

Who Do Ya Like, Morales or Garcia?

Written by The Sweet Science
Thursday, 15 December 2011 20:23



BIG-TIME BOXING DOUBLEHEADER LANDS IN THE LONE STAR STATE TO KICK OFF 2012 AS MEXICAN LEGEND ERIK "EL TERRIBLE" MORALES FACES UNDEFEATED RISING STAR DANNY "SWIFT" GARCIA ON JANUARY 28 FOR THE WBC SUPER LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE AT RELIANT ARENA IN HOUSTON LIVE ON HBO BOXING AFTER DARK

PLUS, TEXAS NATIVE JAMES "MANDINGO WARRIOR" KIRKLAND FACES

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HARD-HITTING "KING" CARLOS MOLINA IN A

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT CO-FEATURED BOUT

HOUSTON, TEX. (December 15) - To kick off the 2012 boxing year, Golden Boy Promotions and Box Latino Promotions will deliver a night of boxing that no fight fan will want to miss when future Hall of Famer **Erik "El Terrible" Morales** defends his WBC Super Lightweight title against unbeaten Philadelphian **Danny "Swift" Garcia**

Garcia

and

James "Mandingo Warrior" Kirkland

, fresh off of his thrilling fight against Alfredo Angulo, battles

"King" Carlos Molina

on Saturday, Jan. 28 at Reliant Arena in Houston, Texas in an HBO Boxing After Dark televised doubleheader that airs at 9:45 p.m. ET/PT.

Tickets, priced at \$250, \$125, \$75, \$50 and \$25, go on sale on Saturday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. CT and may be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets, by calling [\(800\) 745-3000](tel:8007453000) or online at [www.t](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

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. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the Reliant Stadium box office south ticket windows.

"Danny Garcia is a strong, fast, young fighter," said Morales. "I have always said that I want to fight the best. Garcia is one of boxing's future stars and is highly rated, but I feel I will beat him without any problem. His time is not now."

"To be able to face legend like Erik Morales and headline an HBO fight card is what I have been waiting for my whole life," said Garcia. "I am going to work hard and make a statement on national television that I have what it takes to not only face one of the greats, but to beat him too."

"I am thrilled to be fighting in my home state of Texas," Kirkland said. "2011 was a whirlwind

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year for me and I am looking forward to kicking off 2012 on top. Molina is tough, but I am tougher. I want to keep this winning streak going and I'm not going to let anyone stop it."

"James Kirkland is capable of being stopped," Molina said. "We saw it in April and we will see it again in January. I am confident in my abilities and I know that with hard work, I will be the one with my hand raised at the end of the fight."

There were some skeptics when former Three-Division World Champion **Erik "El Terrible" Morales** (52-7, 36

KO's) returned from a three year layoff in 2010, but after three wins that year, Tijuana's "El Terrible" truly showed that he was back in 2011 with a Fight of the Year candidate against Marcos Maidana in April and a 10

th round stoppage of unbeaten Pablo Cesar Cano that earned him the WBC Super Lightweight Title in a historic fourth divisional world title. On Jan. 28, the 35-year-old will look to defeat another unbeaten young gun in #2 rated WBC contender Danny Garcia.

Twenty-three-year old Philadelphian **Danny "Swift" Garcia** (22-0, 14 KO's) knows that being a fighter from the City of Brotherly Love means putting it all on the line every time you step into the ring. Thus far, no one has been able to stop the rise of this talented young fighter, and after back-to-back wins over former World Champions Nate Campbell and Kendall Holt in 2011, he's ready for his big opportunity to turn a current world champion into a former world champion when he faces the legendary Morales in Houston in his HBO debut.

The year 2011 was a tumultuous one for Texas knockout artist **James "Mandingo Warrior" Kirkland** (30-1, 27 KO's). After being out of the ring for nearly two years, "The Mandingo Warrior" returned with two quick knockout wins before ending up on the wrong side of a knockout against Nobuhiro Ishida. Undeterred, Kirkland bounced back with two knockout wins before his epic November battle with Alfredo Angulo in which he rose off the canvas in the first round and roared back to stop the rugged Mexican battler in six rounds. In January, the 27-year-old southpaw will look to begin his title run with a win over Carlos Molina.

A native of Patzcuaro, Mexico, 28-year-old **"King" Carlos Molina** (19-4-2, 6 KO's) didn't receive a lot of praise on his way up as a pro, but when he battled Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. to a draw in 2005 in a fight many believed Molina won, people started paying attention. He would

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lose his next three bouts to the 23-0-1 Chavez, 10-0 Wayland Willingham and 15-0 Mike Alvarado, but from then on, Molina hasn't lost a step or a bout, going 11-0-1 including a draw against Erislandy Lara and, in his most recent bout in July of 2011, a win over former World Champion Kermit Cintron.

Morales vs. Garcia is a 12-round bout for Morales' WBC Super Lightweight World Title and will take place on Saturday, January 28 at Reliant Arena in Houston, Tex. The co-featured bout will be between James Kirkland and Carlos Molina in a junior middleweight showdown. The evening of boxing is presented by Golden Boy Promotions and Box Latino with Kirkland vs. Molina being presented in association with Warrior's Boxing and Promotions. The HBO Boxing After Dark broadcast begins at 9:45 p.m. ET/PT.

A full undercard will be announced shortly. For more information, visit www.goldenboypromotions.com, www.reliantpark.com

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camron14 says:

This is a great match up of past versus future. I like this match because Garcia showed great

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technical skill blended with the willingness to bang against Kendal Holt. Morales is a crafty veteran and there isn't much he hasn't seen in a boxing ring. But with his recent form, and having nearly edged out Marcos Maidana, i think Morales takes this one in similar fashion to how he beat Pacquiao the first time. However, Garcia is a young hungry lion looking to make a name for himself by taking out the surging veteran. I think it will be close but i believe Morales will graciously box his way to a 12 round decision, but like i said, it will be close.

brownsugar says:

Havent had time to study Garcia,.. but from the brief look I had, he looks like he's got the goods. I pick him to outhustle "PoPs" Morales, but only because of his youth,.. Garcia couldn't last 6 rounds with a 10 years younger Morales who was the ultimate technician with a warriors spirit.

the Roast says:

I don't think we need to study Garcia B-Sug. Morales is 150 years old. A quality 23 year old from Philly will pound old Erik fo' sure as Smiley C used to say.

brownsugar says:

LOL... Roast, Im trying to express with admiration with a straight face... I bet you make folks laugh at funerals.

the Roast says:

As a matter of fact Sug, I kill at funerals. Its always a little awkward so I talk alot to cover that and the funny just spills out. Also, I'm in wearing a suit so that gives me extra confidence cuz I never wear a suit. I also kill at weddings. Bridesmaids? I just can't help it.

maromero says:

That's the same thing people were saying before Erik fought Maidana. The old guy can still school one more youngster before he retires.

the Roast says:

@maromero, the problem with that is, Erik didnt beat Maidana. He fought much better than expected but still clearly lost. That guy he beat for the vacant belt was a late sub and he wasn't that good. Also, it seems like every ageing legend that pulls an upset eventually gets his ass kicked by somebody soon after that big win. Most fighters never know when to get off the stage. It's that competitive edge that made them a great fighter in the first place that makes them all think they can do it one more time. Boxing is cruel like that.

dino da vinci says:

@Roast. Boxing IS cruel like that. Over the years I've been around so many past greats that

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want to have one more have at it. And not all needed the money. It's sad because they truly believe there's still more juice left in the orange.

the Roast says:

You said it Dino. Its like when a young lion dethrones an old lion. After the new king topples the old king, the first thing he does is kill all the old kings cubs. Wipes out all trace of the former champ. Ruthless. Young Erik did the same thing when he won his first belt from old lion Daniel Zaragoza. Without the kid killing but you get my drift.