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FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Muñoz makes UFC debut

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"It's going to be a real good barometer for me," Munoz told Yahoo.com. "Matt Hamill is an established guy and I haven't done the things he's done. But I've trained with real good guys and, believe me when I tell you, I've put every last little bit I have of myself into my training."

"This is such a significant fight for me. Just to get to the UFC is huge, but to be fighting someone of Matt's caliber makes it that much more significant."

Hamill, known as a prominent deaf athlete, most recently defeated Andy Reese by technical knockout. Hamill said that Munoz would be a tough opponent.

"He is an outstanding wrestler and from what I've seen, a very exciting fighter," said Hamill to UFC.com. "He poses a great challenge for me and I'm looking forward to it."

The 30-year-old Muñoz made the leap to the UFC after the World Extreme Cagefighting organization (WEC), the UFC's sister organization where Munoz previously fought, closed its light heavyweight and middleweight division.

During his time at the WEC, Muñoz went 2-0 with first round knockout wins over Chuck Grigsby and Ricardo Barros. (*Joseph Pimentel*)

Mayor Villaraigosa, Chief Bratton

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While most big cities continue cutting police budgets, Los Angeles has expanded its police force by over 700 officers and remains on track to reach 10,000 officers by the end of the year. Refusing to balance the City's budget at the cost of the City's public safety, the Mayor has worked with the City Council to maintain the 1,000-officer expansion a top budgetary priority.

"We must not forget that safety is the foundation of a successful City, and we will not pull back from a strategy that makes our streets secure," said Mayor Villaraigosa.

Since initiating the City's police build up, LA has seen the citywide crime rate drop to its lowest level since 1956, the total number of homicides fall to a 38-year low. Gang homicides were down more than 24 percent in 2008.

Complementing the City's historic police buildup, the Mayor's office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development has targeted gang intervention and prevention efforts where they are needed most—in the areas of highest gang crime. In the 2008, GRDY helped to record the City's safest summer in more than 30 years by keeping the lights on at eight parks in the most gang ridden neighborhoods with its Summer Night Lights program. ■

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