

# Rigo Looks To Put On A Show February 24 At Hialeah Park

Hialeah, FL / January 17, 2023 – Former two-time world boxing champion **Guillermo Rigondeaux** arrives at the ultimate career crossroads when he returns to action for the first time in a year on Friday, February 24, 2023 at Hialeah Park.

With a professional record of 20-3-1 (13 KOs), the now 42-year-old Rigondeaux faces battle-tested super bantamweight **Jesús Martínez**, who will bring a mark of 33-17-1 (16 KOs) into the Hialeah Park headliner.

Rigondeaux, who dropped decisions to Vincent Astrolabio in February of 2022 and John Real Casimero in August of 2021, has been sidelined since suffering severe facial burns and eye injuries in a freak kitchen accident at his home in Miami over ten months ago.

“After the way he lost his last two fights and because of his time away from boxing, winning is just not good enough, Rigo must entertain,” said **Alberto “Beto” Ferreiro**, Sports Journalist and host of Café Deportivos con Beto. “Rigondeaux is obligated to win big and to put on a good show for his fans if he expects another title shot.”

Rigondeaux, the former WBO/WBA Super Bantamweight and WBA Bantamweight world champion will attempt to tap the fountain of youth in his 25<sup>th</sup> professional fight as he looks to win for the first time since defeating Liborio Solis in February of 2020.

“Rigo must attack and knock Jesús Martínez out,” added Ferreiro. “That’ll be his only option if he wants to continue boxing at a higher level. Anything less than that will likely mean the end of Rigondeaux’s long professional career.”

Tickets for what promises to be an action-packed card at Hialeah Park on Friday, February 24, 2023 are on sale at the Hialeah Park web site ([www.hialeahparkcasino.com](http://www.hialeahparkcasino.com)).

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# Multiple World Boxing Champion Guillermo Rigondeaux Returns To The Ring On Friday, February 24, 2023 At Hialeah Park

Hialeah, FL / January 4, 2023 – Former two-time world boxing champion **Guillermo Rigondeaux**, with a professional record of 20-3-1 (13 KOs), will return to the ring for the first time in almost one year when he headlines the fight card at Hialeah Park on Friday, February 24, 2023.

Rigondeaux, whose last bout was a unanimous decision defeat at the hands of Vincent Astrolabio on February 26, 2022 in Dubai, has been sidelined since suffering severe facial burns and eye injuries in a freak kitchen accident at his home in Miami nine months ago.

Now 42 years of age, the former WBO/WBA Super Bantamweight and WBA Bantamweight world champion will attempt to tap the fountain of youth in his 25<sup>th</sup> professional fight as he looks to win for the first time since defeating Liborio Solis in February of 2020.

Tickets for what promises to be an action-packed card at Hialeah Park on Friday, February 24, 2023 are on sale now

at <https://hialeahparkcasino.com>

*Hialeah Park Casino, with entrances at 100 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street and 2200 East 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, is easily accessible from all major Miami highways and conveniently located just minutes by car from Miami International Airport, South Beach, Downtown Miami, Coral Gables, and Doral.*

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## **GARY RUSSELL JR. VS. TUGSTOGT NYAMBAYAR FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE QUOTES**

ALLENTOWN, PA. (February 6, 2020) – WBC Featherweight World Champion Gary Russell Jr. and unbeaten mandatory challenger Tugstsogt “King Tug” Nyambayar went face-to-face at a final press conference Thursday before they headline action live on SHOWTIME on Saturday, February 8 in a Premier Boxing Champions event from PPL Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The press conference also featured former champions Guillermo Rigondeaux and Liborio Solis, who battle in the co-main event for the vacant WBA Lightweight Title, plus Jaime Arboleda and Jayson Velez, who compete in a 12-round WBA Super Featherweight Title eliminator to open the SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT.

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by TGB Promotions and Kings Promotions, are on sale now and can be purchased through [www.pplcenter.com/events](http://www.pplcenter.com/events) (direct link HERE).

Here is what the fighters had to say Thursday from the Renaissance Allentown Hotel:

GARY RUSSELL JR.

"We had a great training camp. I have my younger brothers on the card with me and in camp, pushing me every day. We're ready, focused and hungry.

"Tug will be the best he possibly can be because he knows he's facing one of the best fighters in the world. He has everything to gain and nothing to lose. He's going to leave it all on the line.

"I think Tug is a lot more technically sound than a lot of the guys who I have competed against. He's another guy with everything to gain and nothing to lose, so I'm anticipating a tough fight.

"If it were up to me, I'd be facing Leo Santa Cruz or Gervonta Davis, but this is what I have to face. I'm here to defend my title in style once again.

"It's amazing to watch my younger brothers and to have them on the same card. I'm excited to work their corners. There's never been a set of three brothers to become world champions, and I think we'll do that real soon. They're both extremely talented and hungry. I expect them to be better than me by the time they're at this point in their careers.

"I was the first fighter to turn pro on ShoBox, and I went on to win my title on SHOWTIME. The fact that we're still doing it now speaks wonders. I work great with their team and I'm grateful to be in this position.

"You should expect to see what you always see with me. Boxing at its best. A great deal of ring generalship. Good boxing IQ. Hand speed. Punching power. The total package as a fighter. As a matter of fact, I'm trying to figure out why I'm not on the pound for pound list given all of that. That's an issue."

TUGSTSOGT NYAMBAYAR

"I'm very excited for this fight. It's going to be a good fight for the fans. Gary Russell Jr. is a great champion, but watch on Saturday night, when I become the new featherweight world champion.

"I just have to be better than Gary Russell on Saturday night. The past experience won't matter. If he thinks I'm too inexperienced for this fight, he is going to be in for a surprise Saturday.

"I know that I'm the underdog, but that doesn't affect me. I don't care if I'm the favorite or the underdog.

"I'm not worried about any ring rust. I've worked so hard in the ring during training camp to make sure I'm the best I've ever been.

"Working with Ismael Salas has been very good for me and I think it's taken me to another level in my career. All of skills, all of my power and speed, it will all be with me on Saturday. I just have to put it together for my best performance.

"I'm very ready for this fight. I want to be the first WBC featherweight champion in history from Mongolia. I'm ready, you just need to watch on Saturday."

GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX

"Bantamweight is my division. I have no issues making that weight. I want to thank my team for getting me prepared and getting me to this position. All that's left is to fight Saturday night.

"I want to also thank Ronnie Shields for how he has prepared me for this fight. It's been a great training camp and I can't wait to step into the ring and become champion again.

"I feel 100% and I believe that bantamweight has always been my best weight. I did well at 122 pounds, so i stayed there.

My plan now is to dominate this division.

"Me and Ronnie Shields have great chemistry and worked well together. Ronnie is a great trainer and I'm looking forward to a long run that we're going to have together.

"I'm going to be phenomenal in the ring. I'm going to unify 118 pounds just like I did at 122 pounds. I'm excited to get started.

"My strategy will depend on the fight that Solis brings. I'm a veteran in this sport, dating back to the amateurs, so I'm used to seeing so many different styles. I'm to fight the way that gives me the best chance to win."

LIBORIO SOLIS

"Thank you very much to my team who has backed me and supported me leading up to this fight. I'm very grateful for this opportunity. My opponent has been a great champion and I'm very excited to be here to fight him.

"This is obviously going to be a great fight. I'm a warrior who always comes to fight. He can pick his strategy however he wants. But I just want to get in there and put my skills on display.

I was already a champion in one division and I had a fight taken on the scorecards at bantamweight, or else i would already be a two-division champion.

"Saturday is going to be different than my last fights. Both me and Guillermo give our heart and soul and we're going to fight until the best man wins. I'm not leaving that ring without a championship.

"I'm going to come with everything on Saturday. I come to fight and I come to win. I'm sure Guillermo is the same. The difference will be my determination to win this fight.

"I don't think anyone's weight or which division we fought at in the past will be an advantage. I'm sure he could have always fought at 118. The person with the advantage is who wants it more."

JAIME ARBOLEDA

"I want to thank all the great champions up on this stage and everyone on my team who made this fight happen. This opportunity has been a long time coming and I've been preparing hard to make the most out of it.

"On Saturday, I'm very confident that this is going to be a great fight and end in a knockout. I'm prepared and I know that I'm going to win.

"This is a great chance to get one step closer to my dream of becoming a world champion. I know what I have to do and I've prepared every day to make sure that I fight my best on Saturday night.

"We have a lot of respect for each other and we're looking forward to Saturday night. Don't miss this card because it's going to be action packed from start to finish."

JAYSON VELEZ

"I'm happy to be here again and back in a big fight. My last time fighting on SHOWTIME was in 2012 and I'm very thankful for this opportunity to compete on this stage once again.

"I'm blessed to be able to do what I do every day. I've fought professionally since 2007. This is the dream that every boxer has. When I win on Saturday, I'll be the mandatory for the belt and that's the opportunity that I want.

"I've been training hard for this fight and I'm ready. I've won three fights in a row heading into a great fight between two hungry fighters. We want to add each other to our record and I believe that this fight is ending in knockout.

“Don’t miss this fight because this is going to be great. There’s going to be a lot of action. Every time I step into the ring, win or lose, I will leave everything in there. I fight with my heart and I fight for Puerto Rico.”

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#### ABOUT RUSSELL VS. NYAMBAYAR

Russell vs. Nyambayar will see WBC Featherweight Champion Gary Russell Jr. defend his 126-pound crown against unbeaten mandatory challenger Tugstsogt “King Tug” Nyambayar live on SHOWTIME on Saturday, February 8 in a Premier Boxing Champions event from PPL Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and will see former world champions Guillermo Rigondeaux and Liborio Solís battle for the vacant WBA Bantamweight World Title in the co-main event, plus Jaime Arboleda meeting Jayson Vélez in a 12-round WBA Super Featherweight Title eliminator bout opening the telecast

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## Two-Time World Champion Rigondeaux Looks For Title In



# **A Second Weight Class When He Battles Liborio Solis For Vacant WBA Bantamweight Title This Saturday, February 8 Live On SHOWTIME from PPL Center in Allentown, Pa**

HOUSTON, TEXAS – February 4, 2020 – Former world champion Guillermo Rigondeaux will seek to become a three-time, two-division world champion when he moves down to bantamweight to challenge former champion Liborio Solis for the vacant WBA title live on SHOWTIME this Saturday, February 8 in a Premier Boxing Champions event from PPL Center in Allentown, Pa.

“I’m trying to make history by winning a third world title in a second weight class, while also matching my two [Olympic] Gold Medals,” said Rigondeaux, who will fight at bantamweight for the first time in his career. “I want to make a statement and solidify my legacy as one of the best Cuban fighters ever. I want the boxing world to be talking about me, as I seek to become a world champion once again. February 8 will be a special day for me and my family.

“I know at super bantamweight I am a force to be reckoned with. Now that I’m moving down to bantamweight, I feel stronger and I’m getting the most out of my skills. The bantamweight and super bantamweight divisions are filled with great fighters to test myself against. It’s a very exciting time and I am training very hard for each opportunity that is granted to me.”

This will be Rigondeaux’s second straight fight working with the renowned head trainer Ronnie Shields, and conducting

training camp at Shields' gym in Houston.

"Ronnie and I are working very hard and smart," said Rigondeaux. "We have put together a great game plan that we are going to execute on fight night. All of my tools are getting sharpened up and everyone will see that the hard work we've put in will pay off. Ronnie is a great coach and I'll be fighting with something to prove on fight night."

"He is very focused, and one of the hardest workers in the gym," said Shields. "Rigondeaux is so determined to become a world champion once again. He comes to camp every single day with that goal, and I don't see any way he doesn't achieve it."

Rigondeaux is coming off an exciting knockout win over former world champion Julio Ceja last June. The Guantanamo, Cuba native will look to capture his next world title when he faces Solis, a former super flyweight world champion for the vacant WBA belt.

"Solis is a good opponent and a worthy challenger, but I am ready to reclaim my status as a world champion," said Rigondeaux. "I'm going to show people why I am one of the best boxers of my generation."

"This is a very big deal for me. For years I was one of the best fighters in the world, if not, the best fighter in the world. When you're a champion, you only fight the top opponents and those are the type of fights I want. I'm going to start another long reign as champion beginning February 8."

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by TGB Promotions and Kings Promotions, are on sale now and can be purchased through [www.pplcenter.com/events](http://www.pplcenter.com/events) (direct link [HERE](#)).

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#### ABOUT RUSSELL VS. NYAMBAYAR

Russell vs. Nyambayar will see WBC Featherweight Champion Gary Russell Jr. defend his 126-pound crown against unbeaten mandatory challenger Tugstsogt “King Tug” Nyambayar live on SHOWTIME on Saturday, February 8 in a Premier Boxing Champions event from PPL Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and will see former world champions Guillermo Rigondeaux and Liborio Solís battle for the vacant WBA Bantamweight World Title in the co-main event, plus Jaime Arboleda meeting Jayson Vélez in a 12-round WBA Super Featherweight Title eliminator bout opening the telecast

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**WBC Featherweight World  
Champion Gary Russell Jr.  
Defends His Title Against**

# **Unbeaten Mandatory Challenger Tugstsogt Nyambayar Saturday, February 8 Live on SHOWTIME® from PPL Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania in Premier Boxing Champions Event**

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (January 6, 2020) – WBC Featherweight World Champion Gary Russell Jr. will defend his 126-pound crown against unbeaten mandatory challenger Tugstsogt “King Tug” Nyambayar Saturday, February 8 live on SHOWTIME from PPL Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania headlining a Premier Boxing Champions event.

The SHOWTIME CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING telecast begins at 9 p.m. ET/6 p.m. PT and will see former world champions Guillermo Rigondeaux and Liborio Solís battle for the vacant WBA Bantamweight World Title in the co-main event. The telecast opens with Jaime Arboleda meeting Jayson Veléz in a 12-round bout WBA Super Featherweight Title eliminator.

The main event showdown will see Russell make the fifth defense of his title as he looks to again display the skills and speed that have made him one of the elite featherweight fighters in the world. He will be challenged by the 2012 Olympic silver medalist “King Tug”, who quickly rose up the rankings facing quality opposition throughout his 11-fight career.

“Gary Russell Jr. has proven himself to be at the very elite level of this sport and one of the best fighters in the featherweight division,” said Tom Brown, President of TGB Promotions. “His speed, power and overall skillset has made

him a must-watch every time he steps into that ring. He's going to get all he can handle from an undefeated fighter in 'King Tug' Nyambayar, who has the pedigree and power to make this a memorable fight. You won't want to blink during this high octane showdown February 8 on SHOWTIME from PPL Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania."

"The February 8 card is co-headlined by two of the most skilled boxers in the sport today," said Stephen Espinoza, President Sports & Event Programming, Showtime Networks Inc. "Gary Russell Jr. – arguably the fastest hands in boxing – will be facing his toughest challenge as world champion against the aggressive power-puncher 'King Tug'. And in the co-main event, Guillermo Rigondeaux, one of the best boxers on the planet since his days as an amateur in Cuba, moves down in weight to the bantamweight division for the first time in his pro career as he faces former world champion Liborio Solis with a world title at stake. Add in a compelling super featherweight eliminator and we have the makings of an action-packed tripleheader on February 8."

Tickets for the live event, which is promoted by TGB Promotions and Kings Promotions, are on sale now and can be purchased through [www.pplcenter.com/events](http://www.pplcenter.com/events) (direct link [HERE](#) ).

The Capitol Heights, Maryland native Russell (30-1, 18 KOs) has held his WBC Featherweight Title since 2015 when he stopped multiple division champion Jhonny Gonzalez to emphatically capture the belt. The 31-year-old is part of one of boxing's premier fighting families as he is trained by his father Gary Sr., and trains alongside his younger brothers, unbeaten super lightweight Gary Antuanne and undefeated bantamweight Antonio. Russell most recently stopped former champion Kiko Martinez in May on SHOWTIME after previously defeating then unbeaten challenger Joseph Diaz Jr in 2018 in a hometown defense.

"I'm forced to defend my title against another mandatory challenger and I'm going to show on February 8 why none of the other champions want to face me," said Russell. "I'm the longest current reigning WBC champion but no one has stepped up to the challenge I present. I'm going to take care of business against a strong opponent and display all my skills like I always do."

The 27-year-old Nyambayar (11-0, 9 KOs) represented his native Mongolia in the 2012 Olympics but now lives in the U.S. and is training out of Las Vegas. Nyambayar ascended up the featherweight rankings after his extensive amateur career with victories over then unbeaten Harmonito Dela Torre and former interim champion Oscar Escandon. Most recently he won his first 12-round decision by defeating former champion Claudio Marrero in January.

"This is going to be an exciting fight for everyone watching on February 8," said Nyambayar. "Gary Russell Jr. is a great champion who is very talented, but he has the WBC belt and that's what I want. I'm training hard to win this fight and I will be ready for anything that Russell brings to the ring."

Rigondeaux (19-1, 13 KOs) will look to move down and capture a title in a second weight class in his SHOWTIME debut. Since turning professional in 2009 after one of the best amateur careers in history, Rigondeaux has showcased masterful technical skills that made him a unified 122-pound world champion and perennial member of the pound-for-pound list. A two-time Olympic gold medalist for his native Cuba, Rigondeaux made his name with victories over the likes of Nonito Donaire, Rico Ramos and Joseph Agbeko. Most recently, Rigondeaux scored an exciting eighth-round stoppage of former champion Julio Ceja in June.

Born in Venezuela and fighting out of Panama, Solís (30-5-1, 14 KOs) will make his U.S. debut on February 8 while riding a five-fight winning streak. Solís captured a super flyweight

world title in 2013 amidst a 14-bout unbeaten run. He has lost by decision in his two previous attempts at 118-pound title, including a controversial loss to Jamie McDonnell, which he has bounced back from on his current win streak.

Arboleda (15-1, 13 KOs) has ripped off five straight victories by stoppage since he suffered the only loss of his career against Recky Dulay in 2017. The 25-year-old Arboleda from Curundu, Panama will be fighting in the U.S. for the third time in his career. He's coming off a knockout victory over Victor Betancourt on August 24.

The 31-year-old Veléz (29-5-1, 21 KOs) has strung together three straight knockout victories since losing to Ryan Garcia in 2018. The Juncos, Puerto Rico resident is coming off a knockout victory over Hector Ruben Ambriz Suarez on July 27 and is looking for another championship opportunity. He came up short in his previous attempt when he fought to a draw against Evgeny Gradovich for the featherweight world title in 2014.

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## VLADIMIR TIKHONOV WANTS TO

# TEST ACES QUIGG, RIGO AND/OR DONAIRE

Vladimir Tikhonov, rated No 9 by the WBA, and No 13 by WBO, has put word out that he's ready, willing and more than able to rumble with the best and brightest in the super bantamweight division.

Scott Quigg, "let's get it on", he is calling the former WBA champion out, through promoter Dmitriy Salita.

Guillermo Rigondeaux, "I respect your skills but don't believe you are invincible", is Tikhonov's message for the Cuban sweet scientist.

Nonito Donaire, "If you take care of business Nov. 5 against Jessie Magdaleno then how about you step to the line against me," said the 15-0 (8 KOs) Russian.

"Tikhonov is a big, strong super bantamweight who knows how to use his height, reach and power," Salita said of the southpaw pugilist tutored by Igor Shafer in St Petersburg, Russia. "Vladimir is very well schooled and wants to fight the best fighters in the division. Russia is producing lots of top notch fighters, contenders and world champions. I feel that Vladimir has the skills and experience to be the new face in the super bantamweight division!"

The 26 year-old Tikhonov got it done in his last outing against 40-4 Mikhail Krivolapov. Salita has proven himself to be judicious talent spotter, no surprise since he's been to the mountain top himself, as a standout at 140 pounds, with a 35-2-1 record at junior welterweight/welterweight. "This Russian is ready to rock and makes heads roll at super bantamweight," Salita said. "He can finish out this year with a bang and climb even higher in 2017!"