

Chris Arreola & Manuel Quezada Battle To Stay In Line

Written by David A. Avila
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A pair of California Mexican-American heavyweights Chris "The Nightmare" Arreola and Manuel Quezada know the outcome of their fight next month could have bleak circumstances for the loser.

Both heavyweights fight under Goossen-Tutor Promotions and both lost surprisingly in their last fights. Now Arreola and Quezada will be fighting on Friday Aug. 13 at the Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario to see who gets his checks canceled. The fights will be shown on ESPN.

"One or two losses can damage a fighter's career," said Dan Goossen, president of Goossen-Tutor.

Heavyweights in California are not that common a site it goes without saying that most have sparred against each other on different occasions. Arreola and Quezada have traded blows with the head gear on.

"We sparred a couple of times. I would get a couple of rounds in," said Quezada who lives in Bakersfield but often trains in the Los Angeles area. "For sure he is a tough fighter to do good against."

Arreola says sparring doesn't mean a thing.

"As far as that sparring with Manny, it really doesn't mean anything," Arreola says. "I'm a fighting kind of guy."

This is different.

"This is a make me or break me kind of fight," Arreola says.

Arreola was beaten by split decision against former light heavyweight and cruiserweight world champion Tomasz Adamek. It wasn't supposed to turn out that way.

"I cut a lot of corners," admits Arreola, who also cut corners in his world title fight against Vitali Klitschko a year ago. "The only guy that can beat me is myself. I'm tired of beating myself."

Quezada suffered a similar surprisingly loss against veteran heavyweight Jason Gavern. He had placed himself in contention for a title fight after stopping Travis Walker. Then a loss to Gavern slipped the carpet from under Quezada.

"That fight it was an off night for me," Quezada said of his loss to Gavern. "In the second round I got a head butt and that affected me the whole fight."

A month from now both Mexican-American heavyweights will be butting each other to remain in

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the heavyweight ranks as a contender.

?The winner puts himself right back in the heavy world championship picture,? Goossen said.

Other boxing chatter

Johnny ?Mi Vida Loca? Tapia, 43, fights Frankie Archuleta (26-7-1, 14 KOs) on Saturday in New Mexico. Tapia (57-5-2, 29 KOs) won by knockout last March but before that had not fought in three years. Archuleta, 34, won his last fight by decision.

Mexico?s Saul ?Canelo? Alvarez (33-0-1, 25 KOs) stopped Argentina?s tough Luciano Cuello (26-2, 11 KOs) at the end of the sixth round by technical knockout in a junior middleweight bout. The fight took place Guadalajara and was a risky fight for Canelo but he passed easily. Cuello gave Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. a lot of trouble when they fought in Tijuana a year ago.

Heavyweight challenger David Tua (51-3-1, 43 KOs) meets Monte Barrett (34-9, 20 KOs) in a 10 round bout on Saturday in Atlantic City. The fight will be shown on pay-per-view.

WBC bantamweight world titleholder Fernando Montiel (41-2-2, 31 KOs) of Mexico defends his title against Panama?s tough Rafael Concepcion (14-4-1, 8 KOs) on Saturday in Chiapas, Mexico. Montiel is making his first title defense since upsetting Japan?s Hozumi Hasegawa last April. Concepcion went 12 rounds with Nonito Donaire. It will be televised on Fox En Espanol.

Germany?s Juergen Braehmer (36-2, 29 KOs) defends the WBO light heavyweight world title against Alejandro Lakatos (31-5-2, 23 KOs) on Saturday in Germany. It?s Braehmer?s second title defense that he won against Dmitry Sukhotsky.

Former junior welterweight and welterweight world champion Zab Judah (38-6, 26 KOs) meets Southern California?s Jose Armando Santa Cruz (28-4, 17 KOs) in a 10-round junior welterweight bout on Friday in Newark. ESPN will show the fight.

Undefeated middleweight Fernando Guerrero (18-0, 15 KOs) meets Ishe Smith (21-4, 9 KOs) in a 10-round fight on Friday in DeSoto, Mississippi. It?s a stiff test for both fighters. Smith has lost some close decisions and Guerrero has not fought anyone like the Las Vegas prizefighter. Showtime will televise it.

Great Britain?s Matthew Hatton (39-4-2) , the younger brother of Ricky Hatton, fights Yuriy Nuzhnenko (30-1-1, 14 KOs) at the Bolton Arena in Bolton, England on Friday. Both are fighting for the EBU title.

Maria Lindberg (3-1) defends the WIBF junior middleweight world title against Romania?s Mihaela Dragan (3-1) on Saturday in Germany. It?s Lindberg?s first world title defense.

Former world champion Brian Vilorio (27-3, 15 KOs) beat Mexico?s Omar Soto (19-7-2, 13 KOs) by split decision after 10 rounds in Manila, Philippines. Vilorio was coming off a loss.

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Zulina Munoz (23-1-2, 17 KOs) fought to a draw with Mayerlin Rivas (6-1-1) in a bantamweight clash after 10 rounds on Saturday. Both women fight out of Mexico City where the fight took place.

Cuba's Erislandy Lara (12-0, 7 KOs) stopped William Correa (8-4) in the 2:34 of the first round of their middleweight bout on Friday in Denver. Also, Derrick Wilson (7-1-2, 3 KOs) handed Ricky Lopez (7-1) his first defeat in a featherweight fight.

In a welterweight clash Mike Jones (22-0, 18 KOs) knocked out Irving Garcia (17-5-3) in the fifth round on Friday in Atlantic City. Jones kept his undefeated record and has been rising quickly in the 147-pound weight division.

WBC junior lightweight titleholder Olivia Gerula (13-10-2) beat challenger Brooke Dierdorff (6-5-1) by unanimous decision on Thursday in Canada. It was Gerula's second title defense.