

# Boxing returns to Brooklyn- Ryan Garcia challenges Devin Haney at the Barclays Center



Ryan Garcia and Devin Haney will square off on April 20 at the Barclays Center for the World Boxing Council (WBC) super lightweight championship. Photo by Jennifer Garcia.

By Jennifer Garcia

**New York, N.Y.-** As he sat on a gold-adorned throne, playing into his alias “King Ry,” Ryan Garcia answered the question on everyone's mind: Why is now the right time for this fight?

"I feel like he was picking up steam," said Garcia, referring to his opponent Devin Haney's last fight in December where he won the WBC junior welterweight championship. "He finally became like more of a bigger draw and a big potential for a great event."

Dressed in all beige, Garcia walked to the stage behind an entourage of women dressed in black throwing flower petals on the throne as Coldplay's “Viva la Vida” played. It couldn't have been any different to his opponent Devin “The Dream” Haney's quick and laid-back entrance to “Hypnotize” by the Notorious B.I.G., which received a wave of approval from the New York crowd in attendance.

Garcia, 25, from Victorville, CA, will challenge Haney, 25, a San Francisco native for the World Boxing Council (WBC) junior welterweight championship on April 20 at the Barclays Center.

This will be Haney's first defense of his championship in the 140-lb weight class. But, it's not the first time Garcia (24-1, 20 KOs) and Haney (31-0, 15 KOs) have faced each other. The two boxers, both from California, have known each other for more than ten years stemming back to their days in the amateurs, where they fought six times, with three wins each.

But in April things will be different. According to Oscar De La Hoya, promoter of Golden Boy Promotions, this fight, which both boxers originally wanted to be contested at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, will come down to one thing: "The question is whether we're going to hear 'and new' or 'still'."



Nearly 200 fans came in to see Garcia and Haney at the press round in New York City. Photo by Jennifer Garcia.

Amidst cheers and boos from the fans, Haney along with his father and trainer, Bill Haney, made it clear that they are not afraid to jeopardize his undefeated streak. "Have I ever quit like you did?" said Devin to Garcia referring to Garcia's only loss to Gervonta Davis in April 2022.

Bill Haney stirred the pot some more by saying, "it doesn't matter the state or the place, 'cause Devin is going to break Ryan's pretty little face."

Before the press conference, Ryan Garcia's father Henry Garcia said that although Ryan suffered a loss, he's since bounced back and is stronger because of it. "I don't know why people think you shouldn't lose," he said. "It's like making a mistake in life. You have to learn from your mistakes, but how can you correct a mistake if you keep assuming you're going to win?"

New York fans are eager to see boxing return to Brooklyn, and WBC President Mauricio Saldivar expressed that this bout has the potential to become the "next boxing trilogy," expecting that Garcia and Haney will continue this storyline to face each in future bouts. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on March 5 at 10 a.m. via Ticketmaster. The home of the Brooklyn Nets has not hosted a professional boxing event since Deontay Wilder's first-round knockout over Robert Helenius in October 2022.