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( Update: January 23, 2021 )



The time has finally arrived for one of the most anticipated rematches in recent memory. Nearly seven years later, Conor McGregor and Dustin Poirier will link up once again in the main event of UFC 257 on Saturday night in the U.S while competing in the wee hours of the morning from Abu Dhabi. McGregor successfully returned to the Octagon in January 2020 by stopping Donald Cerrone after nearly 18 months away.

In the time since the first meeting in 2014, so much has changed. Poirier made the leap up to 155 pounds immediately after the contest and began a torrid run through the division, amassing an impressive 10-2 record with wins over the likes of Eddie Alvarez, Justin Gaethje, Anthony Pettis and Max Holloway. McGregor, meanwhile, went on the collect both the featherweight and lightweight titles before a one-off boxing match with Floyd Mayweather Jr. in 2017, which he lost by TKO.

Tonight's lightweight bout will be a rematch of Poirier and McGregor's 2014 fight at UFC 178, which McGregor won by TKO in the first round. Poirier last fought in June, defeating Dan Hooker by unanimous decision. McGregor meantime, last fought almost exactly one year ago, needing just 40 seconds to take down Donald Cerrone at UFC 246. The Irish

superstar announced his retirement a few months later, but has apparently been lured back into the ring for a tantalizing rematch with Poirier.

While many gave McGregor the advantage in 2014, the two are more evenly matched this time around, with Poirier (26-6-0) and McGregor (22-4-0) both weighing in at 155 pounds, with almost identical reach and leg reach. Vegas oddsmakers have McGregor as the overwhelming favorite in the fight, though Poirier has said he's adjusted both his physical and mental strategy to take on Mr. Notorious.

A vicious left-hook from the then-underdog Dubliner was all it took - the legend was born and within a year The Notorious would be UFC Flyweight title en route to becoming one of the sport's first ever two-division champion.

The two UFC vets have shared remarkably similar records since that encounter, with both suffering a pair of losses - in both cases, the most recent came at the hands of Khabib Nurmagodemov.