

Leon Rocky Edwards does it again as he successfully gets his first title defense against the "the Nigerian Nightmare " Kamaru Usman in front of his home crowd at the jam-packed O2 arena in London. After the first two fights and the heated press conference before the third, it might be safe to say

Edwards had the final laugh, as he prevailed victorious over Kamaru Usman at the main event of UFC 286 on Saturday Night. The aftermath of this fight makes things a bit more interesting as the UFC 's welterweight title scene appears to be a bit messy. Clearly the fight fans are eager to know who's next in line for the title shot and what's next for Edwards.

According to the UFC president Dana White Colby Covington is the next in line for the title shot. Edwards however rejected this idea saying Covington has been inactive for over a year after his win against Jorge Masvidal. Edwards doesn't think that Colby is a legitimate contender and is more interested in fighting the winner of Gilbert Burns vs Jorge Masvidal at UFC 287.

Jorge Masvidal has a bad history with Leon Edwards where he injured Edwards in a backstage brawl at the O2 arena after a win over Darren Till . So despite his prior losses this fight makes more sense, a great story and sells much more than any other .

Gilbert Burns isn't too hot or cold in the title run as he is 0- 2 in his last two fights against Kamaru Usman and Khamzat Chimaev but due to his strong performance in both of these matches, a win over Jorge Masvidal might set him up properly for the title shot.

Khamzat Chimaev who seems to be the most legitimate contender after his victory over Burns seems to be moving up a weight class as Dana White confirms he might be fighting someone among the top 3 middleweight fighters. So It might be safe to say that for the time being Leon won't have to worry about Khamzat anytime soon but can make a return for the title shot any time he likes.

Belal Muhammad despite his strong resume and prior no-contest against Edwards seems to be having a tough time getting his name in the ensemble. Muhammad has not seen defeat in his last 9 fights. With wins over Sean Brady, Vincent Luque and Stephen Thompson Belal seems to be the most suitable contender On paper. The only problem, Belal is yet to win a fight against an opponent who is currently ranked in the top 5 . With one more win under his name we might see Belal fighting for the title very soon .

The Next person in line is one of the most exciting contenders in the welterweight division Shavkat Rakhmonov. After his late third-round submission against Geoff Neal at UFC 285 and his perfect 17-0 score, Shavkat made his presence known in this race for the welterweight title. Rakhmonov has great durability and toughness but still needs some time to tune his techniques and evolve as there were defensive gaps in his fight against Neal. His upcoming fight against Belal Muhammad might be a great opportunity for him to cement himself as the future title challenger but until then he will have to wait.