

## Boxing News: Final Gatti-Baldomir Presser

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About to kick off what should be a bloody good fight at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City Saturday night (HBO), Carlos Baldomir and Arturo Gatti met the press a final time, in Gatti's adopted home state New Jersey, and this is what some of the principals had to say.

Larry Hazzard (NJ Commissioner) – “This will be one of the greatest fights of the year. Gatti is a mainstay. He has carried boxing in the state of NJ. But Arturo has his work cut out for him Saturday.”

Kery Davis (HBO) – “This will be Gatti's 20th appearance on HBO, behind only Roy Jones, Lennox Lewis, Shane Mosley, and Oscar de la Hoya ... Gatti is a terrific fighter. You don't get to fight 20 times on HBO if you're not a terrific fighter. You don't sell tickets the way he does unless you're a terrific fighter ... This will be a competitive, exciting fight. When Baldomir fought Judah he had Judah just about running at the end of their bout ... The bout will be shown after the Mosley-Vargas II replay.”

Scott Woodworth (Sycuan Rep) – “Carlos Baldomir is our modern day Cinderella Man.”

Carlos Baldomir – “I'm really happy to be back in the New York area because I won the belt here. I'll never forget that ... Everyone knows me and everyone knows Gatti, so I'll leave all the conclusions to you guys.”

Buddy McGirt (Gatti's trainer) – “Baldomir's shirt says WBC welterweight champion, but as far as I'm concerned he's the undisputed welterweight champion. He should never have been stripped ... Gatti came to camp early because he knows he's in for a tough fight ... We will win that title. It's all up to Arturo.”

Arturo Gatti – “I'm prepared for this fight. I am taking Baldomir very seriously. He beat Zab Judah. Zab Judah is a much better fighter than I am, but he doesn't have the heart that I have. Baldomir won the title in NY, but he's going to lose it in NJ. A victory is guaranteed. Bet the house ... I don't watch opponents on tape because they can fight differently depending on the opponent. The only time I ever watched a tape was before I fought King Solomon—and I lost that fight. So I said I'm not doing that anymore ... I have grown into a welterweight.”