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(Update: January 23, 2021)



Few events move the needle as seismically as the sight of Conor McGregor striding into battle and the Irishman returns to capture fight fans' imagination once more with a mouthwatering match-up at UFC 257 this month.

Former foe Dustin Poirier is the man who will be waiting in the opposite corner on January 23 armed with dreams of avenging his 2014 defeat against 'The Notorious'.

With Khabib Nurmagomedov's self-avowed exile seemingly still intact, a shot at the lightweight title remains the lure for the winner of this unmissable main event from Fight Island in Abu Dhabi.

Poirier and McGregor first fought at UFC 178 in 2014. The buildup for the showdown was instense. Ultimately, McGregor won by TKO in the first round.

Poirier has improved since then, while McGregor has become one of the most bankable combat sports stars of all time. His fight against Donald Cerrone at UFC 246 was the first streaming pay-per-view to reach more than one million buys. Saturday's pay-per-view is likely to do similar numbers.

The main event is crucial for Poirier, McGregor and the lightweight division's future. Earlier this month, former UFC Lightweight Champion Khabib Nurmagomedov has told UFC president Dana White that he'll be watching the showdown between McGregor and Poirier, as well as the co-main event between former three-time Bellator Lightweight World Champion Michael Chandler and Dan Hooker. Nurmagomedov says a "special" performance at UFC 257 could bring the undefeated former champion out of retirement.

It's time for McGregor vs. Poirier 2 at Fight Island as UFC 257 brings us the biggest fight of the young year: the rematch between Conor McGregor and Dustin Poirier. The main event features one of the sport's most controversial figures as he looks to regain the spotlight he walked away from when he stepped away from MMA. On the line: A shot to fight for the lightweight championship held by Khabib Nurmagomedov, who has announced retirement but not vacated his title. Saturday's main event in Abu Dhabi is a rematch September 2014 bout at UFC 178, which was won by McGregor. Meanwhile, UFC 257 also features a highly billed matchup between Dan Hooker and Michael Chandler, who is moving over to UFC after participating in rival circuit Bellator.