



JOSE “RAYO” VALENZUELA: “I DON’T BELIEVE GARY ANTUANNE RUSSELL BELONGS HERE WITH ME.”

WBA Super Lightweight World Champion Jose “Rayo” Valenzuela Battles Top Contender Gary Antuanne Russell in Co-Main Event of PBC Pay-Per-View Event on Prime Video Saturday, March 1 from Barclays Center in Brooklyn

Stacked PPV Features Four Title Fights Topped by Gervonta “Tank” Davis vs. Lamont Roach Championship Showdown

RIVERSIDE, CA. – February 13, 2025 – WBA Super Lightweight World Champion **Jose “Rayo” Valenzuela** intends to make a statement in his first world title defense as he takes on one of the division’s top contenders in **Gary Antuanne Russell** on Saturday, March 1 in the explosive co-main event of a PBC Pay-Per-View event on Prime Video from Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

“I don’t believe that Gary Antuanne Russell belongs here with me,” said Valenzuela. “He’s a strong, solid, durable fighter. He’s good, but I think he’s a little stiff when I look at him more. I worked my ass off to get here, and this is a bit of a handout for him. I took two tough losses and came back from hell to get the ‘Pitbull’ Cruz fight and conquer that. Russell has had everything given to him and I think it’s gonna show on March 1.”

The 25-year-old Valenzuela (14-2, 9 KOs) earned his world title in his last fight, dethroning fellow Mexican star Isaac “Pitbull” Cruz via decision last Summer. Facing one of the sport’s premier action fighters, Valenzuela believes he showed all the levels to his game by delivering a signature performance.

“My mentality going into the ‘Pitbull’ fight was that I was gonna show that I’m a more diverse fighter than I got credit for, not just a knockout puncher,” said Valenzuela. “I have a full arsenal. I showed my poise in the ring and I showed my ring generalship. There were a lot of little things that I did that had a major effect in the fight.”

Heading into that fight, Valenzuela had come off of back-to-back training camps with famed trainer Robert Garcia and will look to continue the steady improvement that he’s shown since teaming up with one of the sport’s best.

“Having Robert Garcia in my corner gives me a lot of confidence,” said Valenzuela. “He’s really fixed my fundamentals. Everything comes together nicely when we’re working together. This training camp is going great. I’ve been conquering every day with hard work. I’m taking it all in and learning each day. It’s just about learning the techniques and working hard.”

While Valenzuela was able to show off his versatility in out-boxing Cruz on his way to a decision, he believes that the style matchup with Russell will force him to go toe-to-toe on March 1, delivering fireworks for fans tuning in.

"Fans can expect an action-packed fight," said Valenzuela. "Stylistically it's a great matchup with him being a lefty and coming with the high guard marching forward. Gary is a lot taller than 'Pitbull'. I knew I could dance around 'Pitbull', but with Gary I think I'm gonna have to fight through him."

Valenzuela will be making the first defense of his title against Russell, a 2016 U.S. Olympian who comes from one of the sport's preeminent boxing families, as he's trained by his brother, former WBC Featherweight World Champion Gary Russell Jr. By voluntarily taking on such a stiff challenge in his first title defense, Valenzuela intends to prove his standing in the stacked 140-pound division.

"Taking on Gary Antuane for my first title defense says a lot about me," said Valenzuela. "People have to respect it. My name is on the radar because of the kind of opposition I'm going up against."

"I think I'm at the top of this division with guys like Teofimo Lopez and Alberto Puello," said Valenzuela. "I believe strongly that I can beat all of these guys. It's just a matter of taking it one fight at a time. Gary Antuane Russell is in the way of where I'm trying to get to. I've got my full attention on him and I give him his respect. But there's more that I want to do. My story is gonna continue after this."

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ABOUT TANK VS. ROACH

Davis vs. Roach will see boxing superstar and reigning WBA Lightweight World Champion **Gervonta "Tank" Davis** take on WBA Super Featherweight World Champion **Lamont Roach** in a lightweight title clash that headlines a loaded PBC Pay-Per-View event on Prime Video taking place Saturday, March 1 from Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

The pay-per-view undercard will WBA Super Lightweight World Champion **José "Rayo" Valenzuela** will take on hard-hitting top contender **Gary Antuane Russell** in the co-main event, plus WBC Super Lightweight World Champion **Alberto Puello** defends his title against top-rated mandatory challenger **Sandor Martín** in a pay-per-view attraction. Kicking off the pay-per-view at 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT, rising star **Yoenis Télez** will take on former unified world champion **Julian "J-Rock" Williams** for the Interim WBA Super Welterweight Title.

In addition to the PPV being available for purchase on Prime Video, regardless of Prime membership, fans will also be able to continue to access the telecast through traditional cable and satellite outlets as well as PPV.com.

Preceding the pay-per-view, Prime Video will stream a two-fight prelims card at 6:00 p.m. ET/3:00 p.m. PT that will be available via free access to all fans, regardless of Prime membership or purchase of the PPV card.

The streaming presentation will feature former unified 154-pound world champion **"Swift" Jarrett Hurd** taking on hard-hitting **Johan Gonzalez** in a 10-round middleweight affair, plus undefeated rising super featherweight contender **Jonathan "La Roca" Lopez** faces U.K. contender **Alex Dilmaghani** for a 10-round fight.

Tickets for the live event are on sale now and through ticketmaster.com. The event is promoted by GTD Promotions and TGB Promotions.

For more information visit Amazon.com/PBC, www.PremierBoxingChampions.com, follow #TankRoach follow on Twitter @PremierBoxing and @TGBPromotions, on Instagram @PremierBoxing and @TGBPromotions or become a fan on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PremierBoxingChampions>

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