

A Monster May: Pound-For-Pound King Naoya Inoue to Defend Undisputed Junior Featherweight Crown Against Ramon Cardenas May 4 at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas

Tickets go on sale Friday, March 14, at 10 a.m. PT via [AXS.com](https://www.axs.com)



LAS VEGAS (March 12, 2025) — Japanese fighting icon **Naoya Inoue** is coming *back* to America.

The pound-for-pound king will defend his undisputed junior featherweight world title against San Antonio native **Ramon Cardenas** on Sunday, May 4, at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Inoue has not fought in America since 2021 and has since won a pair of undisputed titles, cementing his status as a generational power-punching force.

Promoted by Top Rank, in association with Ohashi Promotion, Teiken Promotions, and Sampson Boxing, pre-sale tickets will be available Thursday, March 13, at 10 a.m. PT by clicking [HERE](#). The public on-sale is scheduled for Friday, March 14, at 10 a.m. PT via [AXS.com](https://www.axs.com).

Broadcast and undercard information will be announced soon.

“Naoya Inoue is among the most powerful and well-rounded fighters I’ve had the privilege of promoting, a singular boxing talent,” said Top Rank Chairman Bob Arum. “After many years selling out arenas and stadiums in his native Japan, ‘The Monster’ is ready to take over Las Vegas on Cinco de Mayo weekend. Ramon Cardenas is a worthy challenger who has earned this opportunity with several impressive victories.”

Inoue (29-0, 26 KOs) is 24-0 with 22 knockouts in world title fights, a staggering championship run that began with his April 2014 knockout of Adrian Hernandez to win the WBC light flyweight title. He continued his decade-plus run of dominance with seven defenses of the WBO junior bantamweight

world title before a nine-fight run at bantamweight that concluded with his stoppage of Paul Butler to win the undisputed title. Inoue toppled future Hall of Famer Nonito Donaire twice at bantamweight, including a second-round stoppage in June 2022. Inoue became the undisputed junior featherweight champion in just two fights, knocking out then-unified champions Stephen Fulton and Marlon Tapales in 2023. Last May, he packed over 50,000 fans into the Tokyo Dome, rising from a first-round knockdown to stop former two-division king Luis Nery in six. Inoue has since made two more defenses of the undisputed crown, knocking out TJ Doheny in seven and late replacement Ye Joon Kim in four.

Inoue said, "I am thankful to the fans in America who have followed my career. Fighting at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas is another career highlight, and I look forward to putting on a great show for everyone in attendance. Cardenas is a tough opponent who I respect for accepting the fight without hesitation."

Cardenas (26-1, 14 KOs) enters his first world title assignment on a 14-fight winning streak, a run of success that began with a September 2017 decision victory over Gabino Hernandez. He graduated to contender in 2024 with a pair of gut checks, forcing Israel Rodriguez Picazo to retire on his stool with a broken jaw and knocking out Eduardo Ramirez in the ninth round of a competitive fight. Cardenas returned to headline in San Antonio last month, overcoming a sixth-round knockdown to earn a unanimous decision over the previously unbeaten Bryan Acosta. Following the Acosta victory, Cardenas called for the Inoue showdown, saying, "I want to fight the best." He now gets a monster opportunity to author a Las Vegas upset for the ages.

"This means the world to me. I've always aspired to fight for a world title, but to get a chance to fight for all the belts is a dream come true," Cardenas said. "I always knew our paths would cross. I never had any doubts. When the fight was offered, I instantly accepted. I wouldn't say it's a lottery ticket, but you can't turn it down if you get a chance at the undisputed title. This is the opportunity of a lifetime."

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