

# Video: Kal Yafai – Suguru Muranaka weigh in

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## Kal Yafai – Suguru Muranaka Weights

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. – May 12, 2017 – Weights for the WBA Super Flyweight world title bout between champion Kal Yafai and Suguru Muranka that will take place TODAY!!! LIVE on AWE- A Wealth of Entertainment at 2 PM ET / 11 AM ET

For fans who do not have AWE, they can access the fight on the AWE channel on [www.klowdtv.com](http://www.klowdtv.com)

Khalid Yafai 114 1/2 vs. Suguru Muranaka 114 1/4  
(WBA super flyweight title)

Ceferino Rodriguez 145 3/4 vs. Sam Eggington 146 1/2

Sean Davis 121 1/4 vs. Gamal Yafai 121.6

Frankie Gavin 148.6 vs. Renald Garrido 145

Ryan Kelly 153.6 vs. Adam Harper 152.6

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## YAFAI: I'LL TURN BIRMINGHAM

# INTO A FORTRESS

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. – May 12, 2017 – Kal Yafai believes he can build something special in Birmingham and wants to unify the Super-Flyweight division as he prepares to make the first defense of his WBA title against Suguru Muranaka at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on Saturday LIVE on AWE- A Wealth of Entertainment at 2 PM ET / 11 AM ET

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Yafai became the second city's first World champion in December with a punch-perfect display against Luis Concepcion in Manchester, and the unbeaten 27 year old wants to turn the Arena into a fortress – starting this weekend.

"It's such an honor to be Birmingham's first World champion. I consider myself to be the flag bearer for Midlands boxing now, I just want to make sure there's more talent and inspire more fighters to achieve the same.

"I want to be a big role model for Birmingham and the Midlands all together. Birmingham has been craving World Championship boxing for some time, for me to be bringing the World title back and with being born and bred in Birmingham is an honour.

"Walking out in front of my fans with the belt is a privilege and I can't wait. I'd love to turn the Barclaycard Arena into my fortress."

Yafai is in a talent heavy division with Muranaka's countryman Naoya Inoue holding the WBO crown, Jerwin Ancajas the IBF and the WBC belt in the possession of Wisaksil Wangek, who edged out pound-for-pound star Roman Gonzalez in March – and Yafai wants to face the best to add more belts to his collection as soon as possible.

“Unification bouts are very much part of my plan – and sooner rather than later,” said Yafai. “Whatever my team puts in front of me, that’s what I’ll take. I’ve got the best team in the business around me who advise me what to do and when to do it, so I listen to them first and foremost but I like to take it all one fight at a time. I’ve got to concentrate on this fight solely and then we’ll go from there and see what is next.

“I haven’t really studied Inoue much. I’ve seen a couple of his fights when he’s boxed lately. Obviously, he’s massive talent and a very good fighter. If that could happen down the line then that would be great.

“I thought Gonzalez nicked the fight with Wangek by a couple of rounds. In the rematch which seems to be on the cards, I think he’ll win convincingly. Before that fight Gonzalez was up there at number one on my pound for pound list and he’s still up there in my top three.

“Ancajas could be the likeliest of unification’s but it depends what and when they are available. Either or, I’m not really bothered. I’d love to fight Gonzalez, obviously he’s the name in the division. If I had to hold out and wait, have another defence or two before fighting Gonzalez then I’d do that.”

Yafai’s World title defense is part of a huge night of action in Birmingham, where Sam Eggington challenges Ceferino Rodriguez for the European Welterweight title.

Yafai’s brother Gamal defends his WBC International Super-Bantamweight championship against fellow Birmingham man Sean Davis, Ryan Kelly and Adam Harper meet for the Midlands Area Middleweight Title.

Frankie Gavin is back in action in his first fight with trainer Jon Pegg, and there’s action for Lennox Clarke, unbeaten Olympian Josh Kelly, Kieron Conway, Aaron Lovell,

Jordan Clayton, Charlie Williams and Cori Gibbs.

Photos By Lawrence Lustig

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# **Gamal Yafai and Frankie Gavin**

# **speak about undercard bouts this Saturday, Live on AWE- A Wealth of Entertainment**

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. – May 10, 2017 – Gamal Yafai says he can beat Sean Davis any way he wants to when he challenges his local rival for the WBC International Super-Bantamweight title at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on Saturday LIVE on AWE- A Wealth of Entertainment at a NEW START TIME 2 PM ET / 11 AM PT.

In the main event, Kal Yafai defends the WBA Super Flyweight title against Suguru Muranaka.

For fans who do not have AWE, they can access the fight card on the AWE channell on [www.klowdtv.com](http://www.klowdtv.com)

Yafai and Davis finally get their hands on each other after their proposed meeting for Yafai's Commonwealth title fell through in October after the champion damaged his ankle in training.

Davis instead met Paul Economides for the crown he defends tonight, while Yafai returned from injury in Germany in March in a six rounder. The 25 year old now meets 'Showtime' on the undercard of his brother Kal's World title defence, and Yafai plans to do a comprehensive job on Davis to show he's ready to move to the next level.

"I can't wait for this," said Yafai. "Fighting in front of my home fans on big shows is something I've always wanted to do and it's a bonus to be alongside my brother. To do it so early into my career is massive for me. I'm so happy to be one of the big names in Birmingham.

"I know a bit about Sean. I didn't know him a year ago until

his coach messaged me on Facebook for a bit of sparring and we done a little bit of work.

“It’s my job to answer whatever Sean brings. I’m capable of that. I am more than just a puncher, I can outbox Sean and outpunch him – I beat him in every department.

“I was preparing for the Davis fight doing box jumps. I’ve got it on video, it was on CCTV where I was training. I went over on it, it’s hard to describe how I done it. The pain and rehab was unreal. I couldn’t do anything for two months solid.

“It was horrible being out of the ring so long. I couldn’t train and obviously wasn’t getting paid. It’s hard when you can’t fight but it only makes you stronger.

“I didn’t have any surgery, just had to let it rest. It was so bruised and I tore a few ligaments but it’s in the past now.

“I’m entering the next phase of my career now. I learnt a lot as an amateur so I didn’t have to have as many learning fights so to speak. I didn’t need that long like other fighters might do. I was a World class amateur so I think I’ve done alright so far and I’m ready for the next step in my career.”

Yafai’s clash with Davis is part of a huge night of action in Birmingham where Kal Yafai defends his WBA World Super-Flyweight title against Suguru Muranaka.

Sam Eggington challenges Cerefino Rodriguez for the European Welterweight title, Ryan Kelly and Adam Harper meet for the Midlands Area Middleweight Title.

GAVIN FACES DANGER MAN GARRIDO IN BIRMINGHAM

‘Funtime’ faces French challenger on Saturday night

Frankie Gavin admits he’s heading to the last chance saloon as he faces Renald Garrido.

Gavin is back in action after his loss in the same arena to Sam Eggington in a thrilling fight in October, and the former World title challenger is kicking off a new chapter in his career having switched to Eggington's trainer Jon Pegg.

Garrido is a familiar face in the UK having beaten Bradley Saunders and gone the distance with Jack Catterall, Martin Lindsay and Robbie Davies Jr, and Gavin knows he must be at his best if he wants to bounce back with a win and move onto major title fights later in the year.

"I'm heading to the real last chance saloon now," said Gavin. "I'm in a gym with a lot of fighters and that's good for me – it's keeping me on my toes and hungry.

"I want a big fight next so I need a good performance on Saturday to prove that I can still win massive titles. Garrido is a good test for me, he always comes to win and he's dangerous, so I need to be on my guard."

Gavin's clash with Garrido is part of a huge night of action in Birmingham as Kal Yafai makes the first defence of his WBA World Super-Flyweight title against Suguru Muranaka.

Eggington challenges Cerefino Rodriguez for the European Welterweight title, Yafai's brother Gamal defends his WBC International Super-Bantamweight championship against fellow Birmingham man Sean Davis, Ryan Kelly and Adam Harper meet for the Midlands Area Middleweight Title.

There's action for Lennox Clarke, unbeaten Olympian Josh Kelly, Kieron Conway, Aaron Lovell, Jordan Clayton, Charlie Williams and Cori Gibbs.

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## **YAFAI: JOSHUA HAS INSPIRED ME TO UNIFY THE DIVISION**

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. – May 9, 2017 – Kal Yafai says Anthony Joshua MBE has set a new benchmark for British fighters to follow as he prepares to make the first defence of his WBA World Super-Flyweight title against Suguru Muranaka at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on Saturday LIVE on AWE- A Wealth of Entertainment at 3 PM ET / 12 Noon PT.

For boxing fans who don't have access to AWE, the fight will



be available on the AWE channel on [www.klowdtv.com](http://www.klowdtv.com)

Yafai and Joshua are close from their days as Team GB teammates, and Yafai won the crown he defends on home turf this weekend on the undercard of Joshua's win over Eric Molina in Manchester in December.

Yafai was unable to attend Joshua's epic win over Wladimir Klitschko at Wembley Stadium last weekend, but the 27 year old was bursting with pride as Joshua KO'd the Ukrainian in the 11th round, and believes that Joshua has raised the bar higher than ever for British fighters.

"I was unbelievably proud and happy for Anthony Joshua," said Yafai. "When he got put down I was very nervous, I was praying for him to get up and recover and that's what he did. It showed what a World Champion needs to do when it gets tough in there.

"He has completely smashed it now, onto bigger and better things for him. The world is his oyster. It was such a hard and big fight. I'd like to see him fight Tyson Fury but it doesn't sound like that's possible to happen next. If he can get a defence for one of his Titles against a contender then move onto one of the other Heavyweights like Wilder would be great.

"I still see him regularly. We come on the Team GB squad together. He's a good lad, one of the nicest people in boxing. He loves his boxing so much. He soaks everything up like a sponge. He just still wants to learn, he'll get better and better as he goes on. I mean he's still only young! Realistically a novice still. He's a funny lad and good to be around. I've got a lot of time for him. He's raised the bar now – beating Klitschko at Wembley is just massive, and it's something that we've all got to aspire to.

"Winning the World Title on his undercard was great. It took me four and a half years going from amateur into the pro game

and winning a World Title. Doing it on a massive show headlined by AJ was special. We are Eddie Hearn's only two World Champions who he's had from their debuts.

"I was very pleased with my performance that night. I had to do what I had to do. I stayed focused on my own game plan, even after he failed to make the weight. I got in there and done the business. I out boxed him for 12 rounds. I made it as easy as possible."

Yafai's World title defence is part of a huge night of action in Birmingham, where Sam Eggington challenges Cerefino Rodriguez for the European Welterweight title.

Yafai's brother Gamal defends his WBC International Super-Bantamweight championship against fellow Birmingham man Sean Davis, Ryan Kelly and Adam Harper meet for the Midlands Area Middleweight Title.

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## **Kal Yafai defends WBA Super Flyweight title against Suguru Muranaka This Saturday, May 13th on AWE-A Wealth of Entertainment**

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. – May 8, 2017 – Undefeated WBA Super Flyweight champion Kal Yafai will make his first defense of his crown when he takes on top 10 rated Suguru Muranaka This Saturday, May 13th live on AWE – A Wealth of Entertainment.

The card will originate from Yafai’s hometown of Birmingham, England. AWE’s live coverage begins at 3 pm ET.

For boxing fans, who do not have AWE, the fight can be accessed on the AWE channel on

"We're thrilled to air another great world title fight live on AWE," said Robert Herring, CEO of AWE. "This will be an outstanding matchup. We're pleased to continue to introduce some of the best world champions from around the world to AWE boxing fans and Yafai is no exception."

Yafai will step into the ring with a perfect record of 21-0 with 14 knockouts. The 27 year-old is a five year professional, and comes from a fighting family. Yafai's brother, Gamal, is an undefeated super bantamweight, and is also on the May 13th card.

Yafai won the WBA Super Flyweight crown with a 12-round unanimous decision over Luis Concepcion on December 10th in Manchester, England.

Yafai earned his way to a title shot with wins over Jozsef Ajtai (15-3), Dixon Flores (12-3-2), Jason Cunningham (17-2), Cristofer Rosales (10-1), Yaqub Kaleem (13-3-1) and Scott Gladwin (5-1).

"It's a tough first defense and that's what I need," said Yafai. "I want hard fights that are going to help me when I face unification fights."

"This is what I started boxing for. I wanted massive nights in Birmingham and it doesn't get better for me. It's been amazing since winning the title. Every time I'm walking around the city I get stopped for photos and for autographs, but I know that it's harder to keep a title than it is to win it, so the real work is only just beginning."Muranaka of Tokyo, Japan has a record of 25-2-1 with eight knockouts, and is undefeated in his last 19 fights, which spans 11 years.

Muranaka is coming off a eight-round majority decision over Hiroyuki Hisataka on December 5, 2016 in Tokyo.

The 31 year-old Muranaka has signature wins over Renoel Pael (19-3-1), Tetsuma Hiyasji (25-2-2), Masayuki Kuroda (21-4-3), Takuya Kogawa (22-2), Tamoya Tateyama (8-1-1) and Toyoto Shiraishi (6-0-1).

This will be Muranka's first bout outside of Japan. The full undercard will be announced shortly.

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