

# Conor McGregor faces familiar foe in UFC comeback

BY CASE KEEFER  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Five years have passed since the last time Conor McGregor fought in the UFC, but the Irish superstar never fully left mixed martial arts behind.

The 37-year-old kept watching the fights and listening to the ensuing discourse, even when it bothered him. McGregor took particular exception with some of the opinions on his former opponents like Max Holloway, whom he beat via unanimous decision in his second bout in the Octagon in August 2013.

"Do you know that I sit by and hear people claim this man as the No. 1 pound-for-pound featherweight of all-time when I sunned him at the weight," McGregor said in an interview with Joe Rogan aired as part of the UFC's June event at the White House. "Do you know I have to sit back and listen to people throughout the years say, 'They were only kids back then.' Well, I'm sorry. Holloway was only a kid back then, but I was not."

Nearly 13 years later,

McGregor and Holloway will meet again at welterweight in the former's return fight Saturday in the main event of UFC 329 at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas.

McGregor's initial win against Holloway was regarded as perhaps the least impressive of his 7-0 start to his UFC career that saw him become the undisputed featherweight champion. It was the only victory in the span that didn't come by finish, and the now-34-year-old Holloway was a floundering prospect coming off a loss in his previous fight.

But the victory has aged tremendously, as Holloway has arguably put together the best career of anyone McGregor faced in the run.

The Hawaiian went on to reign as featherweight

champion for three years and reached legendary status by knocking out current lightweight champion Justin Gaethje for the "BMF" title at UFC 300 in April 2024.

McGregor lost back-to-back fights to Dustin Poirier the last two times he stepped in the Octagon, in 2021, and broke his leg in a TKO stoppage in the second match.

But now, facing a fighter with Holloway's standing and pedigree, he could get right back into the championship mix with a victory.

"It's great to be back," McGregor said. "It's refreshing to be back. The body is invigorated. The mind is sharp and fresh and ready to go. I'm ready to enter this brutal business as a ruthless fighter once again."

McGregor has limited his media availability leading up to the fight with the chat with Rogan, one of his only public appearances. He and Holloway won't hold a news conference until fight week — much different than a decade ago when the UFC would parade him around on global tours before fights.

Much of that strategy, according to McGregor, is because of his renewed commitment to training. McGregor said he was sleeping at his longtime home camp, Straight Blast Gym in Dublin, for weeks to maximize his time to prepare for Holloway.

That would make for a decided lifestyle change from the previous five years, when he was often spotted globetrotting on his yacht and partying in

places like Miami, Ibiza and Mykonos.

Holloway, meanwhile, stuck to his combat-sports career, fighting eight times since McGregor's last bout, and going 5-3 with all three losses in title fights.

"A lot of hands are going to touch that pretty face, brother," Holloway told McGregor, cutting in for one of the few thoughts he managed to share in the joint interview with Rogan. "Keep it clean for me."

McGregor's chances in the fight may come down to if he's as rededicated to fighting as he claims. He sold his Proper No. Twelve Irish Whiskey brand for \$600 million in 2021 — the second reported nine-figure payday of his career to go with a 2017 boxing loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. — with reports of waning motivation ever since.

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Notice is hereby given that the Elizabethtown Planning Commission will hold public hearings on Tuesday, JULY 28, 2026, at 6:00p.m. (est) 5:00p.m. (cst) at the City Council Chambers, located at 212 West Dixie Ave., Elizabethtown, Kentucky. The hearings will be held to consider the following:

Text Amendments of the Elizabethtown Zoning Ordinance relating to Data Centers. Hearing No. 2026-PC-11

Map Amendment for an area wide zone change in the downtown district. Hearing No. 2026-PC-12

Uniform Application for Cellular Antenna Tower and Development Plan for KY 0119 CK Ring Road South - Cell Tower Located 204 Ring Road. Hearing No. 2026-PC-13

## LEGAL NOTICE

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Elizabethtown will receive sealed bids for a Temporary Ice Rink on behalf of the Outdoor Music Venue project at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 200 West Dixie Avenue, Elizabethtown, KY 42701, until 10:00 AM Eastern Time (9:00 AM Central Time) on Tuesday July 28, 2026, at which time each bid will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the City's consultant, Sports Facilities Companies, to obtain plans, specifications, and detailed bidding requirements. For information, contact Kevin Greene (kgreene@sportsfacilities.com) and Ishan Patel (ipatel@sportsfacilities.com).

The successful bidder shall provide all bonds, insurances, and licenses as required.

The City of Elizabethtown intends to award the contract based on the best evaluated bid. The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to let the contract as a whole or in part, and to waive any formalities or irregularities in the bids received where the best interest of the City may be served.

/s/ Honorable Jeffrey H. Gregory, Mayor  
Attest: Jessica J. Graham, City Clerk

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### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Elizabethtown will receive sealed bids for the Pear Orchard Road NW Water Main Relocation project at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 3rd floor, 200 West Dixie Avenue, P.O. Box 550, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42702 until 10:00 AM EST (9:00 AM CST) on Wednesday, July 29th, 2026, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. The successful bidder shall provide performance and payment bonds, proof of insurance and licenses as specified. Plans, specifications, and bid forms may be obtained from the City's Engineering Office electronically (270-763-4218). Electronic plans and specifications will be provided at no charge.

The scope of the project generally consists of, but not limited to, providing all labor, equipment, materials, supplies, tools and supervision necessary to install approximately 1,200 LF of 24" water main.

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/s/ Jeffrey H. Gregory, Mayor  
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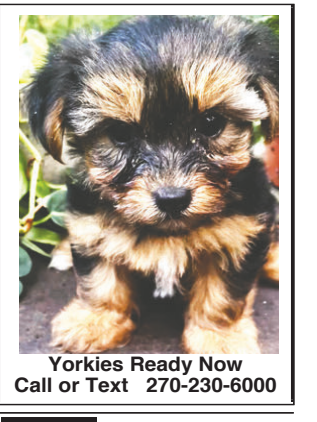
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