

Chicago Boxer Mario Herrera Set for Late September Return in Las Vegas

Undefeated super middleweight Mario Herrera will return to competition in September after an extended absence from the ring.

CHICAGO, IL, UNITED STATES, August 13, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- For months, Mario Herrera has had to exercise something that does not always come naturally to a professional fighter: patience.

The undefeated Chicago super middleweight wanted to compete. Instead, circumstances outside the ring forced him to wait.

Now, that wait is coming to an end.

Herrera (9-0-1, 7 KOs) is set to return to the ring in late September in Las Vegas, putting the 28 year old back into competition after an extended absence and beginning another chapter in a professional career he has spent years building.

For Herrera, the return is about more than adding another fight to his record. It is an opportunity to regain the rhythm that was interrupted as he balanced boxing with a demanding career outside the sport.



Chicago super middleweight Mario Herrera (9-0-1, 7 KOs) is set to return to the ring in Las Vegas in late September.



Mario Herrera works through a sparring session as the undefeated Chicago super middleweight prepares for his late September return to the ring in Las Vegas.

Herrera is also a Chicago police officer who works midnight shifts. Training as a professional fighter around that schedule has long required discipline, but injuries sustained through his police duties complicated those demands and contributed to delays in his return to competition.

There were plans to get back into the ring earlier. Those plans had to wait.

"The time away wasn't easy because I'm a competitor and I wanted to be fighting," Herrera said. "But I understood that I had to be patient. Now I have something in front of me, and my entire focus is on September."

Throughout the interruption, Herrera remained connected to the sport and continued preparing for the opportunity to compete again.

That opportunity will come in Las Vegas.

Additional details surrounding the September bout, including Herrera's opponent, specific date and venue, are expected to be announced as the event approaches.

When Herrera steps back through the ropes, he will do so with an unbeaten record built over his first 10 professional appearances.

He has nine victories and one draw, with seven of those wins coming by knockout.

The numbers tell part of the story.

Herrera has developed a style centered on pressure, counterpunching and closing distance. He is comfortable engaging opponents and looking for opportunities to turn exchanges in his favor. When those opportunities have appeared, he has frequently been able to finish fights before the final bell.

Under trainer Fernando Perez, Herrera has continued developing that approach while preparing for the next stage of his career in the super middleweight division.

The time away from competition presented a different challenge.

A fighter can train, condition and stay prepared, but there is no complete substitute for being in the ring on fight night. For Herrera and his team, getting back into that environment became more important than trying to rush the process.

"Mario has been waiting to get back in the ring, but the priority was making sure he was ready to move forward the right way," said Alexis Pappas, Herrera's manager. "Now the focus is September. We're looking forward to seeing him compete again and continue building from

there.”

At 28, Herrera remains at a point in his career where activity and development matter.

The September bout will be his 11th professional appearance and his first opportunity in an extended period to test himself under competitive conditions.

Rather than viewing the months away as something he needs to recover all at once, Herrera is approaching the return with a narrower focus.

“I can't change the time I was out of the ring,” Herrera said. “What I can control is how prepared I am when I get back in there. I'm looking forward to competing again.”

That preparation comes with a routine few professional fighters share.

Herrera has spent years moving between two demanding worlds: overnight police work in Chicago and the daily physical demands of professional boxing.

There are training sessions, conditioning and recovery. There are also midnight shifts and responsibilities that have nothing to do with boxing.

Maintaining both has required Herrera to build his career differently.

It has also made time in the ring particularly valuable.

The late September appearance will take Herrera to Las Vegas, a city synonymous with some of boxing's biggest nights. But for Herrera, the significance of the trip is less about the destination than what it represents.

He is competing again.

The return also gives Herrera an opportunity to begin rebuilding momentum in the 168 pound division. His undefeated record remains intact, but the next phase of his career will depend on what he does with the opportunities ahead of him.

September is the first of those opportunities.

The coming weeks will be devoted to preparation as Herrera works with Perez ahead of fight night. His opponent and additional event information will be announced when those details become public.

Until then, Herrera's focus remains on training and preparing for the moment he has spent months waiting for.

Professional boxing careers rarely follow a perfectly predictable path. Fights change, schedules change and circumstances away from the sport can alter even carefully made plans.

Herrera has experienced that firsthand.

What did not change was his intention to return.

In late September, the waiting ends.

For the first time in months, Mario Herrera is no longer preparing without knowing when the next opportunity will come.

Las Vegas is next.

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