

LESTER MARTINEZ

BIRTHDATE: October 17, 1995

HOMETOWN: San Benito, Petén, Guatemala

RESIDES IN: Guatemala City, Guatemala

WEIGHT CLASS: Super middleweight (168 lbs)

HEIGHT: 5-9

STANCE: Orthodox

PRO RECORD: 20-0-1 (16 KOs)

COACHES: Brian McIntyre, Esau Dieguez, Red Spikes and Hector Arreola

NEXT FIGHT: August 29 vs. Luka Plantic at the Galen Center in Los Angeles and live on ProBox TV



WBC INTERIM SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION

Lester Martinez was born to be a boxing champion. A native of San Benito, Peten, Guatemala, Martinez was introduced to the sport by his cousin at the age of 11.

Although his town didn't have a boxing gym, a boxing coach would come to their area on the weekends and train the kids there in an empty school. Martinez took quickly to the sweet science and it wasn't long before Coach Hector Arreola spotted his talent and helped him get into a boxing program in Izabal, a nearby department in Guatemala. He left his family and headed to Izabal to further focus on his training and his dedication certainly paid off.

His trajectory in the sport was swift and steep and by the time he was 15, he moved to Guatemala City to train with the Guatemalan National Boxing Team. The titles and medals rolled in over the next several years as he won at every level, beginning with a schoolboy championship in 2009. He added numerous national championships and even a silver medal at the 2012 Youth World Championships in Armenia to his resume as he got older. Martinez made a run at both the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games but fell just short at the international Olympic qualifying tournaments.

After scoring back to back gold medals at the Central American Games, he became the first Guatemalan boxer in 68 years to take the top spot on the podium at the Central American and Caribbean Games, defeating former Olympic and World Champion Arlen Lopez of Cuba in the championship bout in the summer of 2018.

Soon after, Martinez made the decision to turn professional. He had a unique pro debut, taking on the then 46-year-old Ricardo Mayorga. Martinez gave fans an early glimpse of what they would see from him as a pro, winning a second round TKO over the former world champion.

As Martinez racked up amateur titles and then professional wins, longtime Terence Crawford trainer and fellow Guatemalan Esau Dieguez kept a watchful eye on his progress. He reached out to Martinez in 2018 following his win over Arlen Lopez and he and the team were finally able to get him to the United States in 2023. Martinez has trained with the award-winning team, led by Brian “BoMac” McIntyre since that time. Yet he still has a key part of his journey with him as Coach Hector Arreola who identified his pugilistic talent at such a young age remains an integral part of his training team.

In addition to his coaching duties, McIntyre recently took on the role of Martinez’s manager and will help guide his career and ensure that he is well taken care of on the business side as well.

His first fight with McIntyre and crew was against Lucas De Abreu in July of 2023, which Martinez won by fourth round knockout. Martinez knew that he would have to work extremely hard to be a part of his new highly decorated stable and it has added to his arsenal both mentally and physically.

Yet it wasn’t just skilled coaching and structure that Martinez gleaned from his new team but also the chance to train alongside and eventually spar with the pound-for-pound king. He enjoyed a front row seat to Crawford’s intense work ethic and how he prepared for some of the sport’s biggest fights. Martinez would ultimately play a key role as well, serving as one of Crawford’s main sparring partners for his superfight with Canelo Alvarez. Following his victory, Crawford thanked Martinez for the great sparring work he provided and pushing him as he prepared for the biggest fight of his career.

Yet Martinez was far from just a sparring partner in that camp as he was preparing for his own huge fight, a super middleweight showdown with fellow undefeated contender Christian Mbilli on the undercard of Crawford-Canelo at Allegiant Stadium and live on Netflix. On September 13, 2025, the two fighters put on a fight of the year contender in

front of the more than 70,000 fans packed into Allegiant Stadium and millions watching all over the world on Netflix, fighting to a hotly contested split draw.

Although Martinez didn't win the WBC Interim Super Middleweight title that night, he created a huge fan base for himself, particularly in his beloved Guatemala. The millions of fans saw what a true fighter Martinez is and they awaited his next foray into the ring. While he didn't win the belt in his fight with Mbilli, he soon got a second opportunity in a March 2026 bout with Immanuel Aleem in San Bernardino, Calif. Martinez displayed beautiful boxing in his first 12-round fight, winning a wide unanimous decision in front of a large crowd of Guatemalan supporters watching in person at the Orange Show Event Center and an even bigger contingent tuning in to ProBox TV. A reported six million households in Guatemala, a country of approximately 18 million people, tuned in to his last fight to watch him win the WBC Interim Super Middleweight title.

He is the first Guatemalan boxer to win a piece of a world championship title and he plans to add the full super middleweight world title to his trophy case very soon. He will take the next step toward that goal in his August 29 bout with undefeated, mandatory challenger Lucas Plant of Croatia at the Galen Center in Los Angeles. The bout will be Martinez's second straight main event and he hopes to have his parents join him from Guatemala for the big fight. It would mark the first time they've been able to travel to the United States for one of his fights.

As Martinez continues to proudly represent both his family and his home nation of Guatemala, he also plans to continue to climb the ranks in the boxing world with his team and his family by his side. Martinez is the future of the super middleweight division and his tremendous rise in the sport of boxing is only just beginning.

Fans that aren't able to make it out to the Galen Center on August 29 can tune in live on ProboxTV for a stacked card via this [link](#).

Follow Martinez's journey to fight night via his instagram [here](#) and check out his WBC Interim Super Middleweight title bout with Immanuel Aleem via this [link](#).

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