

CANELO: “Obviously A Knockout Would Be Beautiful”

Written by The Sweet Science
Wednesday, 05 March 2014 22:07



“TOE TO TOE: CANELO VS. ANGULO” FIGHTER WORKOUTS AT THE MGM GRAND GARDEN ARENA LOBBY

SHOWTIME PPV® Fighters Work Out For Media And Fans Just Three Days Before The First Blockbuster Boxing Event Of 2014

THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 8, AT 9 P.M. ET/6 P.M. PT IN LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS (March 5, 2014) – Mexican boxing superstar and former world champion **Canelo Alvarez**

, hard-hitting countryman

Alfredo “El Perro” Angulo

and

“TOE TO TOE: Canelo vs. Angulo”

pay-per-view undercard fighters worked out in front of a throng of media and adoring fans on Wednesday at the

MGM Grand Garden Arena

lobby.

Canelo (42-1-1, 30 KOs) and the dangerous Angulo (22-3, 18 KOs) will square off in what is expected to be a slugfest in the 12-round super welterweight main event this **Saturday, March 8**, LIVE on **SHOW**

TIME PPV

®

(9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT) at the MGMGrand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

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Undefeated two-division world champion and current WBC Super Bantamweight titleholder **Leo "Terremoto" Santa Cruz**

(26-0-1, 15 KOs) will defend his title against former three-time world champion

Cristian "El Diamante" Mijares

(48-7-2, 22 KOs) in Saturday's co-feature. In the second world title fight of the evening, IBF Junior Middleweight World Champion

"King" Carlos Molina

(22-5-2, 6 KOs) will defend his title against undefeated

Jermall Charlo

(17-0, 13 KOs).

A 10-round lightweight fight between former two-time world champion **Jorge "Niño de Oro" Linares** (35-3, 23 KOs)

and exciting Japanese contender

Nihito Arakawa

(24-3-1, 16 KOs) will open the pay-per-view telecast. Lightweight contender

Ricardo Alvarez

(23-2-3, 13 KOs), brother of Canelo, will face late-replacement

Sergio "Yeyo" Thompson

(28-3, 26 KOs) on the non-televised undercard after WBC Lightweight Champion

Omar Figueroa Jr.

pulled out due to injury.

Tickets for the event promoted by **Golden Boy Promotions** are on sale and priced at \$600, \$400, \$200 and \$100, not including applicable service charges and taxes, with a total ticket limit of 10 per person. To charge by phone with a major credit card, call Ticketmaster at [\(800\) 745-3000](tel:8007453000)

. Tickets also are available for purchase at

www.mgmgrand.com

or

www.ticketmaster.com

. Movie theater tickets are available at participating theater box offices and online at

www.FathomEvents.com

Below is what the fighters said at Wednesday's workouts:

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CANELO ALVAREZ:

"My main concern when we are this close to a fight, is always my weight and making the weight. Although I'm on weight and it will not be a problem, that is always my concern this close to a fight. All of the hard work in the gym is done.

"Between the fans, my family and myself, I'm always motivated for my fights. The support I get has always motivated me. I fight for them, on behalf of them. Everything I have is because of the fans. I know I'm young and they have so much faith in me. I can just be who I am and continue to work as hard as I can.

"Angulo presents a difficult challenge because he's a fighter who can punch and take a great punch. I know I have to prepare and establish my game plan early. But you know how it can be with game plans. Sometimes, once a fight starts, you have to do what you have to do win and that's what I am going to do on Saturday.

"Obviously a knockout would be beautiful; that's what the fans like, an impressive knockout. But I never go into a fight looking for knockout. If it comes, it comes.

"Everyone says Angulo is the stronger guy, but I think I'm the strongest."

ALREDO ANGULO:

"Style-wise, this is a great matchup for the fans and both of us. Fans are going to get a great fight.

"I'm ready to chase him or fight him like a true Mexican warrior.

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"I plan to test him like he's never been tested before. I don't think anyone has ever hit Canelo as hard as I'm going to hit him.

"I'm totally relaxed and confident. Camp was amazing and I am in unbelievably great shape.

"There were a couple times when I was in the immigration detention center (January-August 2012) that I wanted to quit. But my team of lawyers always motivated me, wouldn't let me stay down for too long and kept telling me that justice would prevail and that I shouldn't give up.

"I always dreamed of being a headliner on a major card, and here it is. I am so ready for Saturday."

LEO SANTA CRUZ:

"This is going to be a great fight, a war. I have a lot of respect for Mijares, who was a great champion and is still very fast. His style can be complicated which is why I've been working in the gym with southpaws who are like him.

"I feel [Cesar] Seda was stronger, younger and faster than Mijares.

"I never enter the ring thinking I'm going to lose, so if he says he can see something in me that indicates that, well, he is very wrong. I am going to stop him."

CRISTIAN MIJARES:

"This is such a great opportunity for me. I totally feel like I'm catching Leo at the right time. He's a great, young champion and I know this is going to be a difficult fight. But I have too much experience for him, too much overall speed.

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"I think Leo found out in his last fight that he is vulnerable. I can see in his face, the look in his eyes, that he's going to lose on Saturday. I am very confident."

JERMALL CHARLO:

"This fight is a stepping-stone in my career. In order to be the champion that I want to be, I have to get past this obstacle. He has the title, he has what I want.

"It's going to take hard work, guts and determination. It's going to take everything I've prepared for to stay in there and battle with him. I need to stay focused and be able to deal with everything that he brings into the ring – the shots behind the head, low blows, I'll be ready for everything. We've all seen Molina fight and I've prepared in a way that he can't surprise me with anything.

"I'm not fazed by the spotlight or the world championship. This is where I belong. I trained hard and will leave it all in the ring.

"I already feel like a world champion and I'm here to prove that I'm ready for this level. I'm going to show everyone that I'm here and that I'm going to be here for a long time."

JORGE LINARES:

"The battle has already started; we just haven't shot the first bullet yet. But we are both ready for war. We need to be.

"It's difficult to knock him down but it's not impossible. He certainly won't fall with one punch, and that's why I've prepared for 10 rounds of action..

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"You can't compare my style with Figueroa Jr. We are completely different fighters. I have to break him [Arakawa] down with my speed and intelligence. I can't fall into his territory and fight his fight.

"I think there is a better chance that the ref stops this fight than it ending in one punch. I'm going to break him down little by little.

"This is the biggest opportunity for me at this point in my career. My mind is just set on winning. It's been a long time coming so I know I need to be ready for this opportunity. Whoever they put in front of me I can beat.

"Fighting here at MGM pumps me up even more. It gives me a little something extra every time I fight in Las Vegas. I won my first title here in Vegas [at Mandalay Bay], but the difference is now people know who I am and they give me respect."

NIHITO ARAKAWA:

"I'm not looking at this as a personal challenge but as a challenge as a Japanese boxer and for all Japanese boxers. I'm representing my country, I'm representing Japan.

"[In my last fight] I just did what was natural, which is to fight until the bell rings. I didn't win but I fought my fight. I'm going to fight with the same style and aggressiveness, but this time I will get the win.

"I'm very happy to get the nickname 'The Japanese Rocky.' It's an honor to earn a reputation like that after just my first fight in the United State. It's an honor to represent my country with this nickname.

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"Spirit-wise, I won't change. I will fight until I win. I'll fix my defense and the issues I had against Omar [Figueroa Jr.] to ensure that I get a win. I have a huge opportunity and I'm going to take advantage of it."

RICARDO ALVAREZ:

"[On the injury to Figueroa Jr.]: That's the way boxing is. These types of things happen. But I'll be fine. I'm just happy to be able to fight on this card."

"I always work hard. Whenever the world title opportunity comes up I will be ready. I'll just keep working hard and the world title shot will come."

"In my last fight, I had a fighter that was moving a lot. It probably wasn't the best for my style, but you learn each time you step in the ring. This time, I'm going to move forward and be aggressive. I'll keep my style that I've always had to satisfy the fans."

"Omar and Sergio [Thompson] have similar styles so the late change doesn't bother me that much. I've prepared for a world title fight so I'm ready for everything."

"There is some sense of pride [fighting on the card with my brother]. I'm so happy for him and all of his success. But it's important for me to break away from that and fight my own fight. At the end of the day, Canelo will not get in the ring with me."

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"TOE TO TOE: Canelo vs. Angulo," a 12-round super welterweight fight taking place Saturday, March 8 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, is promoted by Golden Boy Promotions and Canelo Promotions and sponsored by Corona, AT&T and Casamigos Tequila. In world title fights on the undercard, two-division World Champion Leo Santa Cruz will defend his WBC Super Bantamweight World title against former three-time World Champion Cristian

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Mijares and Carlos Molina will defend his IBF Junior Middleweight Championship against undefeated Jermall Charlo. Carlos Molina vs. Jermall Charlo is presented by Golden Boy Promotions in association with Warriors Boxing. The four-fight telecast, which opens with a 10-round lightweight bout between Jorge Linares and Nihito Arakawa, will be produced and distributed live by SHOWTIME PPV beginning at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT. The event can be heard in Spanish using secondary audio programming (SAP). "TOE TO TOE: Canelo vs. Angulo" will be broadcast in over 400 select movie theaters across the country.

Tickets are on sale now and are priced at \$600, \$400, \$200 and \$100, not including applicable service charges and taxes, with a total ticket limit of 10 per person. To charge by phone with a major credit card, call Ticketmaster at [\(800\) 745-3000](tel:8007453000). Tickets also are available for purchase at www.mgmgrand.com or

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