



MIKEY GARCIA & CHRIS ARREOLA INTERNATIONAL MEDIA CONFERENCE CALL & AUDIO RECORDING

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Richard Schaefer

Thank you and welcome to all the media members. It's Fight Week, I can't wait. I have been waiting for this for so long and I know many fighters have as well.

I want to first off thank FOX and FOX Sports. They are really rolling from one big weekend this past Saturday where we saw a tremendous card in Los Angeles to now a history making weekend in Dallas.

This is without doubt the biggest pay-per-view of the year. I mentioned it last week, top to bottom an unreal card of a combined 207 wins against 9 losses when you add up the entire card -- 155 of those wins by the way of knockout.

So I don't remember if we ever did a card top to bottom which packed that much of a punch. It really is one of the best pay-per-view cards top to bottom I can remember and we certainly have done some big ones.

Today we have Mikey Garcia and Chris Arreola on the call to talk about camp and the excitement of fight week and they will be available for your comments.

But first up I would like to introduce to you Tom Brown President of TGB and co-promoter of this event who really is largely responsible for almost week after week putting together these stacked cards on FOX and SHOWTIME and all the other platforms.

So Tom please if you would like to make some comments and then introduce Chris as well.

Tom Brown

Thank you Richard. Everybody at TGB is honored to work once again with Richard and Ringstar Sports. Not only is Chris Arreola a fan favorite, he was one of my brother-in-law, Dan Goossen's, favorite all time fighters.

He will be taking on an undefeated opponent Saturday night in Jean Pierre Augustin who is 17-0-1. Arreola's last fight as we know was back in December on the Wilder Fury cards so it's great to have him back so quickly as he makes another run at the heavyweight title.

It will be opening fight on PBC on FOX Sports Pay-Per-View so it gives me great pleasure to introduce the former heavyweight title challenger Chris Arreola. Chris?

Chris Arreola

Hey, how are you guys doing? It's a pleasure to be here. I'm more than ready for Jean Pierre. I'm excited. It's a big fight and it's time for me to jump in and make a noise in the heavyweight division again.

Q

Chris, it's been almost two and half years since you fought Deontay Wilder and then you returned last December, how did it feel being back in the ring after such a long layoff?

C. Arreola

I was actually the main event that night. I was literally the last fight while the people were putting their chairs up and stuff like that so it was a very, very humbling experience. It was nice being backstage and watching everybody fight.

The atmosphere, I missed the whole atmosphere, the whole comradery that people had in the backstage. It felt great being back in the ring, man.

I didn't feel any ring rust. I felt the one thing that I did feel the most is the excitement, all the commotion, all the people and so I was more than ready and happy to fight that day.

Q

Do you look at this as maybe perhaps your last chance at getting another shot at the world heavyweight title?

C. Arreola

Yes. Absolutely. So I am approaching 40 years old. But I had two years off and in between I took some time off, so I don't feel like I'm so much of a beam or a worn fighter.

This is my last title run. This is my absolutely last title run and I have to make it count. I'm in boxing again to leave a legacy and to leave something behind. I don't want to go out the way I did in my last fight against Wilder.

So yes. I'm chasing the title. This is my last title run and I'm going to give you hell. I'm working my butt off because hey, it's better late than never.

R. Schaefer

By the way I think you are only 38, right? So at that point we don't just round up because I think by the time you are going to be 40 or well before you are going to be heavyweight champion again. Let's round down.

C. Arreola

Exactly. I strongly agree with you Mr. Schaefer. I have the experience, I have the ring knowledge and like Schaefer says, you know, let's round down. The reason being because I have the ring knowledge, I have the ring smarts.

Q

If you get a victory on Saturday who are you looking to face next?

C. Arreola

First and foremost, I will fight anybody. I'm not looking for one name in particular. The one thing that I am looking for is to stay busy this year because I want my name to resonate through the heavyweight division. When they talk about names like Breazeale and a name like Kownacki and stuff like that I want my name to be mentioned also.

And it's a great time. It's a perfect time to come into the heavyweight division again because, yes, all these fighters are making names for themselves and the reason being because Wladimir Klitschko is out of the picture.

Ever since Klitschko was out of picture these titles just opened up and a lot of fighters were hungrier to get one of those titles. So it's a beautiful landscape right now in the heavyweight division. Even though the fight we want to happen is not happening God willing it's going to happen soon.

Q

We should expect you to keep bringing the fight going forward not only with this fight but with everything else, correct?

C. Arreola

Yes. Absolutely. Absolutely. But the main thing now like I said earlier I have a little more knowledge than most of these fighters. First off I'm a little bit smarter and not taking unnecessary punishment. So it's time for me to incorporate a lot of more of the boxing skills that I do have that I have never really used.

And so it's time for me to fight a little smarter and when the going goes to get tough and it's time for me to get the nightmare going that will come out with no problem.

Q

Your time away from the ring how much did that help you prepare for this fight and going forward with your career?

C. Arreola

The main thing is my time away from the ring gave me time to see everything in perspective as far as my boxing career and as far as my family, as far as life, you know.

The way I see it now, we have one last chance and we have got to do it right. We have got to leave a legacy. We have got to leave something behind. I can't waste my life.

So I'm a big Mexican and I'm lucky and I'm blessed we have had a father that stayed with me and made me box when I was a kid. So it's time for me to do something with it. So that's why I'm fighting and this is my last roll like I said before and I have got to make it happen.

Q

How much more important is it to you to kind of send a message that this isn't just like a last comeback but that you are really here to be a contender?

C. Arreola

This is very important. Like I said, I have to make noise in the heavyweight division. I'm not here to just make money. I'm in here for a reason. I'm in here for legacy. I'm in this for a title.

And the one time if I look bad and I look stupid in the ring man, I will retire. I don't need to be in this sport to make it look bad. To make myself look bad and to make the sport look bad. So yes, this run is very important for me. Very important.

Q

Do you see a way to kind of use it to your advantage that actually the top heavyweights aren't fighting each other because it seems like everyone is getting a shot these days?

C. Arreola

You know what? Absolutely man, because there are more than enough heavyweights out there to make noise with. Why can't I fight every two or three months and fight a heavyweight? There is plenty of heavyweights out there to make noise with.

There is plenty of good heavyweights, not just heavyweights but good heavyweights, built for heavyweight, heavyweights with names, heavyweights that know how to move, heavyweights that once played basketball and now they are boxing because, they had no other choice.

The heavyweight landscape it's in its best as it's been in years. I believe that has a lot to do with PBC, the way PBC presents fights, the way PBC makes fights happen. If you know in the beginning of PBC there were a lot of young fighters up and comers. And now those up and comers, now they are champion.

Spence was one of the first ones that was up and coming on PBC and now he's on the brink of being a star. So boxing is in the best part right now that it has been thanks to PBC.

Q

Could you tell us specifically what changes you have made this time in preparation for this fight?

C. Arreola

Yes. The main thing is that I know that Jean Pierre is a very crafty and a young fighter that's very hungry. And for that reason alone man, I had to get my cardio up, I had to make sure that I started boxing again. And what I mean by boxing is not being a brawler. Being able to move. Being able to chase a man down and being able to be light in my feet because this man he is a good mover.

He's a good fighter. He's one of those crafty fighters they are going to cut a stick and move on top of things and I'm going to have to be chasing him down. So I have got to make sure that my cardio is up. I had to make sure that I'm able to go the 10 rounds at the pace that I want to go.

So the main thing is my cardio is up. The sparring is the most important thing because shoot, you could run a marathon but that ain't never going to get you ready for a fight. So sparring, a lot of good lefty sparring. That's one of the main things that I had to work on.

R. Schaefer

Excellent. Okay. Thank you very much Lisa. And I just want to add that I saw Chris last week at the Garcia Gym. My reaction was the same reaction as everyone else who was at that gym, it was wow. I have never seen Chris in such an incredible shape physically and mentally I think you heard that today

His comments as well on this call show that this is the best Chris Arreola I have seen and that is exactly what he needs to beat the undefeated Augustin with 17 wins and 12 knockouts. And I can't wait for this fight and I know so can't Chris.

Thank you very much Chris for being on the phone and I will see you in Dallas tomorrow.

When we first announced this fighter Spence versus Garcia virtually everyone picked Spence to win. In fact, Spence was in the Vegas sports book an eight to one favorite. Now that we have fight week the odds have clearly changed.

In Vegas we are slowly but surely getting close to a 50-50 fight. This morning while I was taking coffee I heard some news flash over my screen. It was from ES News who asked three iconic boxers Mike Tyson, Sugar Ray Leonard and Floyd Mayweather about their picks.

Here is what they had to say. Mike Tyson, "Oh, man. Forget it. Mikey Garcia is the man. He's just great. I was telling my wife, watch this. He's one of those special fighters who comes along once in a long, long time."

Sugar Ray Leonard, "Mikey will beat Spence this weekend. You know why? Because he's Mikey."

Floyd Mayweather, "I want to see Mikey Garcia and I don't care what I have to do or what it takes. He will be undisputed world champion."

So I saw Mikey this weekend at the fight in Carson and what jumped out at me was his calm confidence. Something which you cannot learn. Something which was instilled in him through his family legacy. For his early days on when we could barely walk he was already throwing punches in his parent's living rooms. We all have seen these pictures.

Since then he has become a four division world champion. But since then he has as well captured the hearts and the minds of fight fans and sport fans. And with this crossover fight this coming Saturday he wants to capture the heart of the general public and show everyone that with hard work and determination anything is possible. Or as we say in Spanish 'si se puede'. Yes, we can.

It's a pleasure for me now to introduce to you the legendary four division world champion, the undefeated Mikey Garcia. Mikey?

Mikey Garcia

Thank you Richard. Good morning everyone. We are in fight week now and the fight is just a few days away so I'm just very happy, very excited and can't wait to get in the ring, you know.

Q

Has there been a bigger emphasis on building up your body to handle the sense of power at welterweight for this weekend?

M. Garcia

Yes. There was a bid more of a physical change and we needed to make sure that moving up to welterweight would be a good decision by adding weight in the right areas, the right amount of muscle mass.

So that's why we did go those five weeks up north at SNAC to work and I wanted to make sure that I gain the weight - the right weight. But we also didn't want to lose the speed, we did not want to lose the reaction time, the explosiveness.

And that's what we worked with with Victor Conte. We made a program that could help me to gain a little bit of mass but at the same time, improve my speed, my reaction, my reflexes and all the things that I will use on fight night.

Q

Do you feel that the winner of this fight should call themselves the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world today?

M. Garcia

Well, look, when I took on this fight and I wanted to get this fight, I was not doing it for any reason other than to prove to everybody that I'm the best and that I can fight anybody and I'm not scared to fight anybody even in the welter division.

I'm going to move into welterweight and just be considered one of the best. And if that puts me number one fighter in town then that's extra another accolade. But there is no other fighter doing what I'm doing.

There is no other fighter moving up in weight and back down and back up and keeping weight classes, fighting champions, undefeated champion. No other fighter is doing that.

So I mean, when you talk about pound-for-pound well I'm actually proving it. I'm doing it in different divisions. So I mean that's kind of why people will remember me for, that I was willing to fight anybody in any division.

Whether you put me number 1 pound-for-pound or not everybody has an opinion but there is no one else doing what I'm doing.

R. Schaefer

I just want to add on this quickly. I think it's important when you look at the fact that Spence and Garcia are both right now top five pound-for-pound fighters, they are both undefeated, they are both champions. And there is no other pound-for-pound fighter who really has a signature win like Garcia would have if he beats Spence or Spence would have if he beats Garcia.

These are two prime fighters in their absolute prime and I think that is what will elevate them - the winner of this fight to pound-for-pound the best fighter in the world and that's why I do call it the coronation in Dallas.

Q

What about this fight do you feel conditioning wise you have been able to attune moving up three weight classes?

M. Garcia

Well, look, we did all the work like I mentioned for those five weeks with the SNAC team. And then we finished my training camp here and stayed with my brother. We got all the sparring in, we got the best sparring with big guys that can really push me and get the best out of me to be in the best shape possible.

We also worked with natural welterweights that are fast and quick and sleek just so I can be sharp and explosive. So I have all the confidence in all my abilities and I have all the confidence in my boxing and my abilities because I know I did all the work, I know I'm in great shape and I don't worry about the size.

That's something that I was willing to challenge myself and prove to everybody that you don't win fights just with mere size and weight. There is a lot more that goes into it. And so that's why I chose this fight to overcome that challenge and prove to everybody I'm the best.

Q

Do you feel the scrutiny pushes you forward and allows you to fight in an elite level?

M. Garcia

I think I need a fight like this to get the best out of me. I meet an opponent that will challenge me, that will push me and is matched almost identically to me. I keep telling people I love his fight.

He's almost like similar to me, like, he reminds me of myself. He does everything well, he's very effective, he's strong, he has very good footwork, good combination, very similar to the way I fight. Nothing crazy, flashy out there like the flashy speed or hand speed or footwork. Nothing like that. But everything is done very well, very effective and I need someone like that to allow me to perform to the best of my ability.

And that's why this fight is so important and that's why it's such a big fight. It deserves to be in the stadium, it deserves to be getting all this coverage and all this attention because you hardly ever see two of the best pound-for-pound fighters, in their prime, undefeated champions fighting each other.

It's rare that you get that and I totally knew that this is the fight that I wanted and I'm just very happy that I was able to secure it and we are only a few days away from me making history.

Q

When you look at the welterweight division do you see yourself sticking around after this fight?

M. Garcia

I will definitely have options. The great thing in my position is that I can move up in weight, come back down, I will have options and different names in different divisions.

And I will look to see who the best name, who the best fight, for me, if it's a lighter weight class I will move down, it's a welterweight I will switch back. I know the welter division has many names, many great fighters so I could possibly stay here.

I don't know what I'm going to do yet but I'm very happy to be in the position that I am.

Q

When was it exactly that you decided you wanted to challenge yourself against Errol Spence?

M. Garcia

Look, I was watching him fight Kell Brook and I saw him really turn the fight around and showed to everybody why he's the world champion and why he deserves all the credit.

And then I saw him fight Peterson. And we were watching with my dad and my brother and I told Robert my brother and my dad that after a fight or two I want to fight Spence. And they all thought I was crazy and just joking but I was serious. I told them, "I'm going to move into welterweight because I'm coming I'm moving to welterweight. I will fight and challenge Spence."

I saw his fight with Peterson and even though he did great I just feel like there is a lot more that I can do. People keep asking me what did I see in him. Was there a particular fight? Something that I saw in his game? Some holes in his game? No. It's not even about that.

It was just what you guys haven't still seen in me and I know what I can do and what I'm capable of and that's what I'm betting on. That's exactly why I took this fight because I know there is a lot more to my game that you guys still haven't seen.

Q

How convinced are they now that you can go out there and get this job done?

M. Garcia

Spence and his camp and his trainer obviously have the confidence and that's the mindset that they have to be in. You know they are champions and they believe in themselves, they believe in the fighter -- much like my dad and my brother have always been in my team, my corner and they always believed in me and that's why we agreed to this fight.

My dad and my brother wouldn't allow me to take a fight if they didn't believe I could pull it off, if I didn't have enough to do this. So they analyzed the fight - they analyzed and studied Spence more in depth and they both agreed that I definitely have everything that it takes to beat Spence. And that's why we are confident in our boxing and my training and that's why we are here.

Q

So how now that you are going to try and settle into the welterweight division does that play into the fact that naturally your weight when you would hydrate from the lower weight classes was kind of around that welterweight limits. Did that play into how you went about building mass for this fight?

M. Garcia

I'm naturally a smaller guy so yes, we had to build a little more mass, a little more muscle leading up to this fight. But we did not want to compete against Errol with size and muscle. I want to use my other talents. I want to use my other attributes like my speed, my reaction time, my explosiveness.

Like I keep saying, there is a lot more that goes into winning fights. And I did need to gain a little bit of weight for that reason to move to welterweight but I do not want to be slow and sluggish.

We want to make sure that we kept all of my feet and muscle work and everything. And I feel very good with the results. We had a great training camp and I don't think the size is what I'm going to be using. So that's what we have focused on and making sure that everything else was done in the right way and I'm just very happy with all the results.

Q

Is that playing in with the use of your jab as far, like, your timing and all that and being able to use your jab as a range finder?

M. Garcia

Look, we made sure that we work on the things that we will need on fight night. And we had to figure out how to use my range and my timing against a bigger guy, against a left handed fighter, so we had to pick some different things like finding the range and the speed, the timing.

We had to make adjustments but I'm just very happy with everything. We had great range finders. I have speed and skills and we have some guys that are bigger and stronger, way bigger than me just so I could be prepared for whatever Errol Spence bring on fight night.

I needed to make sure that I was in the best shape and I had the best training camp and I'm just very happy with everything.

Q

How does it feel being in this big fight for you and your career and you my family and what kind of transition would that be for you?

M. Garcia

This is the biggest fight of my career and I'm very happy and very excited to be able to do this. We're a few days away from making history where I will definitely leave my legacy and my name in the history books.

We are about to make history being a four division champion is no easy task and I'm a kind of fighter that gets motivated by challenges. Challenging myself to move up to welterweight is huge and I'm going against

everyone's opinion and it's going to be great to prove to anybody that I'm much more than they have ever expected or ever seen in me. So I'm just very happy and excited to be here. I'm excited to be able to accomplish this with my family together which is just unbelievable.

Q

What your daily routine is in the lead up to the fight?

M. Garcia

Oh man, just a lot of rest. Look, we did all the hard work, for example already all the hard rounds of sparring, all the tough parts are done with. This week we would like to rest as much as we can, and just kind of wait patiently but we will still do a little bit of workout just to stay loose.

Maybe do like a stretch, some nice good stretching and just to keep our body flexible. We don't want to injure our self by punching anything hard or doing strenuous activities that could hurt me for fight night. So maybe like light stretching and light shadow boxing is all we need.

Q

Are you expecting to come significantly under the welterweight limit? Do you have to cut weight? What are your expectations in terms of that?

M. Garcia

No. You know what? We did the work and I did gain weight. I was up at 160 actually at one time. But then as we started training and sparring we noticed that - I was just getting too big or at least I didn't feel as comfortable as I could.

So we started to get more spurring, more training and the weight came off just because that's the way we started working harder. And I'm very comfortable right now.

I'm very good. We are just big enough to be a welterweight but not big enough where I will be slow and sluggish.

R. Schaefer

All right. Before turn it over to Mikey to make a few closing comments I want to thank you all from the media. Its fight week, I can't wait to see you all there starting tomorrow Tuesday March 12 at 5:00 pm Dallas time Central Time at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel, the fight hotel.

We will have the fighter arrivals and the media workout. So I will see you all there. Mikey, closing comments?

M. Garcia

Well, like I said, we are about to make history so make sure everybody comes in and watches the fight. If you can make it live it's going to be amazing. The energy is going to be amazing and just the whole experience to be able to be fighting at AT&T Stadium in the home of the Dallas Cowboys in front of all my fans like that.

When when people talk about some of the greatest, you talk about the Ali, Frazier, you talk about, Leonard and Hagler and some of these fights like that. Well, this is going to be one like those. It's going to be one of those fights.

So we obviously invite everybody to come out and watch this live. And if they can't watch it live then make sure they tune in pay-per-view because this is one fight you don't want to miss. It's going to be history on Saturday night. We're making history.

ABOUT SPENCE VS. GARCIA

Spence vs. Garcia is a Premier Boxing Champions on FOX Sports Pay-Per-View event that is headlined by unbeaten IBF Welterweight World Champion Errol Spence Jr. defending his title against four-division world champion Mikey Garcia on Saturday, March 16 from AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

The PBC on FOX Sports Pay-Per-View undercard begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and will feature undefeated former super middleweight champion David Benavidez battling veteran contender J'Leon Love, unbeaten former bantamweight champion Luis Nery taking on former champion McJoe Arroyo and fan-favorite Chris Arreola facing unbeaten Jean Pierre Augustin.

Prelims on FS1 and FOX Deportes begin at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT featuring former heavyweight world champion **Charles Martin** squaring off against unbeaten Dallas-native **Gregory Corbin**.

Tickets for this showdown, which is promoted by TGB Promotions and Ringstar Sports, are on sale now, and can be purchased at SeatGeek.com, the Official Ticketing Provider of AT&T Stadium.

Spence vs. Garcia will be shown on big screens across the nation through FathomEvents. Tickets can be purchased online at www.FathomEvents.com or at participating theater box offices.

[Order the PPV](#) and visit PremierBoxingChampions.com for [Fight Night Info](#) and more on [Errol Spence Jr.](#) and [Mikey Garcia](#).

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About AT&T Stadium:

AT&T Stadium is one of the largest, most technologically advanced entertainment venues in the world. Designed by HKS and built by Manhattan Construction, the \$1.2 billion stadium features two monumental arches, the world's largest HDTV video board cluster, an expansive retractable roof and the largest retractable end zone doors in the world. Features of the stadium include seating for 80,000 and expandability for up to 100,000, over 300 luxury suites, club seating on multiple levels and the Dallas Cowboys Pro Shop, open to the public year round. The stadium is also home to a world-class collection of contemporary art, made up of over 50 pieces from an international array of curated artists displayed on the walls and in the grand public spaces of the venue. In addition to being the Home of the Dallas Cowboys since opening in 2009, the stadium has hosted Super Bowl XLV, the 2010 NBA All Star Game, the 2014 NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four, the 2015 College Football Playoff National Championship Game and the annual Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic. The venue has also played host to high school and college football, concerts, championship fights, international soccer matches, and other special events. For more information, go to www.attstadium.com.

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