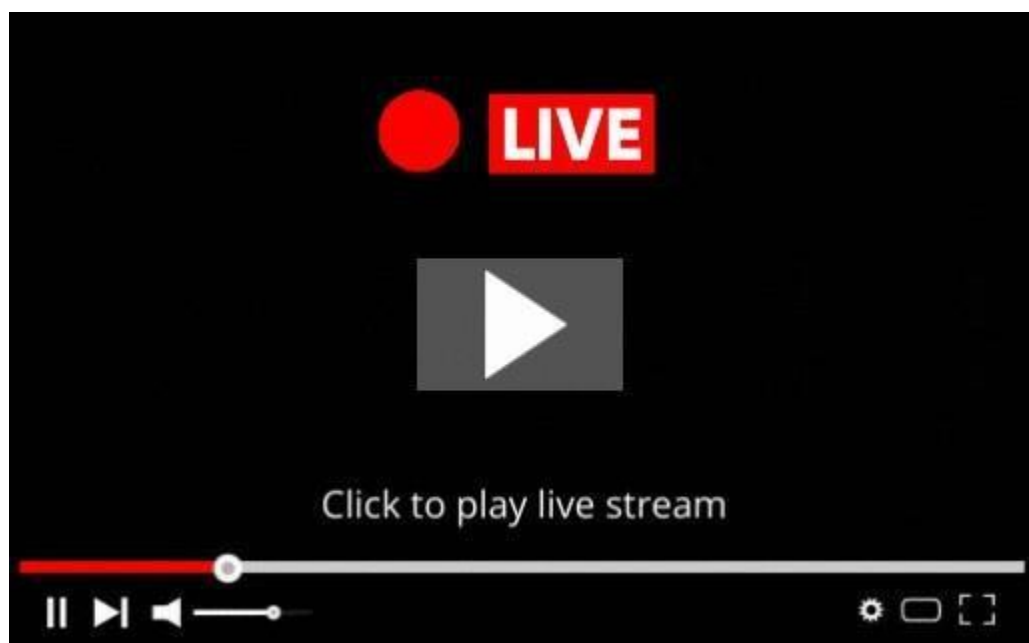


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Last Update: 09 July, 2023

22 sec ago - Live coverage begins Friday with a special DC & RC live from the UFC X at the Las Vegas Convention Center at 4 p.m. ET / 1 p.m. PT on ESPN+, followed by UFC Live presented by DraftKings Sportsbook: Volkanovski vs. Rodriguez at 5:30 p.m. ET / 2:30 p.m. PT on ESPN2. Coverage continues Saturday with the special UFC Live Presented by DraftKings Sportsbook: Volkanovski vs. Rodriguez Pre-Show on ABC at 12 p.m. ET / 9 a.m. PT.



In the main event, UFC Featherweight champion Alexander Volkanovski (25-2) returns to the 145-pound ranks to face interim champion Yair Rodriguez (16-3) in a winner-take-all champion vs.

champion main event. Volkanovski aims to reaffirm his position as the best featherweight in the world. He remains unbeaten in his UFC featherweight career, securing 10-consecutive victories, with his last five being championship contests, including his last division bout at International Fight Week last year.

A former winner on the UFC reality-series The Ultimate Fighter, Rodriguez claimed the interim title with a dynamic second-round submission win over Josh Emmett earlier this year and is looking to bring his unique attacks and unpredictable approach to reign atop the featherweight ladder. The UFC PPV action is in Las Vegas this weekend with UFC 290: Volkanovski vs. Rodriguez. The event will be live from the T-Mobile Arena this Saturday, July 8, at 10 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. PT, exclusively on ESPN+ PPV (English and Spanish). The Prelims will air on ABC, ESPN, ESPN Deportes, ESPN+ and SiriusXM Fight Nation at 8 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. PT. Early Prelims will air on ESPN2, ESPN Deportes, ESPN+ and SiriusXM Fight Nation starting at 6 p.m. ET / 3 p.m. PT. UFC 290 caps the 11th annual UFC International Fight Week that includes the UFC Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and UFC X, a two-day fan experience. The co-main event features the reigning and defending two-time UFC Flyweight champion Brandon Moreno (21-6) against bitter rival Alexandre Pantoja (25-5). After ending his rivalry with Deiveson Figueiredo in January, Moreno looks to defend his title in another rematch against an old foe. Pantoja enters the Octagon with two straight “Performance of the Night” finishes against top-ranked opponents, and three consecutive victories. Pantoja has

defeated Moreno twice before, first in 2016 in an exhibition bout on Season 24 of the UFC reality-series The Ultimate Fighter and again inside the UFC

Octagon in 2018. In the PPV portion of the card, former UFC middleweight champion and current No. 2 ranked contender Robert Whittaker (25-6) takes on No. 5 Dricus Du Plessis (19-2) in a thrilling bout with title implications. Jon Anik will call the action alongside Joe Rogan and UFC Hall of Famer and former two-division Champion Daniel Cormier. Megan Olivi will handle reporting duties. As part of the Spanish-language coverage, ESPN Deportes' UFC 290 Camino Al Octagono, a pre-show special that provides viewers in-depth analysis, interviews and the latest news around every UFC PPV fight week, will be produced from UFC Apex in Las Vegas. The show airs tonight at 8 p.m. ET/ 5 p.m. PT and will feature one-on-one interviews with Mexican Champs Yair Rodriguez and Brandon Moreno. The atmosphere was electric as UFC 290 approached. The much-anticipated featherweight title bout between reigning champion Alexander Volkanovski and the surging contender Yair Rodriguez had fight fans around the world on the edge of their seats. Both fighters had an impressive track record. Volkanovski, known for his relentless pressure and well-rounded skills, had successfully defended his title multiple times, establishing himself as one of the most dominant champions in the division's history. On the other hand, Rodriguez, a dynamic striker with a unique fighting style, had been tearing through the competition, leaving a trail of highlight-reel knockouts in his wake. The pre-fight press conferences were intense. Volkanovski, a focused and confident champion, vowed to make Rodriguez his next victim. He proclaimed his intent to impose his will and break the challenger, asserting that his experience and championship pedigree would be the difference-maker come fight night. Rodriguez, unphased by Volkanovski's words, exuded a quiet confidence. He promised to showcase his unorthodox striking skills and elusive footwork, claiming that he possessed the tools to dethrone the seemingly unbeatable champion.

Chapter 2: Fight Night Arrives As fight night dawned, the arena filled with thousands of passionate fans, eagerly awaiting the clash between these two talented fighters. The undercard showcased some thrilling matchups, but the anticipation for the main event was palpable. Finally, the time arrived. The crowd erupted as the champion and the challenger made their way to the octagon. The air crackled with electricity, and both fighters looked focused and determined.

Chapter 3: Rounds 1-3 The opening round began with a feeling-out process, as both Volkanovski and Rodriguez gauged each other's timing and distance. Volkanovski pressed forward with his trademark pressure, looking to close the distance and nullify Rodriguez's striking arsenal. The challenger, however, displayed his elusiveness, utilizing lateral movement and quick footwork to avoid significant damage. In the second round, Volkanovski turned up the heat. He closed the distance effectively, landing powerful combinations and mixing in takedowns to keep Rodriguez guessing. The champion's relentless pressure began to take its toll on the challenger, who found himself on the back foot more often than not. The third round showcased a shift in momentum. Rodriguez, recognizing the need to turn the tide, started finding his rhythm. His unorthodox striking style began to befuddle Volkanovski, who struggled to close the distance effectively. Rodriguez connected with a series of sharp kicks and punches, displaying his diverse skill set and leaving the champion momentarily stunned.

Chapter 4: Rounds 4-5 Entering the championship rounds, both fighters knew that the fight hung in the balance. Volkanovski, aware of the challenger's resurgence, adjusted his game plan, looking to mix up his striking with takedowns to neutralize Rodriguez's offense. The champion's wrestling pedigree came to the forefront as he secured takedowns and punished Rodriguez with ground-and-pound. Despite the champion's efforts, Rodriguez refused to back down. He showcased his resilience, defending takedowns and returning fire with devastating strikes. The crowd roared with each exchange, fully aware that they were witnessing an epic battle between two warriors at the top of their game. The final round arrived, and the fight was still up for grabs. Both Volkanovski and Rodriguez dug deep, leaving everything they had inside the octagon. The crowd was on their feet, collectively holding their breaths as the seconds ticked away.

Chapter 5: The Decision As the final bell rang, the crowd erupted in applause, acknowledging the incredible display of skill and heart from both fighters. Volkanovski and Rodriguez embraced in the center of the octagon, showcasing the respect they had gained for each other over the course of their grueling battle. The judges' scorecards were read, and the decision was unanimous. Alexander Volkanovski retained his featherweight title, winning by a narrow margin. The crowd reacted with a mix of cheers and disappointed groans, acknowledging the valiant effort put forth by Rodriguez.

Chapter 6: Post-Fight

Reflections In the post-fight interviews, both fighters expressed their gratitude and respect for each other. Volkanovski praised Rodriguez's unorthodox style and toughness, acknowledging that he had faced one of his toughest challenges to date. Rodriguez, although disappointed with the loss, promised to come back stronger and continue his quest for the title. UFC 290 had delivered yet another night of unforgettable moments, showcasing the heart, skill, and determination that makes mixed martial arts one of the most captivating sports on the planet. The legacy of Volkanovski and Rodriguez would forever be entwined, serving as a testament to their dedication and passion for their craft. As the curtain closed on UFC 290, fight fans around the world eagerly awaited the next chapter in the ever-evolving world of mixed martial arts. The journey continued, and the future held endless possibilities for those who dared to step inside the octagon. Welcome to the electrifying world of mixed martial arts! Get ready to witness the epic battle of UFC 290 Live, where fighters from around the globe gather to compete in the most anticipated event of the year. As the anticipation reaches its peak, fans around the world are eagerly tuning in to the UFC 290 Live Free TV Channel to experience the adrenaline-pumping action from the comfort of their homes. To truly appreciate the spectacle that is UFC 290 Live, we must delve into the roots of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC). Founded in 1993, the UFC revolutionized combat sports by bringing together fighters from various disciplines such as boxing, wrestling, jiu-jitsu, and kickboxing, among others. Over the years, it has evolved into a global phenomenon, captivating audiences with its unique blend of skill, strength, and strategy. Months of grueling training, countless hours in the gym, and an unyielding desire for victory have led the fighters to this monumental event. From rising stars to seasoned veterans, each competitor has their own story of perseverance and dedication. Cameras follow their journey, capturing their triumphs, setbacks, and the sacrifices they make to step into the octagon at UFC 290. UFC 290 Live presents a stacked fight card, featuring a series of captivating bouts across different weight divisions. The main event promises to be an unforgettable clash between two of the sport's most formidable athletes. The reigning champion, known for their lightning-fast strikes and impeccable footwork, squares off against a fierce challenger, renowned for their devastating knockout power. As the tension builds, fans brace themselves for an explosive showdown that will redefine the sport. While the main event takes center stage, the undercard is where rising stars shine and new contenders emerge. From fast-paced featherweight battles to intense grappling exhibitions in the lightweight division, every fight is a display of skill and heart. Viewers eagerly watch as the undercard fighters leave it all in the octagon, hoping to make a lasting impression on fans and secure their path to future glory. As the night unfolds, UFC 290 Live delivers a series of unforgettable moments that will be etched in fans' memories for years to come. From astonishing knockouts that send shockwaves through the arena to awe-inspiring submissions that showcase the artistry of grappling, each fight offers its own unique story. The crowd roars in unison, electrifying the atmosphere and adding to the magic of the event. As the final bout concludes, the fighters' emotions run high, regardless of victory or defeat. Post-fight interviews capture the raw emotions of the athletes as they reflect on their performance, express gratitude to their supporters, and discuss their plans for the future. Viewers gain a glimpse into the hearts and minds of these warriors, understanding the sacrifices they make in pursuit of greatness.