# Boxing returns to Fenway Park after nearly seven decades with local brothers leading revival



For the first time in nearly 70 years, boxing is making a triumphant return to Fenway Park, Boston’s iconic venue, in an event dubbed “Fight Night at Fenway.” Scheduled for June 7, this much-anticipated occasion is not just a revival of a storied tradition; it also marks a significant moment in the ongoing efforts of twin brothers Mark and Matt Nolan to reinvigorate the sport of boxing in a city rich with its history.

The Nolans, both public school teachers and passionate boxing advocates, have worked tirelessly to bring this event to fruition. Their objective is clear: to reconnect Boston with its vibrant boxing culture, which has produced legends such as John L. Sullivan, Tony DeMarco, and Marvin Hagler. “We intend to create an experience reminiscent of boxing’s glory days,” Matt Nolan said. “It’s not just our dream; it’s every boxer's dream to fight here at Fenway, the ultimate stage.”

Historically, Fenway Park is not solely a baseball venue; it once served as a multi-functional space where various sports and events unfolded. According to Richard Johnson, curator at The Sports Museum in Boston, “Most people’s experience there is solely related to baseball, but the fact is that this year you can see an event that’s very similar to what your grandparents experienced.” This return to a multi-event focus aligns with the park’s legacy, which dates back to its opening over a century ago.

The announcement of the 11-fight card has generated considerable excitement among both local fans and participants. Headlining the event will be undefeated super middleweights, including Thomas “The Kid” O’Toole, who is eager to prove himself on this historic platform. “Fighting at Fenway adds pressure but is also a tremendous opportunity. I’m standing on ground shared by some of the most accomplished athletes in history,” he noted.

The logistical challenges of reviving boxing at Fenway were not overlooked. Many promoters struggled to secure approval for fights, but the Nolans successfully pitched their vision, showcasing their community-oriented approach. They demonstrated a commitment to cultivating a supportive environment for fighters, ensuring that events provide fair pay and opportunities for well-matched bouts, rather than the “money grab” events they often criticise. “We focus on creating competitive matches that fans want to see,” Mark Nolan explained.

The return of boxing to Fenway is also a nod to the city’s legacy in the sport. As noted by boxing historian Johnson, “Boston has played a lengthy role in the development of boxing, with its rich history featuring champions who shaped the sport.” This deep-rooted legacy not only enriches the event but also serves to inspire a new generation of fighters.

With this historic occasion, boxing's return to Fenway Park not only aims to honour its illustrious past but also reach out to future sports enthusiasts. The event promises a reminder that, despite the years that have passed, the spirit of boxing remains vital in Boston—a city intertwined with the sport's evolution.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/boston-muhammad-ali-major-league-baseball-fenway-sports-group-watertown-b2765661.html), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/a56d671be34484dba3d57d1883b42eea)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/boston-muhammad-ali-major-league-baseball-fenway-sports-group-watertown-b2765661.html), [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/a56d671be34484dba3d57d1883b42eea), [[4]](https://www.mlb.com/redsox/press-release/press-release-boxing-returns-to-fenway-park-for-the-first-time-in-69-years)
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* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://apnews.com/article/a56d671be34484dba3d57d1883b42eea), [[7]](https://www.boston25news.com/news/local/fight-night-boxing-is-returning-fenway-park-1st-time-69-years/TFVI25O3G5E4NKBJCAV2QUG24E/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/c686bb2abf70ee8dd435d52576a71ad3), [[6]](https://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/events/fight-night)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/boston-muhammad-ali-major-league-baseball-fenway-sports-group-watertown-b2765661.html), [[4]](https://www.mlb.com/redsox/press-release/press-release-boxing-returns-to-fenway-park-for-the-first-time-in-69-years)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/boston-muhammad-ali-major-league-baseball-fenway-sports-group-watertown-b2765661.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/a56d671be34484dba3d57d1883b42eea> - Boxing is returning to Boston's Fenway Park after nearly 70 years. The event, titled 'Fight Night at Fenway,' is organised by twin brothers Mark and Matt Nolan, who aim to revitalise boxing in the city. The 11-fight card features fighters like Thomas 'The Kid' O'Toole and Lexi 'Lil Savage' Bolduc. Fenway Park, historically a versatile venue, is returning to its multifunctional roots by hosting this boxing event. The return of boxing honours Boston's rich legacy in the sport, with past legends like John L. Sullivan and Tony DeMarco. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/a56d671be34484dba3d57d1883b42eea?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://apnews.com/article/c686bb2abf70ee8dd435d52576a71ad3> - A curated photo gallery by AP photo editors showcases the historic return of boxing to Boston's Fenway Park after nearly 70 years. The gallery captures the atmosphere, fighters, and fans, highlighting the excitement surrounding this rare sporting event at one of America's most historic stadiums. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/c686bb2abf70ee8dd435d52576a71ad3?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.mlb.com/redsox/press-release/press-release-boxing-returns-to-fenway-park-for-the-first-time-in-69-years> - Fenway Park Events announced that boxing will return to the ballpark on June 7 for the first time since 1956. The one-night-only event, planned in partnership with Nolan Bros. Boxing Promotions, will feature a full 11-bout professional fight card in the Big Concourse at Fenway Park. Doors are set to open at 4 pm with the first bout starting at 5 pm. ([mlb.com](https://www.mlb.com/redsox/press-release/press-release-boxing-returns-to-fenway-park-for-the-first-time-in-69-years?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.boston.com/sports/events/2025/04/23/fight-night-at-fenway-returns-for-first-time-since-1956/> - Fenway Park Events announced that boxing will return to the ballpark for the first time in 69 years on June 7. Partnering with Nolan Bros. Boxing Promotions, the park will host a professional fight card of 11 bouts in the Big Concourse at Fenway. The most recent boxing match at Fenway Park was in 1956, when Tony DeMarco won the fight over Vince Martinez in the 10th round. ([boston.com](https://www.boston.com/sports/events/2025/04/23/fight-night-at-fenway-returns-for-first-time-since-1956/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/events/fight-night> - On Saturday, June 7, Fenway Park will host 'Fight Night at Fenway,' the first boxing event at the iconic venue since 1956. Presented by Nolan Brothers Boxing, this historic evening marks a significant moment in both the sport of boxing and the enduring legacy of boxing at Fenway. Situated in the rustic confines of Fenway Park's 'Big Concourse,' the event will showcase a distinguished lineup of bouts, promising an unforgettable night of entertainment. Gates will open at 4 p.m., with the first fight scheduled for 5 p.m. and the final bout concluding by 10:45 p.m. ([mlb.com](https://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/events/fight-night?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.boston25news.com/news/local/fight-night-boxing-is-returning-fenway-park-1st-time-69-years/TFVI25O3G5E4NKBJCAV2QUG24E/> - Boston's Fenway Park is gearing up to host a full slate of boxing for the first time in seven decades. The one-night-only event, which will feature 11 bouts and ringside seating, is set for June 7, Fenway Park Events announced Tuesday. The fight night will be headlined by undefeated super middleweights Laurent Humes and Thomas O'Toole. ([boston25news.com](https://www.boston25news.com/news/local/fight-night-boxing-is-returning-fenway-park-1st-time-69-years/TFVI25O3G5E4NKBJCAV2QUG24E/?utm_source=openai))