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(Update: January 23, 2021)



It all goes down later tonight (Sat., Jan. 23, 2021) at UFC 257 live on ESPN+ PPV from inside Etihad Arena on Fight Island in Abu Dhabi, U.A.E., as former UFC double champ Conor McGregor makes his awaited return to lightweight in a main event rematch opposite perennial contender Dustin Poirier.

In addition to the massive headliner, former Bellator MMA lightweight champion Michael Chandler will finally make his Octagon debut in a co-main event clash with No. 6-ranked Dan Hooker. The rest of the card will feature rising talent such as Amanda Ribas, Arman Tsarukyan, Makhmud Muradov, and Movsar Evloev.

Today's show will feature the return of Conor McGregor to the Octagon, as he fights for the first time in a year when he meets former interim lightweight champion Dustin Poirier. The co-main event also takes place in the lightweight division, with three-time Bellator 155-pound champion Michael Chandler making his UFC debut against Dan Hooker.

This post will cover the main event bout between Conor and Poirier.

Conor McGregor hardly needs an introduction to UFC fans and his star power now extends well beyond the world of MMA. The Irish fighter boasts a record of 22 wins (19 by knockout) and four losses, and he has previously held the UFC Featherweight and Lightweight Championships. McGregor's opponent, American fighter Dustin Poirier, is regarded by many as the underdog, but he's no jobber: Ranked second on the UFC lightweight roster, The Diamond has an impressive record of 26 wins and six losses and is a former interim UFC lightweight champion.

Last January at UFC 246, fans saw the return of Conor McGregor to the Octagon after a 15-month hiatus following his 2018 defeat at the hands of Khabib Nurmagomedov at UFC 228. Upon his 2020 return, The Notorious — who had just moved up to welterweight — handily defeated Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone in a first-round knockout. Many were excited and curious to see how McGregor would fare at this heavier class against top talent like Kamaru Usman, but several months later in June, the Irish fighter announced his retirement on social media.