

Amir Khan Happy With Ariza-To-Tabares Switch, Will Go to 147, Soon

Written by Michael Woods
Monday, 02 July 2012 13:50



Danny Garcia's dad Angel talked trash and got Amir Khan and son Danny riled up at this June 4 press conference. The fighters were gentlemen on a Monday conference call. (Hogan)

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Amir Khan will be fighting possibly his last fight at 140 pounds on July 14 at the Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, against Danny Garcia, who is subbing in for Lamont Peterson. Peterson tested positive for testosterone for the May 19 rematch, just ten days before Khan would try to show the world that the Peterson decision victory was an aberration, and so Garcia was picked to step in. The two men talked on a Monday conference call to hype the scrap, and Khan talked about drug testing, his plans after this bout, and how he feels after dumping strength and conditioning coach, Alez Ariza, while Garcia got points for repeatedly stating that he wants to fight the best, and that he eagerly accepted this

Promoter Oscar De La Hoya talked about the main event, Khan-Garcia. He said HBO will show the scrap, kicking off at 11 PM ET, and Sky Sports will run it in the UK. Of Garcia (23-0 with 14 KO's) , the WBC super lightweight champ, Oscar said he is considered one of boxing's brightest young stars. The 24 year old, he said, prefers that the judges stay home. Garcia got on the line. He said his nine week camp has been solid. He wants to give the fans a "great fight."

He then introduced Khan, the 25 year old who won silver at the 2004 Olympics, who has a 26-2 record. He said his camp has been good, but long, because this bout was a reset because Lamont Peterson was pulled from a Peterson-Khan rematch, in May, because he tested positive for a PED.

Garcia was asked what his reaction was when offered this Khan fight. Did this come quicker than he expected? He said he knew his division is tough and he was immediately excited to accept. You have to fight the best to be the best, he said. Is Khan much different than, say, an Erik Morales, who beat him via UD12 in March? Putting two younger fighters in against each other, he said, insures a great fight.

Khan said he considers this fight a challenge, and he jumped to the offer when Golden Boy offered it. Khan said he wants to have some downtime, and enjoy Ramadan. He called Garcia a "good fighter," and figured one day, down the line a bit, the Garcia name might come up. Khan said Garcia has some similarities to Peterson, in his strength, speed and right-handed style.

Khan said yes, he did fixate a bit on the Peterson situation and wanted to settle the grudge, show the world the first fight, in December 2011, was an aberration. He said a win here will lead to some super fights, so he is not looking past Garcia.

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Khan said he did want to get "his" title back, from Peterson, and improve on things he did the first fight, but swears he put that scuttled rematch behind him.

A win, Garcia said, would put him in a "new category." He said his hard work, he is "pretty sure," will result in a win. Hearing people say this fight is "too soon" just makes him train harder. To his credit, he shot down this mindset, that a champion should step up in increments, and not fight the very best right away. He said he learns every fight, gets smarter, more confident. Garcia said he showed a lot of heart against Morales, especially when cut in round eleven. Fans want to see "blood, sweat and tears," from a Mexican-type warrior, and he said he showed his immense heart in that scrap.

Khan said he will jump on any Garcia mistake, that this is a different level than the kid has faced. Does Garcia have anything he hasn't seen? He will be ready for it all, he said. Garcia said he will do what he has been doing, just smarter and harder.

Khan said he isn't put off by trash talk by Garcia and his trainer-father. He prefers to stay classy, he said. Trash talk makes him train harder, he said. He said he will think of Pakistan when he wins.

If he beats Garcia, would he move to 147, and fight a Mayweather, and a Tim Bradley? He isn't looking too far past this one, but Khan does want to fight the best.

Khan was asked about the recent PED explosion. He said he's happy that a cleanup is occurring. He said Peterson might've been aided in the first fight to the extent that it helped him stay on his feet. Khan said USADA will do the testing for him and Garcia, and that he leaves it up to Golden Boy to choose whether USADA or VADA do the testing.

Khan said he won't get heated when he sees Garcia's father, who ranted at a June 4 press conference that Khan hasn't faced a Puerto Rican boxer, and is merely a Euro product.

Khan said the July 14 night is a good one for Brit boxing fans, with David Haye meeting Dereck Chisora the same night. Khan also said he will attend the Olympics in London, and go to the

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opening and closing ceremonies.

Garcia spoke about the Morales fight. He said 2/3 of the way through he knew he won, and that it was a "great experience" managing to fight through the cut and being forced to trade.

If the Khan fight didn't happen, Garcia said he didn't have a plan. He just wanted to fight the best out there.

He said in the first Peterson fight, he did things in camp he should not have done. He said a switch away from Alex Ariza as strength and conditioning coach, to Ruben Tabares, has helped him. "It was the change I needed," he said. "It was a big wakeup call me the Peterson fight...he's making me work hard and challenging me..That's what a young fighter needs, to do new things."

Readers, how do you assess this fight, technically? What are Khan's edges in this bout? is this "too much, too soon" for the Philly kid? Weigh in!

[Comment on this article](#)

deepwater says:

garcia's daddy is a rascist moron but pretty entertaining to say the least. hope khan can inflict some damage on his son for the racist nonsense. forget about 147 or anything else except garcia for goodness sake.

riverside says:

I just you tube there press conference, Garcia dad's, talk too much! Danny Garcia is way over his head, old heavy Morales almost beat this guy, Khan is going to make easy work, chop him up and knock him out.

deepwater says:

lol. the prime morales woulda beat the crap outta garcia, switched to southpaw for kicks and go out and do an 8 ball with a bunch of chicks.

brownsugar says:

hilarious comments..... (8 ball..... lol...)

I caught some of Big Garcia's comments while I was on break today.... Incredibly crass, bold and way over the top. He's writing checks that Little Garcia may not have enough resources in his boxing Savings Account to cash.

If his intention was to hype the fight,.. I think he got everybody's attention now.... I haven't seen that much of Garcia,.. and from What I have seen, he's solid, competent, and better than average. I just don't think he's quite on Khans' level skillwise.

I would have thought the " Stay supremely-confident, humble,... and get lucky approach" (like Josesito) would have worked better than getting Khan hyped up with personal attacks...

Now things have escalated,... and there's no turning back.

But like Holyfield told Tyson when he was threatening to hurt Evander in a variety of ways,...

Evander said "well,... we're already gonna fight anyway,...we signed a contract"

ali says:

Garcia's dad needs to STFU!!!! I enjoy sh*t talking but he's way over the top and he's not the one fighting. If that was my dad talking that reckless I be embarrassed and might have to tell dad to be quite real talk.

Radam G says:

Hehehehehehe! C'mon, SCLA Ali! Now I know that you wouldn't do a Money May 24/7 on yo' pops. Quietly tell him to STFU! Holla!

ali says:

^^^Yeah that's pops at the end of the day I didn't like how Mayweather talk to his dad that sh*t wasn't cool.

MisterLee says:

I say Garcia upsets khan the same way lopez upset ortiz... overlooking your opponent, and Danny Garcia is MORE than just a live dog!!!

Radam G says:

Amir "Great" Khan is going to knock the son of a racist da double fudge OUT! Talking ain't fighting. All of my life, I have been hearing these racist, ugly-mouthed, gone-astray wildcats talk

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that racist and religious nonsense bullsyet then get their a\$\$es torn up -- from da floor up! But kept rock steady with the racist syet talk. And this is the way that racist Pops Garcia and his seed Danny outta dat squared jungle will WALK!

Whuppin' da arse of a racist doesn't change his fudged-up head. He will be fudged up until the day that he is dead. And that's life. It will always be full of race-talking strife. Death is the only equalizer of all types of dumb _____. Death puts da STFU on all of us. But until then, the nitwits, dimwits, halfwits and fullwits will never be da sh*ts. Holla!

the Roast says:

I agree Khan is gonna destroy Danny Garcia. Khan has learned from that screw job not to let it go to the judges. Garcia is in over his head. I would have liked to be a part of that 8 ball with Morales and the whores back in the day.

undisputed34 says:

Hmm...I foresee khan dazzling in the early rounds as he usually does. Hope he doesn't self destruct in the mid to late rounds, like he has a tendency to do. Should be an entertaining enough fight while It lasts...who knows, maybe Garcia decides its his time to lay it all on the line. Still a little disappointed, that this isn't between Monty and Amir. I really wanted to see that scrap...

MisterLee says:

I see crow, and handing lots of it. Khan has had great success agst boxers who can't punch, punchers who can't box, and old fighters. Danny Garcia can adjust, can box, can fight rough, and more important has some remnance of a ring iq. Khan disappoints us again, his chin for Ortiz's sanity. Holler!

MisterLee says:

Okay, this is not gonna be as technical as my other posts... partly because I haven't been watching crazy Danny Garcia videos, and second, because these ideas are more hunches than technical breakdowns.

First, Garcia is a rugged guy who can be smart and can fight rough. He's determined, tough to hurt, and keeps coming at you. He's beaten quality opposition in Kendall Holt (and oh yeah, Morales). He admits he's always learning which means he's gonna be improved on this fight and will fight smart and will find a way to weather and beat Khan's speed and athleticism.

Second, Khan's best victories have been agst limited opponents: guys who can punch but can't box (Maidana), small guys (Barrera), guys who can box but can't punch (Malignaggi), old guys (Barrera, Judah), or guys with no heart (Judah). Once we put in front of him someone who is smart, can box and adjust (Peterson), someone who can pressure him and make him fight dumb (Maidana, Peterson) then Khan's dumbness, pride (glove claps), and willingness to

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run/fight toe-to-toe will get the better of him, and all that height, reach, power, speed, and athleticism gets nullified by wasted running, shoe shining, putting his chin out there to get hit, and going to toe-to-toe.

I think Danny Garcia will bring this out of him, and I think Peterson showed that Khan is not yet elite. Like Ortiz, Khan has all the physical abilities and then some to be elite, but as Cotto has shown, a huge part of that process is mental, and some people have it, and some people don't. They are like Wizard of Oz characters, which one is missing a heart, and which is missing a brain? Is it Tin Man and Lion, or is it Scarecrow and Lion? I dunno. Have a nice day! I'm going all in on this one, but it's mainly due to Khan's weaknesses and Garcia's class/toughness. Pc!

dino da vinci says:

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First, loved the analysis. Well presented.

Buttttt, Scarecrow? Lion?

Khan fought Paul Malignaggi in New York City (home to more Italians than Italy), Zab Judah in Las Vegas (where he lives), and Lamont Peterson in Washington D.C. (where rumor has it he's a favorite son).

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Most gave him the Peterson verdict, and Amir was chomping at the bit for the rematch. Frankly, don't feel there is any question in this regard.

MisterLee says:

One doesn't have a heart one doesn't have guts or a brain... man, sad, I have to wiki Wizard of Oz. See ya soon!

Radam G says:

Lamont Peterson had steroid pellets shot all up in his retrum straight to lumps of poop. WTF! What a cowardly lion and dummy scarecrow to believe the words of a hood quack about getting away with hiding PEDs and supercheat steroids up in the cavity of your sh*t.

Trainer Barry Hunter, Lamont Peterson and that quack-a\$\$ hoody doctor should be censured, and that alphabet title belt should be stripped from LP. But NO! The D.C. crooks and the worst alphabet-sanctioning syet organization in creation would not dare give justice to an Asian of any persuasion. No justice -- JUST US!

The cheats on the Asians are the latest "The Ugly American" criminal actions of ____ ____ ____ ____! And You know what I think! If it would be Paulie Malignaggi coming up with steroids in his syet, he would have been stripped YESTERDAY! And I will say exactly what I BELIEVE. Peterson has yet to be stripped of that IBF belt because fellow Ebonicans are running that sorry a-s organization, and they are keeping quiet and turning their heads to Team Peterson, because they are down with protecting da brotha -- right or wrong, hook, book, or what they did, CROOK!

If you are black, the IBF will be your protecting Mack. If you are white, they'd stripped you on sight. And if you are Khan or Da Manny and brown, yo' arse da muthasuckas would/did cheat and clown. Holla!

brownsugar says:

Great commentary Mr Lee. I'm officially stealing your analogy for use on an online site for writers that I visit from time to time. Lolgood stuff fo'sho.

MisterLee says:

No way, thanks man!!!

gZOTTIE says:

I'd like to see the Ricardo "El Matador" Mayorga vs Danny Swift Garcia press-conference. That would be HILARIOUS.