February 2020.

"Nobody wants to fight me and nobody wants to fight Ortiz, so we'll fight each other," said Martin. "I'm going to show the world on January 1 why I deserve a title shot. I've paid my dues and I want my belt back. Beating Ortiz is going to get me one step closer to that goal. In order to become two-time heavyweight champion, I have to get past Ortiz first, so that's exactly what I'm going to do."

An amateur standout from his native Cuba, Sánchez (19-0, 13 KOs) now trains in San Diego with top trainer Eddy Reynoso. The 29-year-old has stayed busy on his rise up the heavyweight rankings, scoring three victories in 2020 as he earned a unanimous decision over Joey Dawejko

and stopped Brian Howard and Julian Fernandez. Sanchez most recently scored a career-best win in October, dropping previously unbeaten Efe Ajagba on his way to a unanimous decision victory.

"I'm happy to be back so soon after beating Agjaba, but the work is only beginning," said Sanchez. "There's much more to be done. I believe I will be the first heavyweight champion in Cuban history. Negrón is a strong, dangerous opponent. I'll have to be my best, but I'm confident that I will come out victorious. I believe in my team, and my team believes in me. We'll start the New Year off getting to 20-0, remain busy and make a strong case for a world title by year's end."

The 2008 Puerto Rican Olympian Negrón (25-3, 20 KOs) rides a five-fight winning streak into January 1, including four wins by stoppage. The 34-year-old bounced back from defeats to Dominic Breazeale and Brian Howard to put together his win streak, which includes a March 2020 knockout over previously unbeaten Robert Alfonso. Negrón has fought professionally since 2009 and now lives in Miami where he trains alongside Luis Ortiz.

"This is a great opportunity for me to get a win over a strong up-and-coming fighter and show everyone what I'm capable of," said Negrón. "I'm training hard and I've had great sparring in order to be ready for anything that Sanchez is going to bring. My experience and preparation are going to be the difference. I'm extremely motivated to give the fans a great fight and put myself in position to get a world title opportunity."

Born in South Carolina and now fighting out of Los Angeles, Rice (14-6-1, 10 KOs) will look to repeat a career-best performance in the rematch against Coffie, after he stopped the previously unbeaten fighter in the fifth-round in July. Rice won six of seven fights from 2018 through 2019 before a pair of losses in 2020 against then unbeatens Efe Ajagba and Demsey McKean. In a pro career that dates back to 2014, the blemishes on Rice's records have all come against previously unbeaten fighters.

"In my last fight against Coffie, I went in there to prove myself and do what I had been training to do," said Rice. "It was sink or swim, and I came out on top. Now I have to go out there on January 1 and show that it wasn't a fluke. This is a great stage for me to display my talents and prove that I'm capable of big things. I'm looking to give the fans a great performance and I know that Coffie is doing the same. Don't miss this fight."

Coffie (12-1, 9 KOs) hopes to bounce back from his first career defeat after dropping the first matchup against Rice in July. A Marine Corps veteran who picked up boxing after returning from overseas, Coffie quickly impressed in amateur tournaments enough to earn sparring assignments with Deontay Wilder and Adam Kownacki. He was born in the Bronx, but now trains in Orlando, Florida and broke through in 2020 with three dominating stoppage victories, including knockouts over previously unbeaten opponents Darmani Rock and Luis Pena.

"I want to get it back and make it an actual fight this time against Jonny Rice," said Coffie. "Last time, I was in a position where I faced some adversity, and I had to make a decision to go through with the fight. I know that I can fight through adversity, and on January 1, I will be ready for whatever way the fight goes. On January 1, there will be a fight."

Washington (20-4-1, 13 KOs) is a six-foot-six heavyweight contender who was a former college football standout at the University of Southern California and a U.S. Navy veteran. Born in San Jose, California, Washington most recently lost a contest against former heavyweight champion Charles Martin in February 2020. Prior to that fight, Washington had delivered a knockout of veteran contender Robert Helenius in July 2019. Washington was unbeaten in his first 19 pro fights before dropping his world title challenge to Deontay Wilder in February 2017.

"I'm looking forward to stepping back in the ring on January 1," said Washington. "I'm ready to go to work and get myself back in position for some big time fights. My experience is going to be the difference in this fight. It's going to be a great night of heavyweight action!"

A 2016 Olympian for Turkey, Demirezen (14-1, 11 KOs) has fought out of Hamburg, Germany in the professional ranks since turning pro in late 2016. The 31-year-old won his first 11 pro fights, including a second round stoppage of Rad Rashid to capture a European heavyweight title in 2018. Demirezen made his only other U.S. start in 2019, when he became the first person to go the distance against Efe Ajagba, losing by decision. Since that defeat, Demirezen has scored three-straight victories, most recently stopping Nikola Milacic in March.

"I learned a lot from my loss to Ajagba and I'm looking forward to getting another chance to box in the U.S.," said Demirezen. "I'm still angry about the Ajagba fight, because I know that I could have won. I want to show now that I belong on this stage. I'm proud to be in this position to show what I can do and I'm going to make the most of the opportunity."

The 29-year-old Faust (8-0, 6 KOs) turned pro in February 2020 after an extensive amateur career fighting out of his native Svitlovodsk, Ukraine. Faust knocked out his first four opponents, before winning dominant six and eight round decisions. After a first round knockout over previously unbeaten Jacek Piatek in May, Faust made his U.S. debut in October, dropping Mike Marshall twice on his way to a third-round TKO victory.

"I'm really excited to be back fighting in the U.S. again on January 1," said Faust. "I've been welcomed warmly and fighting stateside already feels like my living room. I love the atmosphere. This is a great chance to show myself on this pay-per-view show against a very high-quality opponent. I won't disappoint fans when I step into the ring."

Kiladze (27-5-1, 19 KOs) returned to the win column in September, with a knockout victory over Mathew McKinney. Since he began fighting stateside full time in 2017, Kiladze's losses have come against top heavyweights Adam Kownacki, Michael Hunter, Efe Ajagba and Joe Joyce, who sported a combined 45-1 record heading into their matchups against Kiladze. Originally from Georgia and now fighting out of Los Angeles, Kiladze owns a 2019 draw against then unbeaten Robert Alfonso and won six straight fights between 2014 and 2018.

"I'll be ready on fight night and I'll be focused," said Kiladze. "I'm grateful for the opportunity and training hard to put on a good performance and leave the ring with a victory."

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Viewers can live stream the PBC shows on the FOX Sports and FOX NOW apps or at FOXSports.com. In addition, all programs are available on FOX Sports on SiriusXM channel 83 on satellite radios and on the SiriusXM app.

For more information: visit [www.premierboxingchampions.com](http://www.premierboxingchampions.com), <http://www.foxsports.com/presspass/homepage> and [www.foxdeportes.com](http://www.foxdeportes.com), follow on Twitter @PremierBoxing, @PBConFOX, @FOXSports, @FOXDeportes, @TGBPromotions and @Swanson\_Comm or become a fan on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/PremierBoxingChampions](http://www.Facebook.com/PremierBoxingChampions), [www.facebook.com/foxsports](http://www.facebook.com/foxsports) & [www.facebook.com/foxdeportes](http://www.facebook.com/foxdeportes).

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